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Office of the Director

UNITED STATES
OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20415

July 18, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: EDWIN MEESE III
ATTORNEY GENERAL

FROM: CONSTANCE HORNER
DIRECTOR *Constance Horner*

SUBJECT: OPM DISCUSSION PAPER
ON SUBSTANCE DRUG POLICY

A General Approach to Policy

The operating principle in a new Federal substance abuse policy has been well articulated in the Organized Crime Commission's report. Policies should be framed that express the "utter unacceptability" of illegal drug use in the Federal workplace.

The principle of "utter unacceptability" can be operationalized a variety of ways beyond "suitable" testing for certain types of high-risk jobs: rehabilitation, education, illegal drug use prevention programs, employee assistance programs, public relations, revised security and suitability inquiries and the invocation of adverse action procedures for illegal drug users.

Any Federal substance abuse policy must be grounded in the distinction between Federal applicants and Federal employees. In pursuing a goal of a safe, healthful, drug-free workplace, we should seek to prevent the entry of users of illegal narcotics into the Federal workforce while simultaneously continuing a rehabilitational program for on-board employees. But, if on-board employees who use drugs illegally, test "positive" a second time, resist rehabilitation, or otherwise undermine the efficiency of the service, adverse action should be invoked, including dismissal.

There are no uniform, Governmentwide policies and standards encompassing various measures, such as drug testing, to exclude drug abusers from the Federal workplace. There is no systematic and uniform program of screening applicants for certain types of jobs Governmentwide, nor for testing employees in those areas. There is a Governmentwide policy geared toward rehabilitating drug and alcohol abusers once they are found in the workplace.

The following specific proposals are tentative, submitted for deliberation and further discussion and appropriate refinement. They are an attempt to provide a program of narcotics prevention, in consonance with the "utter unacceptability" criteria, as well as a program of rehabilitation.

Suggested OPM Proposals

Recommendation No. 1: Propose Legislative changes to make current illegal drug use an absolute disqualifier for entry into Federal employment and a basis for termination, regardless of a claimed "handicapping" condition or effect on job performance. First, add a new section to Title V: "Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an individual who uses illegal narcotics or drugs without a prescription may not be employed in the competitive service." Second, amend the Rehabilitation Act to exclude illegal drug users as a category to be included among those who are deemed to be "handicapped" and strike the nexus between job performance and illegal drug usage.

Rationale: The President's Commission proposes the issuance of policy guidance that would communicate the "utter unacceptability" of illegal drug use in the workplace. At the same time, Federal law forbids the deprivation of Federal employment to any person solely on the grounds of prior drug abuse. The object of current law is rehabilitative. While the rehabilitative spirit of current law is laudable, the public has a right to expect not only the highest level of performance and productivity on the part of Federal applicants, but also their devotion to the laws of the country.

While there is no requirement to hire current drug abusers, and they are normally excluded under OPM "suitability" criteria, such applicants and employees can claim to be handicapped and come under the protective language of the Rehabilitation Act. It then becomes the taxpayers' duty to accommodate a disabling condition brought on by an illegal personal vice. The Federal government is forbidden to discriminate against the handicapped in hiring.

OPM should seek the removal of the "handicapped" protection from illegal drug users because such use is, after all, illegal and, moreover, it is a voluntary act. Those who persistently and voluntarily engage in illegal acts should not be permitted to enter or remain in the Federal workforce. They should be permitted re-entry only after demonstrated rehabilitation. Because of the legal status of alcohol consumption, the traditional nexus between alcoholism or alcohol abuse and performance criteria and its designation as a "handicapping condition" would be retained.

Section 7352 of Title V declares: "An individual who habitually uses intoxicating beverages to excess may not be employed in the competitive service." The same bar to employment should be imposed on drug abuse, with a clarification that current illegal drug use will not be considered a "handicapping condition" nor an absolute bar to future

Federal employment. The enactment of such provisions will send a strong, clear message to the general public that drug abuse and Federal employment are incompatible.

Recommendation No.2: Inquire into Applicants' Past and Current Illicit Drug Usage on the SF-85 and SF-86, the Standard Suitability and Security Forms, as a means of deterring the hiring of current illegal drug users and providing appropriate information regarding past use for evaluation for security clearance.

Rationale: Just as with the habitual or excessive use of alcohol, the illegal use of narcotics, drugs or other controlled substances is potentially disqualifying for Federal employment under 5 CFR 731.202(b)(6). Despite the fact that illegal drug use is a major national problem, costing approximately \$100 billion in lost productivity each year, OPM currently does not even require a written response about the use of illicit narcotics among Federal applicants. As a first step in the prevention of the use of illicit narcotics in the Federal workplace, OPM should inquire into past, recent and current drug use or alcohol abuse on the part of applicants for Federal positions, on the SF-85 and the SF-86, i.e., forms for both sensitive and non-sensitive positions.

The questions can serve several purposes for Federal investigators and examiners in determining general fitness or access to classified

information. First, the Executive publicly charged with the faithful execution of the laws is entitled to services of those who privately obey the laws, including the Controlled Substances Act. A Federal position is one of public trust, not private right. This principle applies to both sensitive and non-sensitive jobs. Second, the inquiries are narrowly focused to elicit recency and frequency of illegal narcotics usage. The questions are designed to segregate current from more recent drug abusers, and, in turn, from those who, in the past, have enjoyed only a casual experimentation with illicit drugs. Such focused questions will also be of direct benefit to agency adjudicators making final employment decisions by giving them more detailed information on illicit drug use on a case-by-case basis. Third, with such narrowly focused questions, eliciting recency and frequency, OPM can expect to get a higher rate of positive responses. This can broaden the base for further inquiry. If the questions are answered affirmatively, they may be disqualifying. (It is not necessarily disqualifying.) It is a matter left to adjudication. If it is answered falsely and the applicant is hired under false pretences, it is grounds for dismissal. In that respect, the initial inquiry can serve as a front line deterrent to illegal drug using applicants. It can be first step toward prevention.

In OPM's draft revision of its SF-85 (Personnel Investigations Questionnaire for non-sensitive positions), the following questions are proposed:

Suitability Form

SF-85

Your Involvement with Alcohol and Dangerous
or Illegal Drugs, Including Marijuana

This item concerns the abuse of alcoholic beverages and the supplying or using without a prescription of marijuana, hashish, narcotics (opium, morphine, codeine, heroin, etc.), stimulants (cocaine, amphetamines, etc.), depressants (barbiturates, methaqualone, tranquilizers, etc.), or other dangerous or illegal drugs.

A. At any time in the past 5 years, have you used alcoholic beverages habitually and to excess? Yes No.

B. In the past 5 years, have you used marijuana, narcotics, hallucinogens, or other dangerous or illegal drugs?

Yes No.

C. Have you ever been a supplier or seller of marijuana, narcotics, hallucinogens, or other dangerous or illegal drugs?

_____ Yes _____ No.

D. Are you currently (within the last 3 months) using alcohol in excess or using illegal drugs, including marijuana?

_____ Yes _____ No.

If you answered yes to any of Questions A - D above, provide details including the periods of use and treatment.

Explanation (in your comments be sure to include a statement of the frequency of your use and efforts toward rehabilitation, if any, including the name,

	Type of	address, and zip code, of person
From	To	substance or institution providing
<u>mo/yr</u>	<u>mo/yr</u>	<u>used treatment)</u>

In OPM's draft revision of its SF-86 (Personnel Investigations Questionnaire for Sensitive Positions), the following questions are proposed:

Security Form

SF-86

Your Involvement with Alcohol and Dangerous
or Illegal Drugs, Including Marijuana

This item concerns the abuse of alcoholic beverages and the supplying or using without a prescription of marijuana, hashish, narcotics (opium, morphine, codeine, heroin, etc.), stimulants (cocaine, amphetamines, etc.), depressants (barbiturates, methaqualone, tranquilizers, etc.), or other dangerous or illegal drugs.

A. Have you ever used alcoholic beverages habitually and to excess?

_____ Yes _____ No.

B. Have you ever used marijuana, narcotics, hallucinogens, or other dangerous or illegal drugs?

_____ Yes _____ No.

C. Have you ever been a supplier or seller of marijuana, narcotics, hallucinogens, or other dangerous or illegal drugs?

_____ Yes _____ No.

D. Are you currently (within the last 3 months) using alcohol in excess or using illegal drugs?

_____ Yes _____ No.

If you answered yes to any of Questions A - D above, provide details including the periods of use and treatment, if any.

		Type of	Explanation (in your comments
From	To	substance	be sure to include a statement
<u>mo/yr</u>	<u>mo/yr</u>	<u>used</u>	of the frequency of your use
			and efforts toward rehabilita-
			tion, if any, including the
			name, address, and zip code,
			of person or institution
			<u>providing treatment</u>

Because the questions are directed at applicants rather than employees, there is no perceived "negative" implication for the Federal workforce nor even a suggestion of widespread drug usage on the part of the workforce. It may be strongly supported by Federal employee organizations. It is likely to gain widespread support in Congress, particularly among members who serve on committees having jurisdiction over illegal narcotics.

Recommendation No. 3: Issue Federal Personnel Manual Guidance on the use of Drug Screening

Rationale: Certain agencies are already adopting or considering the use of drug tests as a condition for the receipt of clearances for critical or sensitive jobs. OPM can and should set forth some guidelines for the use of drug tests for personnel security reasons. Governmentwide guidance should continue to allow agency-head discretion and should indicate that national security, law enforcement, and health and safety-related positions would be likely candidates for drug testing before and during employment. The provision of security clearances is another case for serious consideration of testing, including those with access to classified information or classified facilities or materials, especially nuclear facilities and materials. In this case, guidance would remove security-related testing from the arena of labor negotiability.

- Recommend the use of corroborative, alternative tests in any case where an employee tests "positive" and establish minimal

reliability and quality control standards to enhance the protection of employees subject to any such tests. The main idea here is to prevent the use of any "positive" reading of a test for drugs or alcohol disqualification without strong confirmation. OPM's staffing experts have already developed language to ensure such confirmatory standards; including separate urinalysis or blood testing by a reputable laboratory; clinical examination by a physician; or admission by the individual. The language can later be issued as binding regulations.

Recommendation No. 4: Change Adverse Action Regulations to Mandate Termination for a Second Instance of Illegal Drug Use.

Rational: The proposal here is to specify at the conclusion of a one-time "opportunity period" for general rehabilitation, that a first instance of illegal drug use is grounds for referral to rehabilitation or confidential counseling. The second instance of illegal drug use, or being under the influence of an illegal narcotic at the Federal worksite, is to result in a mandatory dismissal from the Federal civil service. The exception to this rule would be, of course, the Agency Head's legal discretion to terminate on the basis of national security in the case of a single instance of illegal drug use. The General Rule: "Two strikes and you're out."

Recommendation No. 5: Proclaim an opportunity period for the rehabilitation of on-board employees who are using illegal drugs.

The Director, OPM, would issue a governmentwide "Employee Letter" outlining the Administration's policy of "zero tolerance" for the illegal use of drugs by Federal employees. The letter would contain an appeal to any employee who is an illegal drug user to seek help during a period of six months from the date of the letter's issuance.

The letter would:

1. Re-emphasize the role and value of employee assistance programs and their availability.
2. Make an appeal to all of those who need confidential counseling to seek it.
3. State that during the six month period, there would be no change in Federal personnel policy, but that at the end of that six months changes in policy would be expected, with a view toward mandating termination of any employees who use illegal drugs.

4. Announce:

(a) A Drug Hotline: The establishment of an OPM Drug/Alcohol "Help Hotline" for Federal employees who have a problem and need confidential professional help. The "Hotline" can be part of the governmentwide OPM Employee Assistance Program.

(b) Drug Education: A continuing Drug and Alcohol Awareness Program; the use of several hard-hitting film strips, educational materials to explain the costs and consequences of drug and alcohol abuse to Federal employees.

Recommendation No. 6: Initiate Immediate Discussion between OPM and OMB and the White House on the Feasibility of Upgraded or Increased Coverage for Alcohol and Drug Related Medical Programs in the Federal Employees Health Benefits.

Rationale: During the 1981 FEHB crisis, when OPM ordered across-the-board benefit reductions, medical benefits covering alcohol and drug abuse were included in those reductions. OPM, as a matter of policy, has nevertheless regularly pressed for the inclusion of alcohol and drug-related medical coverage as part of an overall FEHB benefit package. It has paid dividends. A national study of 3000 persons treated for alcoholism among FEHB enrollees in the Aetna plan, conducted

by NIAAA, found that over a three-year time frame (1980-83) there was a net savings to the program; and the savings increased with time. ("Alcohol and Drugs in the Workplace," ENA Special Report, 1985).

In conjunction with other near-term measures, OPM may want to encourage upgraded coverage for drug and alcohol-related medical problems during this year's negotiation with carriers, consistent with market conditions and the need for a balanced benefits package for Federal employees.

Recommendation No. 7: OPM Should Upgrade and Re-emphasize the Availability of Governmentwide Employee Assistance Programs.

Rationale: In the near term, OPM can perform a valuable service in upgrading and re-emphasizing the role of Employee Assistance Programs as part of any comprehensive Administration anti-drug effort. This can be done through the issuance of a new FPM guidance; a Governmentwide "employee letter" from the Director of OPM, to advise employees of agencies' confidential counseling services, could also be issued. Any employee having such problems can obtain confidential help and return to productive work. A renewed effort on the "rehabilitative" role of OPM to curtail illegal drug use and alcohol abuse would pay bountiful dividends both psychologically and materially.

In the private sector, employee assistance programs have proven to be a valuable resource in combatting illegal drug use, and they are growing.

Approximately 30 percent of the Fortune 500 firms have established EAP's. Their purpose is to get rid of the problem, not the employee. This is a positive, constructive and humane way to deal with "on-the-job" drug and alcohol abusers. Beyond that, EAP's are cost-effective. It is less costly to retain an otherwise good and well-trained employee through an "employee assistance program," than to incur again the initial cost of hiring and training a new employee. Moreover, an effective EAP program will reduce absenteeism, and early referrals to EAP's can have a positive impact on health insurance premiums.

Recommendation No. 8: OPM and the White House Should Initiate an Aggressive Public Relations Campaign Focusing on the Incompatibility of Illicit Drug Use and Federal Employment.

Rationale: A public relations campaign focused on the incompatibility of illicit drug use and application for Federal employment could be very effective. OPM could explore incorporating such a campaign into a broad-based recruiting program. The theme can be simple and direct: "If you are using drugs, get off drugs and get help before you join us." Peer pressure, especially among the young, is a contributing factor in illicit drug use. Making it clear that one's future employment is contingent upon conformity to the law creates an effective counter to peer pressure. An effective public relations campaign conducted by OPM, in cooperation with HHS or the White House, could very well serve the

President in communicating to the public "the utter unacceptability" of drug use in the Federal workplace. Such an effort would also contribute to the cultural delegitimization of illicit drug use.

Recommendation No. 9: OPM Should Issue Regulations Requiring Referral of a Drug or Alcohol Disqualified Applicant for Counseling and Rehabilitation before Reconsideration of the Applicant.

Rationale: Under Section 3301 of Title V, the President has the plenary authority to proscribe rules and regulations for entry into the Civil Service.

OPM can require agency referral of a drug or alcohol disqualified applicant for counseling and rehabilitation and allow, after an appropriate period of time, reapplication to the Federal service only after written certification from a reputable rehabilitation service that the applicant has been successfully rehabilitated. This can be done at no cost to the government.

Recommendation No. 10:

OPM Should Initiate the Collection of Governmentwide "productivity" Data Correlated with a Qualitative and Quantitative Evaluation of the Effectiveness of Agency Employee Assistance Programs.

Rationale: Though there is no evidence of widespread illegal drug usage in the Federal workforce, available evidence does suggest that the

Federal workplace is not free of problems of alcohol addiction that affect the general society. What is needed is a strong data base to give us some idea of how well we are doing in the war against substance abuse. This data could include indices such as accidents on the job, absenteeism (particularly on Mondays) and sick leave usage. Much of the data is already collected in agencies, but the relationship of the data to alcohol or drug related problems is unclear.

Recommendation No. 11: In Consultation with HHS, OPM Should Issue Regulations Setting Forth Quality Control Standards Governing the use of any Biological Testing of Federal Employees.

Rationale: Drug testing has been a growing practice in private industry for the past two and one half years and it is growing among government agencies. Technology is evolving, but the most common method is urinalysis. Chemical reactions can reveal the presence of various narcotics or drugs, including cocaine, barbituates, amphetamines, marijuana, qualudes, PCP, and alcohol.

The major impact of the Civil Service Reform Act was the decentralization of the Federal management system. The determination as to whether such testing is appropriate and as to what class of employees should be subjected to testing should remain with the agency head.

Agencies, thus far, have been prudent in their approach to drug testing. They have identified categories of critical or sensitive jobs where

testing is appropriate in order to safeguard the safety and security of the public. They have tended to focus on the nature of a position, its performance requirements or the mission of the agency. Few can quarrel with testing for such occupations as Air Traffic Controllers, Firefighters, Pilots, Law Enforcement Officers, Health and Safety Inspectors, and employees at nuclear facilities.

However, every employee who is subject to a test of this sort has the right to the highest degree of accuracy that is humanly possible. Even in the best programs, there is the possibility of error. OPM should set forth regulations, after consultation with the Department of Health and Human Services and the National Institute for Drug Abuse, to ensure high standards for "positive" tests, the confirmation of "positive" results, standards for claim of custody of test specimens, and a high degree of quality control in the testing process.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 14, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DOMESTIC POLICY COUNCIL

FROM: CARLTON E. TURNER

SUBJECT: Drug Abuse Policy Opportunities

Issue -- To determine the next major steps in the President's campaign to achieve a drug-free Nation.

Background -- The situation in 1981 was not promising. During the previous two decades, the use of illegal drugs in the United States spread into every segment of our society. The public lacked accurate information about the hazards of some of the most widely used drugs, and government efforts to combat the use of illicit drugs lacked credibility. National programs were directed at a single drug -- heroin -- and on one strategy -- supply reduction. The moral confusion surrounding drug abuse weakened our resolve to stop illegal drugs coming from overseas. The U.S. became a major drug producing country. Drug trafficking and organized crime became the Nation's number one crime problem; and use of illegal drugs expanded, especially among our young people. There was a feeling of inevitability regarding illegal drugs and uncertainty over what was the right thing to do.

The President's Strategy: Early in his Administration, President Reagan launched a major campaign against drug abuse. The objectives were to improve drug law enforcement, strengthen international cooperation, expand drug abuse health functions as a private sector activity, reduce drug abuse in the military, and create a nationwide drug abuse awareness effort to strengthen public attitudes against drugs and get everyone involved. His strategy was published to provide a blueprint for action.

National Leadership: President and Mrs. Reagan have led the Nation and the world in setting the right direction and encouraging both government and the private sector to join in stopping drug abuse. The Vice President is coordinating the complex functions of interdicting drugs at our borders. The Attorney General has taken charge of coordinating the overall drug law enforcement policy and activities.

The Federal Role: The Federal role is to provide national leadership, working as a catalyst in encouraging private sector and local efforts, and to pursue those drug abuse functions which lie beyond the jurisdictions and capabilities of the individual states. Federal drug programs have been reoriented to meet specific regional needs. Initiatives emphasize coordination and cooperation among officials at all levels of government and use of government resources as a catalyst for grassroots action.

The Umbrella of Effective Enforcement: The strong law enforcement effort, including vigorous action against drug production and processing laboratories in source countries, has increased public awareness of the drug abuse problem. Eradication programs and military support have been added to the fight. The Federal budget for drug law enforcement has expanded from \$700 million to \$1.8 billion annually.

The Growth of Private Sector Efforts: Due largely to Mrs. Reagan's leadership and dedication to the youth of America and the world, private sector drug abuse awareness and prevention programs have increased significantly over the past five years. The number of parent groups has grown from 1,000 to 9,000. School-age children have formed over 10,000 "Just Say No" clubs around the country. The advertising industry, television networks, high school coaches, the medical profession, the entertainment industry, law enforcement officers and many others have joined in the national effort. Examples include over 4 million drug awareness comic books which have been distributed to elementary students, sponsored by IBM, The Keebler Company, and the National Federation of Parents. McNeil Pharmaceutical's Pharmacists Against Drug Abuse program is now firmly established across the country.

Discussion - The President's program has been successful in dealing with the drug problem. Compared to 1981, drug use is down in almost all categories. Notable is the success of the U.S. military in reducing use of illegal drugs by over 65 percent through strict policies and testing to identify users. Across the Nation, the private sector is taking a strong stand.

Public attitudes are clearly against use of illegal drugs and drug awareness is at an all-time high. Today, drug use is front page news. Corporations are recognizing the tremendous cost of drugs in the workplace; parents and students are recognizing how illegal drugs in the schools erodes the quality of education. The consequences of drug use are becoming more severe as users turn to more potent drugs and more dangerous forms of abuse. There is increasing concern about the threat that drug abuse poses to public safety and national security. And a new understanding is evident: Drug abuse is not a private matter -- using illegal drugs is irresponsible behavior -- and the costs are paid by society.

There is broad public support for taking strong action to hold users responsible and to stop the use of drugs. Aggressive corporate and school measures to end drug abuse, including use of law enforcement, expulsions and firings, have met with strong support from workers, students and the community. According to a USA Today poll, 77 percent of the Nation's adults would not object to being tested in the workplace for drugs.

We have reached a new plateau with a new set of opportunities. We should pursue the limits of possibility in eliminating drug abuse. The time is right to create a national environment of intolerance for use of illegal drugs.

Issues For Consideration

The President's National Strategy continues to be a sound blueprint for the comprehensive drug abuse program. Several opportunities exist to move toward the goal of a Nation free of illegal drugs in the 1990's. The issues involve communication, education, health, the workplace, and drug law enforcement support.

A. COMMUNICATION

The teamwork of the President and Mrs. Reagan, working together, have brought significant gains in the fight against illegal drugs. Attitudes have changed, awareness has increased and many people are ready to join in the fight. Recent deaths from cocaine use have focused attention on the issue. Yet there appears to be widespread lack of knowledge regarding the government efforts underway. A major Presidential address to the Nation could focus the issue, declaring that the national campaign against drug abuse has entered a new phase. The timing of such a speech is a factor, recognizing that some early discussions have leaked to the press.

OPTION #1 -- Recommend a Presidential address at the earliest possible time; late July or early August, follow-up with implementing action by the Cabinet.

Pros

- Move while public interest and media attention is at a peak. Likely to be most effective.
- Avoids potential criticism of politicizing the drug effort by action near the November elections.

Cons

- Possible suggestions of opportunism, reacting to recent deaths of athletes.

OPTION #2 -- Recommend a Presidential address in September or October, after a number of Federal actions have been taken to strengthen the drug effort and follow up with continuing action by the Cabinet.

Pros

- Allows time for specific actions which can be reported in the speech.

- More closely aligned with the beginning of the school year, timely for students in high schools and colleges.
- Cons
- Current high level of interest may dissipate because of the delay.
 - Potential for criticism of being political by being closer to election.

B. EDUCATION

The major initiative is to establish a national objective for every educational institution, through college level, to be drug-free. To prevent drug abuse before it starts, drugs must be addressed in early school years and drug abuse prevention must continue throughout the entire school career. Teachers, school administrators, parents and individual students can share the commitment to a drug-free school. School organizations - sports, academic, drama, student government, etc. - and effective student leadership can make the difference. Schools and colleges must make the drug-free policy known and then not tolerate violations of the policy.

- ISSUE # 1 -- Develop effective ways to promulgate accurate and credible information on how to achieve a drug-free school. The Secretary of Education is preparing an excellent booklet for national distribution which will respond to this issue.
- ISSUE #2 -- Make it mandatory that all schools have a policy of being drug-free and direct the Secretary of Education to explore ways to withhold Federal funding from any educational institution which does not have such a policy.
- ISSUE #3 -- Instruct the Attorney General and the Secretary of Education to inform the heads of all educational institutions, public and private, of the Federal law regarding distributing drugs in or on, or within 1,000 feet of a public or private elementary or secondary schools. In summary, this law provides for penalties up to twice the normal term and second offenders are punishable by a minimum of three years imprisonment or more than life imprisonment and at least three times any special parole term.
- ISSUE #4 -- Explore ways to require that drug abuse be taught as part of the health curriculum instead of as a separate subject and seek funding to be made available to schools specifically to purchase new health text books which make this change.

C. HEALTH

Health interests are at a peak. The dangers of drugs are more widely evident than at any time in recent history. Many people are expressing amazement regarding the long-known effects of cocaine on the heart and respiratory systems which can lead to death. Yet even more awareness is needed. There was massive public concern over allegations of negligible amounts of herbicide on marijuana, yet the same level of concern is not evident over the deadly, yet common, application of PCP to marijuana. Additionally, much remains to be done to make appropriate treatment available to those experiencing health damage and addiction. The high correlation between intravenous (IV) drug use and AIDS requires prompt action.

ISSUE #1 -- Develop ways to provide funding assistance to states which implement programs to support specific drug-related health problems-

- Develop mandatory treatment for intravenous (IV) drug users.
- Identify drug users and force them into appropriate treatment.

ISSUE #2 -- Accelerate research in critical areas-

- Drug testing techniques and approaches.
- Highest priority to comprehensive cocaine/coca/coca paste research program. (health, herbicides, detection, etc.)

ISSUE #3 -- Develop means for limited Federal assistance to selected prevention initiatives and provide seed money for promising initiatives.

- ACTION, NIDA or other approaches?

D. SAFETY/PRODUCTIVITY

A relatively few drug users are causing our families and our society to pay a high price for their irresponsibility. Attitude surveys show wide support for identifying users of illegal drugs and for stopping the users and the sellers of illegal drugs. A vocal minority still chooses to argue for drugs as a victimless crime and to point to the Federal government for a solution. In the interests of the American people and their future, leaders must take action.

A drug-free workplace is the right of every worker. Public safety considerations require prompt action to identify, remove and treat individuals who are in jobs where their drug abuse endangers the public safety. Employers must establish a clear policy, ensure that the policy is understood and applied, and include specific rules, procedures for identifying violators and uncompromising discipline consistent with the public trust. As the nation's largest single employer, the Federal government should serve as a model for dealing constructively with drug and alcohol abuse in the workplace. The Military Services have led the way in identifying drug users and moving toward a drug-free force. Several Federal agencies have begun or are planning similar programs.

- ISSUE #1 -- Institute a testing program for pre-employment screening of all applicants for Federal jobs, with a policy that a confirmed positive test for illicit drug use disqualifies the applicant and another application may not be made for one year.
- ISSUE #2 -- Require a comprehensive testing program for all Federal employees in national security positions, safety-related positions, law enforcement officers and support personnel, drug abuse organizations, and any positions designated as sensitive by regulation or by the agency head.
- ISSUE #3 -- Establish a national goal of a 70% reduction in drug users within three years; ask the private sector to help in meeting the goal.
- ISSUE #4 -- Request the Secretary of Defense to explore ways to require Defense contractors to have a policy of a drug-free workplace.
- ISSUE #5 -- Even though overall drug use in the military has been reduced by 67 percent, 8.9 percent still use. Request the Secretary of Defense to intensify efforts to achieve drug-free military service.

E. DRUG LAW ENFORCEMENT SUPPORT

Strong and visible drug law enforcement is critical to maintaining an atmosphere in which major health programs can effectively separate the user from the drug. The success of drug law enforcement has caused significant changes in the nature of drug trafficking and in trafficking routes. Drug enforcement agencies are responding to the changes. It must be made evident to all that the drug law enforcement is flexible and relentless and will pursue the drug traffickers wherever they move.

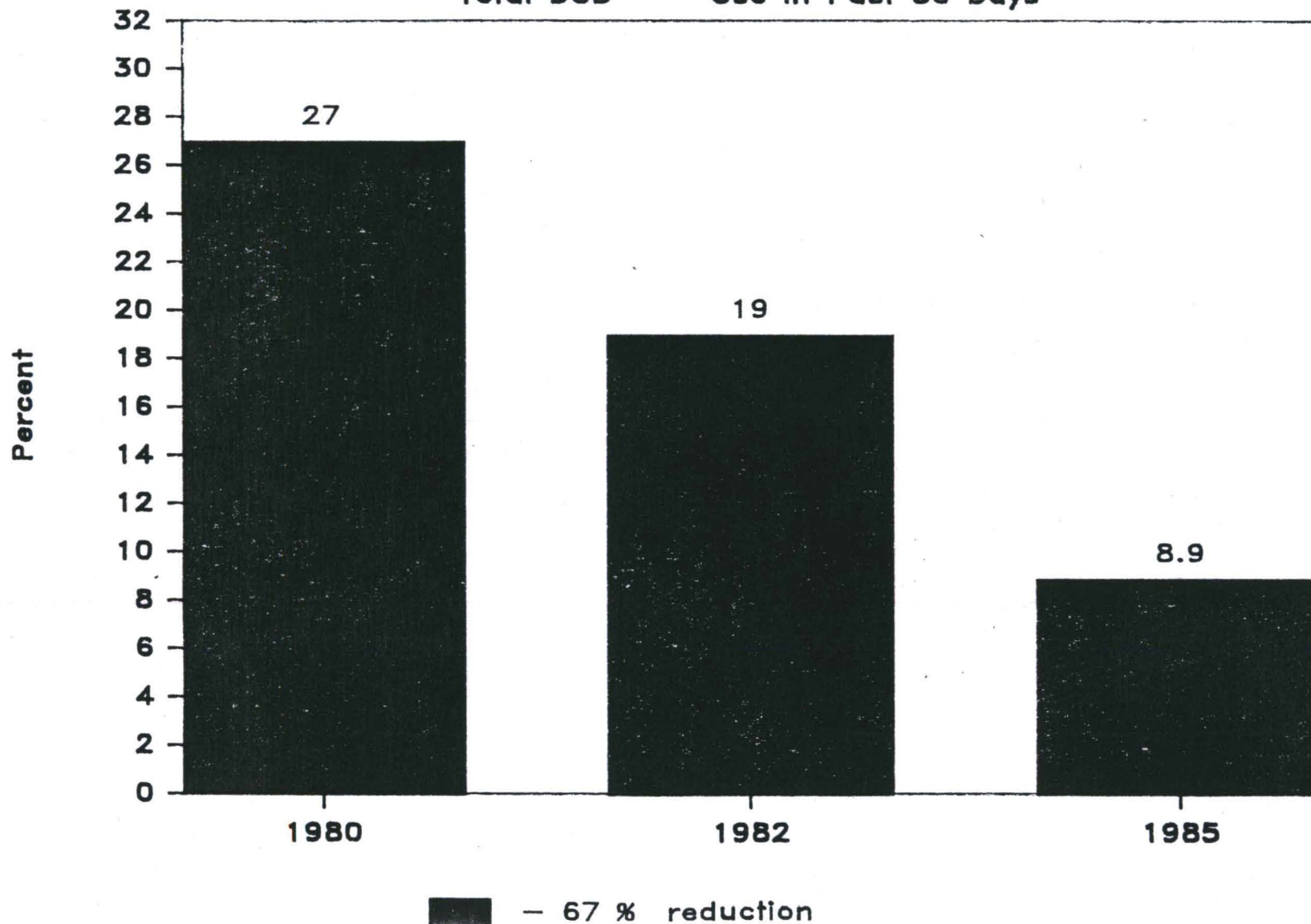
As the emphasis turns to the user, it is important that the initiative be viewed as health-oriented with a strict, but caring approach. Law enforcement can make a special contribution to drug abuse prevention and education programs in two ways: by sharing their knowledge and prestige in a caring way, particularly with young people; and by vigorously pursuing the sellers and distributors. The entire criminal justice system must provide prompt and strong punishment to drug dealers.

ISSUE #1 -- Instruct all Law Enforcement Coordinating Committees to request every U.S. Attorney to seek and prosecute violators of 21 U.S.C. 845A (selling illegal drugs on or near school property) to emphasize seriousness of stopping drug pushers. Require special reporting on these cases.

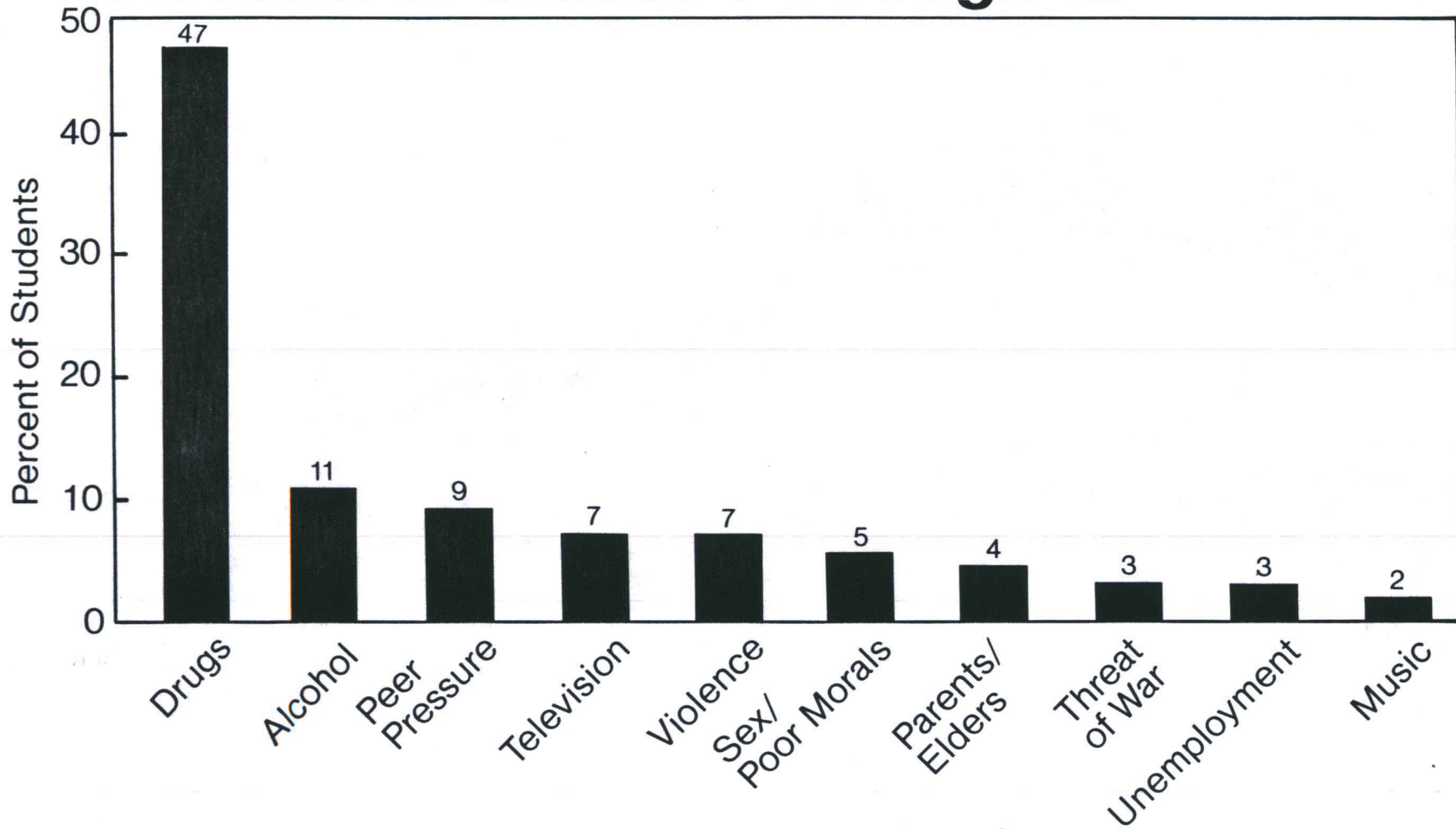
ISSUE #2 -- Expedite the development of a comprehensive Southwest border initiative to enhance ongoing operations, making appropriate use of military support and technology. Include planning to insure flexibility in the use of all law enforcement resources and, if needed, a reorganization of the operating management structure and responsibilities.

TRENDS IN DRUG USE IN THE MILITARY

Total DOD -- Use In Past 30 Days

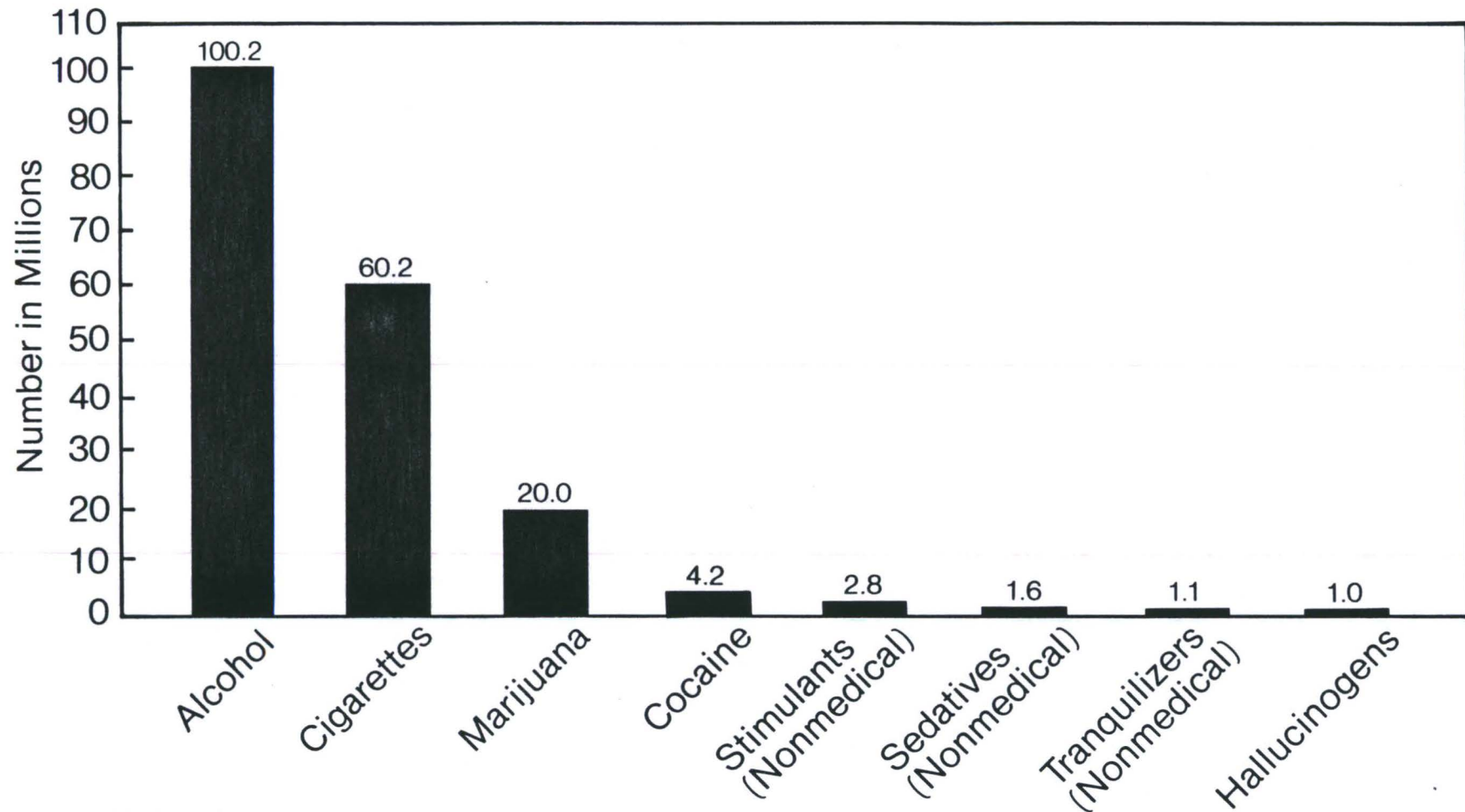


10 Leading Worst Influences on Young People Today as Reported by Students in Grades 7 through 12



Source: National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), Mood of American Youth Survey.

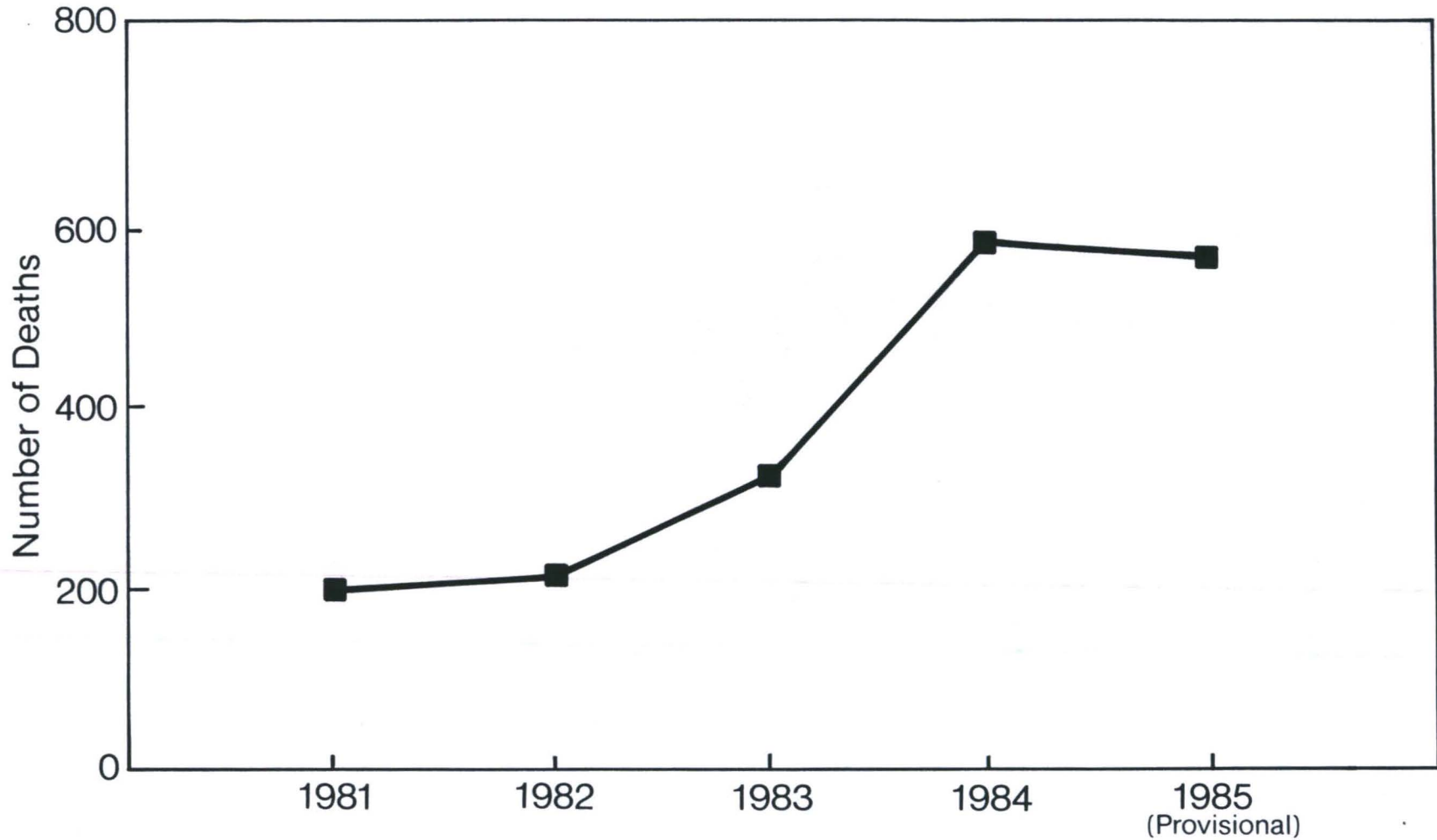
Estimated Number of Current Users¹ United States Household Population, 1982



¹People Who Used the Drug at Least Once During the Month Prior to Interview.

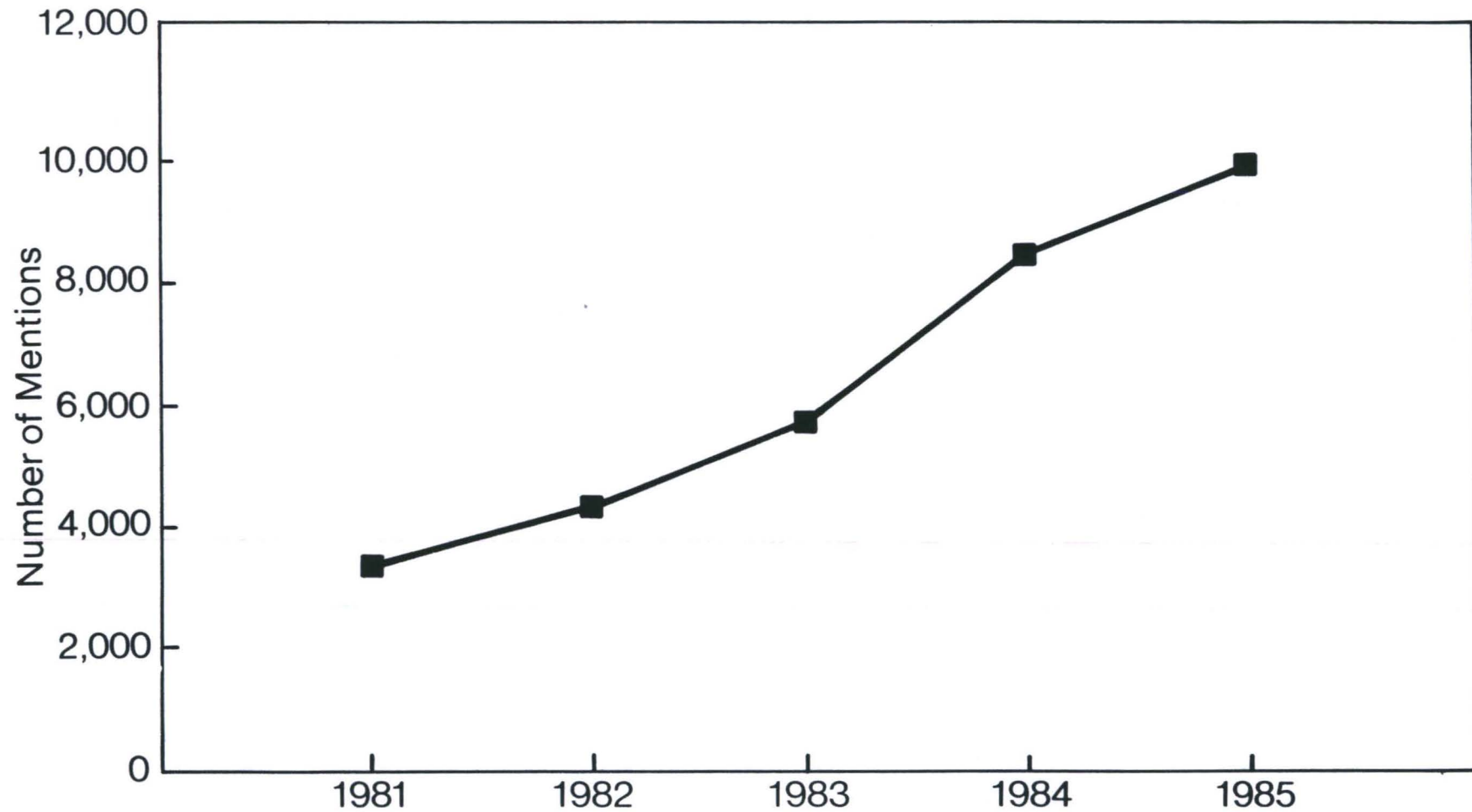
Source: NIDA, Population Projections Based on the National Survey on Drug Abuse, 1982.

Cocaine Related Deaths (As Reported by DAWN Medical Examiners)



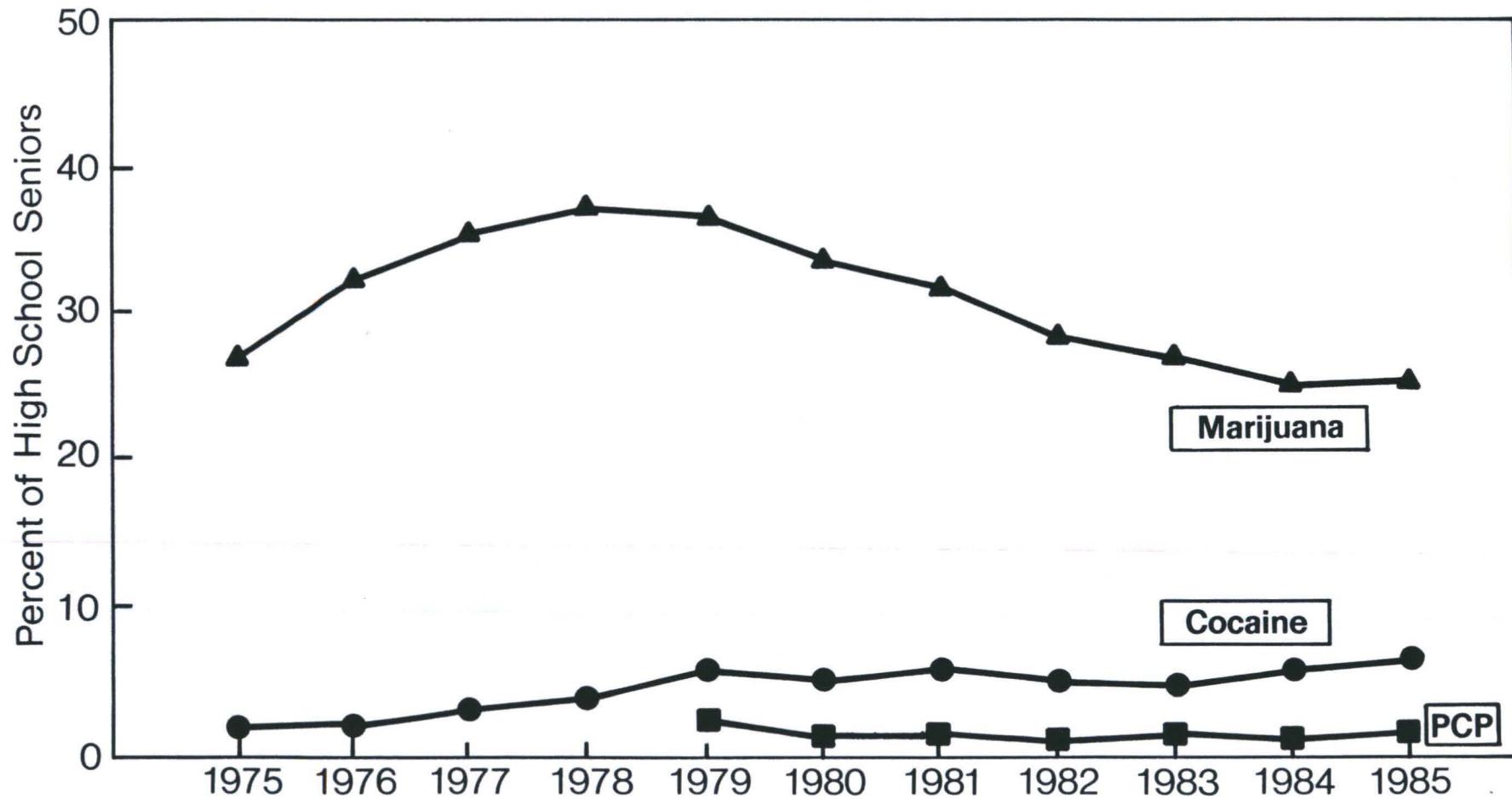
Source: National Institute on Drug Abuse, Drug Abuse Warning Network, May 1986.

Cocaine Related Emergency Room Visits



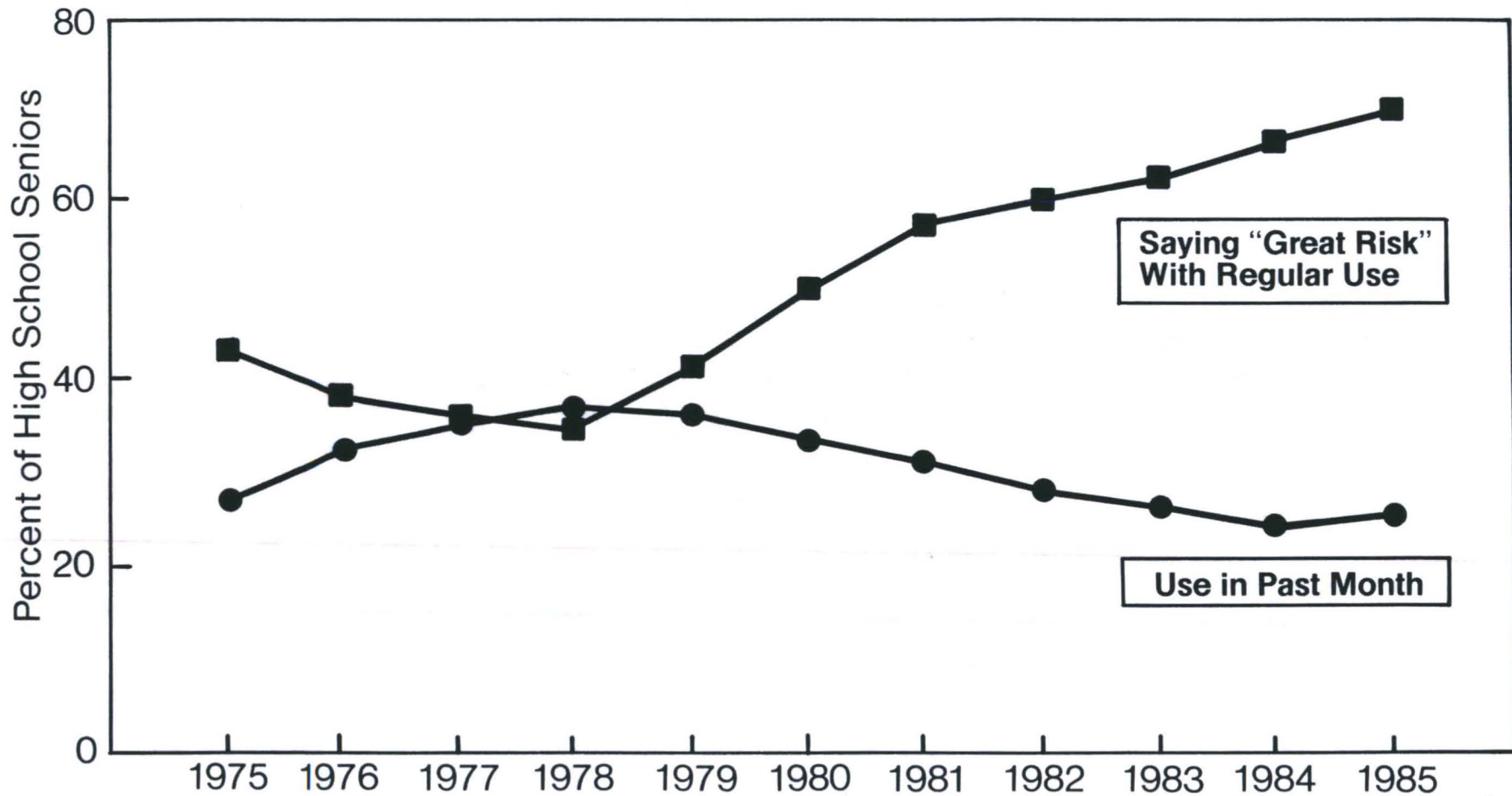
Source: National Institute on Drug Abuse, Drug Abuse Warning Network, imputed ER consistent panel data file ending May 1986.

Current Cocaine, Marijuana and PCP Use



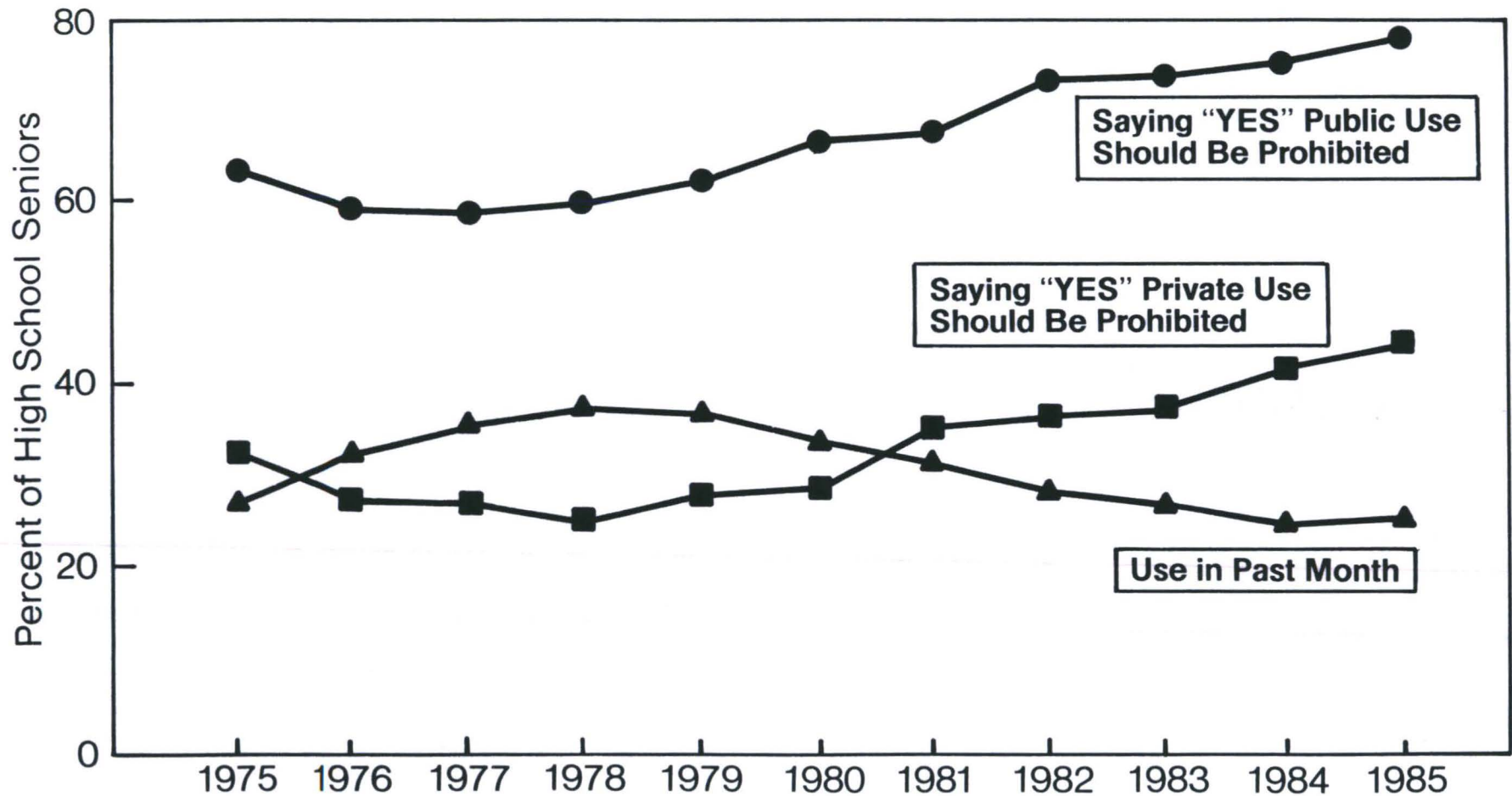
Source: National Institute on Drug Abuse, data from the Monitoring the Future Study, 1985.

Trends in Marijuana Use



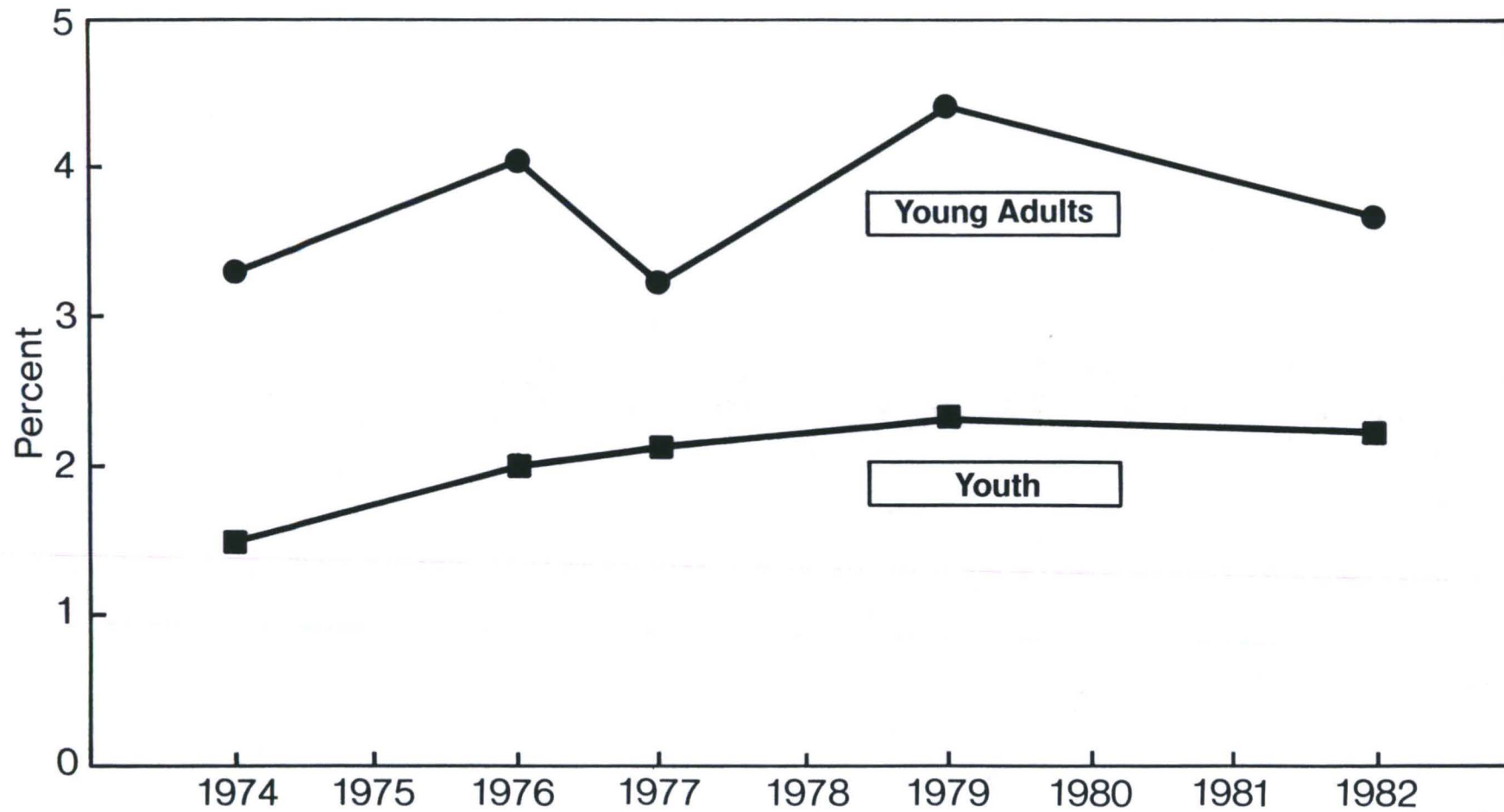
Source: National Institute on Drug Abuse, data from the Monitoring the Future Study, 1985.

Trends in Marijuana Use



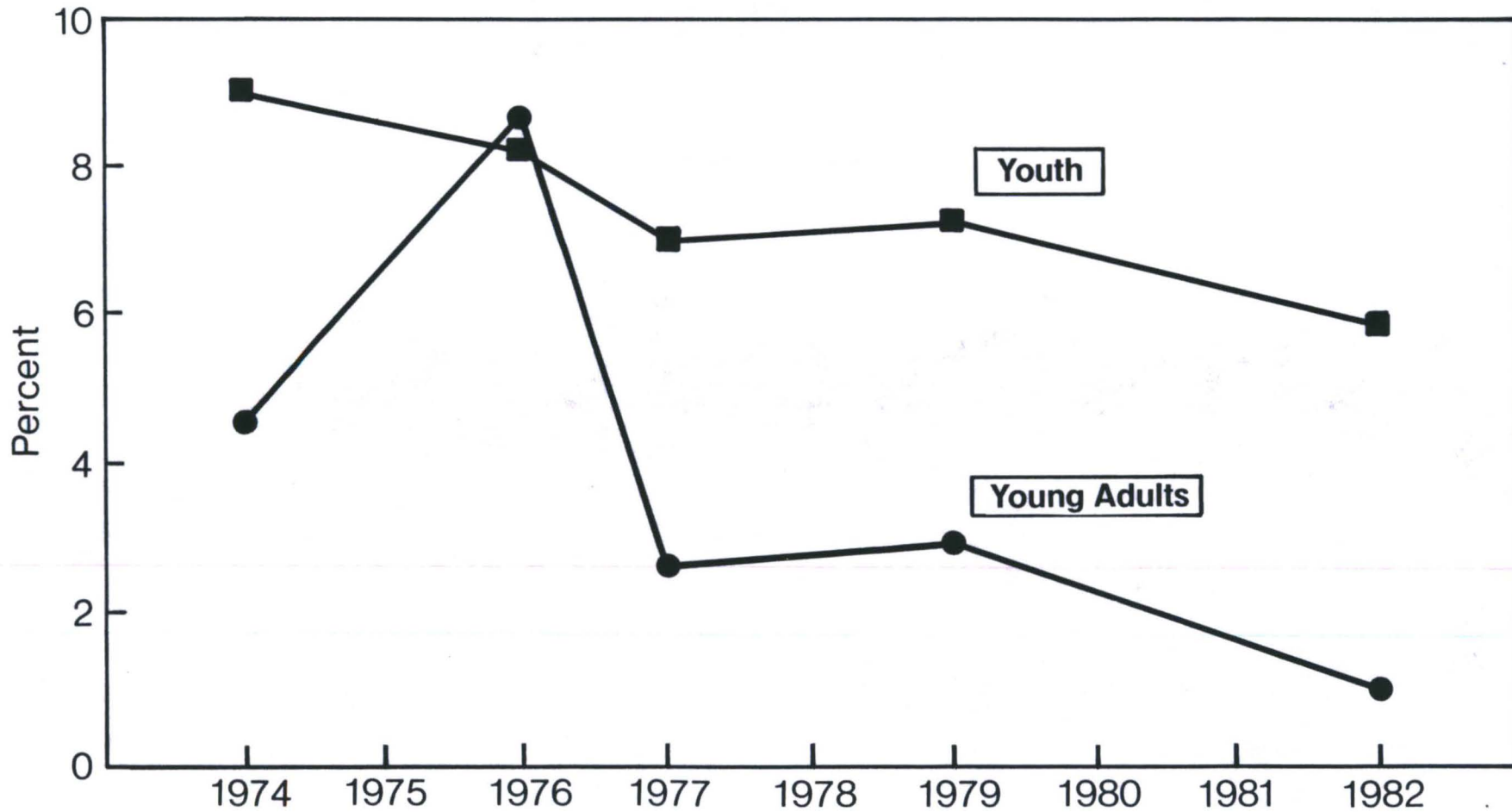
Source: National Institute on Drug Abuse, data from the Monitoring the Future Study, 1985.

First Use of Cocaine in Year Prior to Interview



Source: National Institute on Drug Abuse, National Survey on Drug Abuse, 1985.

First Use of Marijuana in Year Prior to Interview



Source: National Institute on Drug Abuse, National Survey on Drug Abuse, 1982.

THE WHITE HOUSE

OFFICE OF THE FIRST LADY'S PRESS SECRETARY

#40

July 17, 1986

MEDIA ADVISORY

At the White House this afternoon, Mrs. Reagan met with the Reverend Jesse Jackson to discuss their respective campaigns to end drug and alcohol abuse. During the meeting Mrs. Reagan and Reverend Jackson shared their mutual concerns regarding the problems of drug abuse. Mrs. Reagan told Reverend Jackson that she was very happy to see so many people coming forth and taking an active role in this issue and she was very appreciative of the work he is doing.

Reverend Jackson was most complimentary of the accomplishments which Mrs. Reagan has made, but they both agreed that there was still much to be done. Mrs. Reagan explained that when she began her 1981 campaign against drug abuse, her goal was to raise the level of awareness of the problem. Now that that has been accomplished, a new plateau has been reached and Mrs. Reagan told Reverend Jackson that it is time for everyone to stand up and take a moral position. Both Mrs. Reagan and Reverend Jackson agreed that drug abuse is an issue which crosses all party, color, and economic lines and that it is the responsibility of each and every person to create a climate where drugs will not be tolerated. They agreed that schools, corporations, churches -- every segment of society -- has a responsibility to insure a drug free environment. Reverend Jackson talked about the responsibility that the entertainment

Office of Mrs. Reagan's
Press Secretary
Media Advisory #40
Page Two

field has in not promoting drugs in a glamorous fashion -- and his concern for the impressions that young people get via TV, movies, and music. Mrs. Reagan explained to Reverend Jackson the work that the Entertainment Industries Council was doing and that she plans to encourage them to do more to help this effort.

Mrs. Reagan and Reverend Jackson agreed to stay in touch and they made a commitment to continue their work until everyone is willing to take a moral position to publicly be intolerant of drug abuse.

#

User Responsibility

Newspaper Articles and Recent Editorials

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>AUTHOR</u>	<u>AFFILIATION/DATE</u>
The Need for Intolerance	Nancy Reagan	The Washington Post July 7, 1986
Bennett's Drug Counsel	William Raspberry	The Washington Post Writers Group July 14, 1986
Culprits in Bias' Death	Cal Thomas	The Los Angeles Times Syndicate June 28, 1986
The Drug Users Are Just Plain Stupid	Claude Lewis	The Philadelphia Inquirer July 7, 1986
Blame Len Bias Too	Richard Cohen	The Washington Post Writers Group June 29, 1986
Customer Makes a Drug Deal	William Raspberry	The Washington Post Writers Group July 5, 1986
Why Are We Tolerating Drugs?	Robert Clerc	The Cincinnati Enquirer July 3, 1986
How Society Expresses Itself	Georgie Anne Geyer	Universal Press Syndicate July 8, 1986
Weep for Real Tragedies	Beverly Beckham	The Boston Herald July 3, 1986
Len Bias, Winner-Turned-Loser	Clarence Page	The Chicago Tribune June 27, 1986
Your Friend, The Grim Reaper	Editorial	The Detroit News July 2, 1986
Drugs and the Individual	John Hughes	The Christian Science Monitor June 28, 1986
Drug Consumers, Not Dealers are the Problem	James J. Kilpatrick	Universal Press Syndicate July 1, 1986
The Message: We're Fed Up, Tired of Drugs	Sam Meddis	USA Today March 7, 1986

Nancy Reagan

The Need for Intolerance

Like everyone else, I, too, felt the loss of Len Bias. Here was a young man, full of talent and potential, from a good, loving family, and suddenly he's gone because of drugs. What he meant to so many people is obvious by the stunned sorrow that has poured forth.

While those wounds were still raw, we learned of the death of Don Rogers, another gifted athlete sacrificed to cocaine. He was to be married the next day. I cannot imagine the inconsolable grief his bride-to-be must be enduring.

As painful as these two cruel shocks have been to us, I've been receiving similar stories of grief for many years now. Most people have no idea of the incredible pain and price drugs are exacting on our country.

I have been pursuing this goal for the last five years and believe that progress has been made. In the beginning, I felt the main task was to raise the level of awareness of the problem and make people more knowledgeable. I think that's been accomplished. Most Americans today do recognize the problem. We've made great progress educating the nation to the extent and nature of drug abuse. The opinion surveys prove it. There's also been tremendous encouraging growth in the number of parents' groups and service clubs working to increase drug awareness. Kids themselves have been getting involved in Just Say No clubs.

The problem is this—most people don't feel that combating drugs has anything to do with them. It's for others to do—those who work in treatment centers or who have children on drugs or who live where drugs are openly traded on the street.

I believe it's time to let people know that they have a personal, moral responsibility to fight drug abuse. Each of us has an obligation to take an individual stand against drugs. Each of us has a responsibility to be intolerant of drug use anywhere, anytime, by anybody.

As I recently told the Los Angeles World Affairs Council, every one of us has an obligation to force the drug issue to the point it may make others uncomfortable and ourselves unpopular.

Not long ago, I was interviewed by a magazine reporter who told me of a dinner she'd attended where cocaine was passed around. She felt uneasy, but she didn't do anything. Well, she should have. She should

"You cannot separate so-called polite drug use at a chic party from drug use in a back alley."

have gotten up from the table, told the people what she thought, and left.

I know it takes courage to speak up, but there comes a point when you have to put your conscience and your principles on the line. By accepting drug use, you are accepting a practice that is destroying life—lives like that of Len Bias and of countless kids next door.

You cannot separate so-called polite drug use at a chic party from drug use in a back alley. They are morally equal. You cannot separate drug use that "doesn't hurt anybody" from drug use that kills. They are ethically identical—the only difference is time and luck.

Those who don't take an active, hostile position against drugs are giving their tacit approval. People have turned their backs long enough. For too long our nation denied a problem even existed. And just the other day, I heard the chancellor of a major university deny that students could get any kind of drug they wanted on campus. The man was incredibly naive.

Up until a few years ago there was

almost a stigma in trying to speak out against drugs. It was unfashionable. It was illiberal and narrow-minded in our live-and-let-live society. Movies and television portrayed drugs as glamorous and cool. We heard about the "recreational" use of drugs as if drugs were as harmless as Trivial Pursuit. Even law enforcement was weakened by the moral confusion surrounding drug abuse. It was as if all the people who sought to fight drugs had to justify their actions.

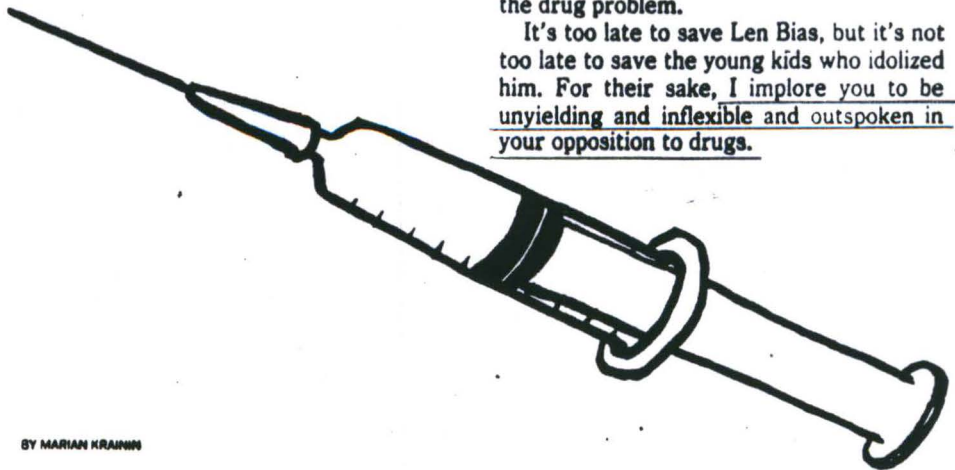
Well, today those of us fighting against drugs don't have to justify our actions. Those who would do nothing or ignore drug use must justify theirs.

And I'm not just talking about individuals here. Schools owe our children a drug-free environment in which to grow and learn. There are schools that haven't made this commitment, because they believe that drug abuse is society's problem. Yet, schools can be made clean with a no-nonsense approach that simply says drugs will not be tolerated.

Corporations have to take a greater responsibility too. Workers who are on drugs are a danger to fellow employees and to the public. Too many companies don't know how to deal with drug abuse, so, like certain parents, they pretend it's not a problem. Corporations need to set up their own tough, no-drug policies.

We must create an atmosphere of intolerance for drug use in this country. We must educate our children to the dangers of drugs. We must reach those addicts who need help so that they can save themselves. We must stop the trafficking of drugs. And we must take individual responsibility for the drug problem.

It's too late to save Len Bias, but it's not too late to save the young kids who idolized him. For their sake, I implore you to be unyielding and inflexible and outspoken in your opposition to drugs.



BY MARIAN KRAHWIN

MONDAY, JULY 14, 1986

William Raspberry

Bennett's Drug Counsel

Let me tell you up front that I have no interest in "Completing the Reagan Revolution," the subject of William J. Bennett's lecture at the Heritage Foundation last week.

The Reagan Revolution is, from where I sit, a counterrevolution, calculated to undo a lot of good bought with the blood of civil rights martyrs.

But Reagan's secretary of education said something in that lecture that is still reverberating in my head:

"Every college president should write his students this summer and tell them this: 'Welcome back for your studies in September; but no drugs on campus. None. Period. This policy will be enforced—by deans and administrators and advisers and faculty—strictly but fairly.'"

The letter Bennett talked about won't be written, of course. But isn't it interesting to wonder why?

It cannot be because college presidents prefer not to have drug-free campuses. It isn't because drug abuse is a conservative vs. liberal political issue. Bennett's liberal critics will no doubt see his rhetorical recommendation as "too simplistic," which it may well be. But few parents, however liberal their views, could suppress a monumental sigh of relief upon learning that their children's campuses were off-limits to drugs, drug users and drug pushers.

The letter won't be written because too many of us, emphatically including worried parents, are too namby-pamby to insist that it be written—too afraid that to do so would be a declaration of war, not against drugs, but against our children's generation. And absent the stiffening influence of parental demand, few college presidents will have the backbone to do what Bennett proposes.

"Our students already know about our antidrug policy," you can almost hear these administrators saying. "What purpose would be served by such gratuitous dramatics? All it could accomplish would be to trigger needless student-administration confrontation and turn our educators into agents of the police."

But Bennett believes that any such response would miss the point. To take a step as straightforward and clearheaded as he proposed would, he said, "require a kind of reinvigoration of our institutions, a resumption of their basic values," and he doesn't think we're quite ready for that.

This, not just the growing problem of youthful drug abuse, was the central point of his remarks.

"Far too many decent Americans remain, in effect, on the moral defensive before their own social and cultural institutions," he said. "Can Americans be confident that our children

are likely to inherit the habits and values our parents honor? Are we confident they will learn enough about our history and our heritage? Are we confident they will be raised in an environment that properly nurtures their moral and intellectual qualities? Can we be confident in the cultural signals our children receive from our educational institutions, from the media, from the world of the arts, even from our churches?"

The questions answer themselves. We try our best, as individuals and families, to see to the moral and ethical development of our children, to strengthen them against the pressures of peers and what we call the "real world."

But we watch, as though helpless, as "our social and cultural institutions drift away from their moorings; we [have] ceased being clear about the standards we hold forth and the principles by which we judge, or, if we [are] clear in our own minds, we somehow have abdicated the area of public discussion to the forces of moral and intellectual relativism."

I'm not sure how much any of this has to do with conservatism or the "Reagan Revolution." The liberal Jesse Jackson has said much the same thing, with far greater consistency and to resounding applause.

Both Bennett and Jackson understand the difficulty of perpetuating the values we personally care about without the support of our institutions: schools, churches, the media and the rest.

If their message sounds "simplistic," perhaps it is because it is so uncomplicatedly, unarguably correct.

CAL THOMAS

Culprits in Bias' death

WASHINGTON - There is a bumper sticker that says, "All I want is a little more than I have now." It is a motto for our times.

Last week, Len Bias, 22-year-old University of Maryland basketball star, top pick of the world champion Boston Celtics, future millionaire, driver of a brand-new sports car, died. It appears that Bias wanted a little more than he had and that cocaine, the No. 1 pick of more and more young people as their favorite recreational drug, is what did him in.

But cocaine alone didn't kill Len Bias. It had several accomplices. They are the overly tolerant and permissive attitudes, the reluctance to say no, the refusal to teach absolutes in our public schools, the fear of lawsuits by individuals and groups that spend more time searching for the presence of God in the classroom than drugs in the hallway - these are what really killed Len Bias.

Oh yes, Bias had had a spiritual conversion, but his relationship with God was new and untempered. When the pressure of his new-found fame got to be too much, Bias apparently surrendered. According to those who knew him well, it may have been his first embrace of cocaine. But once was quite enough.

Sen. William Armstrong (R-Colo.) says: "The media cannot escape a huge portion of responsibility for the

drug epidemic. I am not suggesting that we tamper with the First Amendment, but I am suggesting that we must deal with the permissive attitudes toward drugs shown on TV which leads kids to experiment."

Armstrong says the media rarely portray the consequences of drug use as a devastating habit. He sees hope in the public response to pornography and to the recent publicity over the content of some rock lyrics. He believes that if a "critical mass" of the public demands change in the way television and movies portray drug use, then the industry will be forced to respond by inserting strong anti-drug messages in scripts.

Such an approach avoids the drawbacks of challenges to First Amendment rights. But let us not forget that in our headlong pursuit toward expanding everyone's rights, there has been at least one casualty: our responsibilities.

The late Bishop Fulton J. Sheen once observed, "There is no freedom given without an accompanying responsibility."

Len Bias exercised a kind of freedom.

There apparently was not enough emphasis on the accompanying responsibility.

Now he is dead and men cry and hang their heads.

They should do more than hang



LEN BIAS

Cocaine not only cause of death

their heads. They should resolve that Len Bias' death shall not have been in vain. They should resolve with every fiber of their being to arrest Len Bias' real killers.

Those who are poisoning our culture and contributing to the death of our children should be flushed out from their hiding place behind the First Amendment, not by government vigilantes, but by a posse of the people who have had enough with drugs and booze and all of the other things that mar the lives and health of the next generation. These profiteers, from "Cheech and Chong" to the more "respectable" producers and writers, should then either be driven toward responsibility or into another line of work.

Cal Thomas is a syndicated columnist.

The Los Angeles Times Syndicate
June 28, 1986

The drug users are just plain stupid

By Claude Lewis
Inquirer Editorial Board

Let's put aside one thing at the outset. That Len Bias and Don Rogers, who died from a mix of stupidity and cocaine, were black is not relevant except, perhaps, to sociologists. Both of these guys, popular as they were, were dopes. They succumbed to playground pressure. It cost them lucrative careers and their lives.

I have a friend who is 18 and who has won a five-year football scholarship to a top school in Pennsylvania. He is said to have great gifts as a football player. But if he uses dope, it will clearly be his fault. Nobody else can be blamed, unless somebody ties him down and forces him to ingest heroin or coke. Recently, he mentioned the "pressure" he's already had to use "something."

On a recent visit to a college campus, he succumbed to "a couple of beers." But beer and drugs, so far as I know, are not a part of his lifestyle. It is time — no, well past time — to place the biggest chunk of responsibility on the "kids" themselves. They must make their decisions.

It's not as if nobody has ever heard that cocaine kills. That was known before the deaths of Bias and Rogers. It has been documented on a thousand rooftops and in hundreds of filthy hallways. There is a cocaine crisis. People die from it every day.

Even though most of those who perish by poisoning their systems with illicit drugs are relatively unknown, there is an abundance of evidence suggesting that using dope is stupid. Snorting or smoking cocaine involves a risk to life, no matter how "strong" an individual is. Coke is stronger than everybody.

Len Bias was not a "victim," unless he was a victim of his own weakness.

And I have heard enough about peer pressure. The smart ones say no, the dumb ones say: "OK, I'll do it this once. I'm not chicken." If that's all the strength of character a kid has by age 18, forget his talent. Maybe he'd do better working in a factory rather than on a football field. If an athlete thinks no more of himself, his family, his future and his team than to use coke, he deserves whatever he gets. Sometimes that's death.

The world went crazy when hockey's Pelle Lindbergh after a night of drinking, died while flying his Porsche instead of driving it. He made a decision and paid the price.

We coddle athletes in America, insulating them from reality, making it easy for them to believe that because they can hit a baseball, tackle a runner, stop a hockey puck or punch another guy senseless in the ring, they have achieved immortality.

In that sense, we are partners in their destruction. Anybody who believes in his immortality, is already



on a collision course. Every professional has a responsibility to have at least a modicum of brains.

Some will argue that people use coke because they are unhappy or because they live with "pressure." Well, a lot of people are unhappy and millions live daily with pressure. Some have no money, no friends, no family, no skills, no hope and no future. But we don't all take dope.

The way to clean up sports is to clean out the druggies. If every professional sports contract, beginning Jan. 1, 1988, contained a clause that says if illicit drugs are found in a player's system, or locker he, or she, is banned from all professional sports for life, attitudes would change quickly.

We have banned players for betting on games and for fixing them. Let's ban them for illegal drug use. It's time for toughness among those privileged to participate in amateur and professional sports. We have to begin somewhere. If such a ban works in sports, it could be expanded to cover doctors, lawyers, writers, civil servants and others flirting with death. Drugs are ruining America and killing our kids.

We can go on blaming schools, coaches, parents, friends, associates and everybody else — everyone and everything except the individuals who choose to use drugs.

If drugs are more important than jobs and careers, let those who use them know they can't exist in two worlds. If they can't exist without drugs, let them devote their lives to that negative pastime. But why pay them for irresponsibility?

There is no quick cure for drugs. But there is a quick way to eliminate athletes who persist in using them. If necessary, license them and test them, and boot the guilty out. And let sports be only the beginning.

Illegal drugs are not fun. Let's not retire the uniform numbers of those who die from drugs, the way the University of Maryland did in Len Bias' "honor." Let us, when we have specific knowledge of abuse, retire players and coaches who winked at their abuse.

It is possible to get rid of drugs — in and out of sports — if somebody will take charge. Then, when the cry of "Play ball!" goes out, it will mean what it used to mean, instead of the tragic games now being played.

Richard Cohen

Blame Len Bias Too

In "Porgy and Bess," the oily and evil Sportin' Life gives the lovely and innocent Bess her first taste of cocaine and lures her from Catfish Row in Charleston to Harlem in New York. Porgy, the cripple, cannot bear that his Bess is gone. Determined to get her back, he gets into his goat cart and is slowly pulled along the stage. "Which way New York?" he asks, and with that breaks the heart of anyone who has ever seen the show.

The Faustian theme of the enticement of beauty or talent by evil is as old as theater itself. In the movies of the 1930s and '40s, the locale shifted to the prizefighting ring, where the mob-affiliated blonde lured some naive palooka from the straight and narrow. In those movies, the "dope" was either sex or social standing, but either way, our hero was hooked. Not just cocaine is addictive.

But it was cocaine that killed Len Bias, the all-America basketball player from the University of Maryland. His death was tragic, shocking. He had been drafted by the Boston Celtics; he had signed a contract to endorse Reebok shoes. In a short time, he would have been a millionaire—a golden boy as golden as any portrayed in the movies. Like most of the old flicks, this real-life one ended with tears.

Almost immediately, the media assembled a posse to catch the culprit, pointing fingers everywhere but at Bias himself. It was the University of Maryland, some said. The school has failed to inculcate in Bias the proper values. Others said the culprit was the commercialization of college athletics—the emphasis on winning at all costs. Bias was a poor student, yet Maryland allowed him to play. At some schools, Vince Lombardi's mindless dictum that winning is the only thing should rightly be etched in Latin over the field house.

Some blamed an educational system that exploits all athletes, particularly black ones. Pampered and patronized from high school on, these athletes are educated to play ball and, often, nothing else. Even the celebrated return to minimum academic standards for athletic eligibility (usually a C average) is an example of inverted values. Regardless of why adults favor the standards, kids can conclude that athletics remain the ultimate goal. A minimal amount of studying, like practice itself, is something you have to do to get on the court.

And, of course, an abstraction called "society" also comes in for blame when such an athlete as Bias dies. Drugs infest some black communities. They have become a plague, a contemporary version of some medieval scourge. Drugs claim their victims, debilitate whole communities, fertilize criminality and, with the huge profits they generate, produce

role models—the pushers—whose effect is always pernicious, often fatal.

Each of these culprits is guilty as charged. Yet there is something both insulting and patronizing to Len Bias in fingering everyone and everything but him. It was Bias, after all, who took the drugs. It was Bias who knew he was breaking the law, that cocaine is addictive, sometimes fatal. That Bias must have thought his "crime" inconsequential and the chances of death ridiculously low is, alas, irrelevant. He died.

If Len Bias did not turn out to be a role model for others in life, then he can be that in death. With no disrespect, it ought to be said that he bears a responsibility for his own fate. To say otherwise is to give the impression that he and other athletes—especially black ones—are too dumb to know what they are doing, that society has to construct a cocoon for them—that they are exceptions to the rule that we are all accountable for what we do.

When it comes to drugs, individual accountability may be our most potent weapon.

Certainly, drugs ought to be eliminated (don't hold your breath) and an amateur athletic system polluted by greed and alumni yahooism should be reformed. But essentially, there is nothing new about the Len Bias story. Cocaine is the reason Bess went off with Sportin' Life, and as the movies have shown us, there have always been enticements for athletes no matter what their race—money, blondes, entree into society.

Len Bias is dead because Len Bias took drugs. Blame everybody and everything, if you will, but don't fail to blame him too. The lives of countless kids depend on it.

The Washington Post Writers Group

June 29, 1986

Customer makes a drug deal

WASHINGTON: It is natural to try to salvage something of value from our tragedies: some renewal of faith, some valid principle, some lesson.

So what is there to be salvaged from the tragedy of Len Bias, born-again Christian, gifted athlete, prospective millionaire, dead at age 22 because he, perhaps for the first time, used cocaine?

Probably not much.

Many of Bias' young admirers, including his own younger brother, may find in the shock of his death the strength to say a permanent "no" to illicit drugs. A few once-in-a-while users of cocaine, heroin, PCP or other substances may be jolted into saying: No more. There may even be one or two regular abusers of narcotics who will think about Len Bias and quit.

I'm cynical enough to doubt it. What seems more likely is that a lot of people will straighten up for a time, just as we all drive more carefully for an hour or so after we've seen a bad wreck, and then go back to their old patterns. In other words, even the most obvious potential lesson from the tragedy — that cocaine can kill — is likely to be only fleetingly learned.

The truth is, as those most susceptible to the blandishments of chemically induced euphoria know full well, that coke rarely kills



William Raspberry

quickly. It does its dirty work far more insidiously than that, by wrecking priorities and budgets and careers.

So why are so many youngsters still tempted to experiment with drugs? It must be because they are aware of other athletes, famous and not so famous, who seem to be able to snort now and again without obvious harmful effect. Maybe they believe that, just as many people smoke cigarettes without getting lung cancer, or drink liquor without succumbing to alcoholism or cirrhosis, it is quite possible to use cocaine without having it become an obsession.

What will they salvage from Len Bias's death?

There will be a lot of talk, and perhaps a spate of legislation, aimed at getting tough on the drug trade. I'd like to see it wiped out too, but nothing I have seen convinces me that tougher laws and stricter enforcement will accomplish that goal.

We keep hoping that we can salvage something useful from the

drug-linked deaths of the famous — John Belushi, Bias, Jimi Hendrix, the Kennedy kid — and we never do. It's hard for me to see how we can.

They also urge us, however irrationally, to vengeance. Already there are hints that whoever supplied Bias and his friends with coke on that fatal night will, if he can be found, be charged with murder. Fine. But shouldn't we also face the painful truth that, no matter how venal the supplier might be, he probably didn't force drugs on anybody? There can be no drug suppliers, no lucrative drug industry, unless there are willing buyers and users of the stuff.

I don't know what makes a person want to experiment with dangerous drugs. But it does strike me that the link in the drug-abuse chain most deserving of our attention is not the South American peasant who grows the stuff, or the money-driven criminals, who peddle it or the law enforcers who can't seem to stop it, but the willing user who knowingly risks life, health and substance in order to have it.

William Raspberry is a nationally syndicated columnist for the Washington Post.

The Washington Post Writers
Group
July 5, 1986

Why are we tolerating drugs?

Have Americans become inured to drug abuse? I mean, dangerously so? Have drugs come to be regarded as a tragic fact of life in modern America, a pestilence that is too depressing to contemplate, "given" that we are powerless to stop it?

A short while ago, the Len Bias case forced the viciousness of drugs upon the national consciousness for a few days. Rightly so. The story was a tragedy. Then, as if to underscore the uselessness of Bias' death, young Don Rogers of the Cleveland Browns died the day before his wedding. Again, the cause was cardiac arrest. And, again, drugs were involved.

Bias was described in news accounts a young man with close family ties and deep religious convictions. Just 22, he was famous already by virtue of four years at the University of Maryland distinguished by what *Newsweek* called a "velvet jump shot."

Potential millionaire

His basketball greatness made him the second pick in the National Basketball Association draft. He had been selected by the Boston Celtics, the current world champions and the team he said he had dreamed of joining. He had signed an endorsement contract for a basketball-shoe company while in Boston after the draft. He would have been a millionaire. Instead, he died a potential millionaire.

So the velvet touch won't count anymore. There'll be no chance for championship rings, *Sports Illustrated* covers, all-pro adulation in America's premier basketball city. All the hard work and talent mean nothing.

On June 19, Len Bias became just a kid who died from drugs. Or better, Len Bias and Don Rogers were just a couple more kids who died from drugs. The shock of their deaths will wear off. But the statistics will keep growing.

We shouldn't be as callous as that. We shouldn't treat drugs the way we do so many other issues, paying attention each time the circumstances are shocking enough and then putting the problem away again.



Robert Clerc

Maybe we do that because the scope of the problem has been sneaking up on us. From marijuana and heroin, the dealers have moved through acid and pills to today's incredible assortment of natural and synthetic mind-benders, and always with the market in mind. If heroin is marketable only to street people, supply cocaine to get the in-crowd. If coke is too expensive for the mass market, supply the derivative "crack" at lower prices with increased addictive power. Even if you can't name it, they got it — or they'll get it.

We know drugs are killers. We know that many of those who survive suffer wasted lives as a consequence of drugs. We know that they are a primary cause of crimes like robbery and prostitution and worse.

We know, too, that the nation is being flooded with the stuff. Much of the importation is done for profit. But not all of it is solely for profit. I have sat with a career foreign-service officer and listened to him tell of organized efforts by unfriendly governments to "wage war" on the United States with drugs.

It is hard to conceive of a more blatant or hurtful form of terrorism against this nation and everything it stands for.

In the days immediately following the news of Len Bias' death, there was a great deal of commentary on the drug problem. Almost all of it was directed at the users. Some argued that the federal government must spend more on drug-rehabilitation programs. Some said we must take some of the "glamor" from drugs by rigorous testing programs for college and professional athletes, with lifetime bans for violators. Well and good. Both Bias and Rogers were young adults, who presumably decided themselves to

use drugs.

But what about their sources? Why don't we recognize drug trafficking for the crime that it is? Why don't we begin to treat trafficking as a composite offense, which includes child abuse, conspiracy, attempted murder and murder? And why don't we go after the animals who profit from the drug trade?

Start on the street corners with the dime-bag pushers and make them know that they are going away for life — no parole — if they are caught. Never mind that "he's only small potatoes." Scare him out of the business or put him away. But break up the supply line at the point of delivery.

Make trafficking a capital offense for the high-rollers and fancy dudes who are the major suppliers and wholesalers. That's right, a capital offense. Resolve never to forget the drug-abuse statistics and wholesale traffickers and manufacturers become mass murderers. Treat them as such.

Use the military to interdict drug shipments at our problem borders. When it is verifiable that any country is a recurring source, insist that that country stop the flow of drugs to the United States — or be regarded by us as a terrorist sponsor-state.

Too pervasive

The time has long passed when this country could dismiss drug abuse as a self-destructive psychological affliction that affects only a sorry few who, deprived of drugs, would find another way to kill themselves. It is too pervasive and finds too many victims who are too young, too innocent, or both, to have had a fighting chance.

Because of drugs, Len Bias will never be a millionaire. But chances are, the supplier of his cocaine is. What a miserable testament to justice and right.

Robert Clerc is a member of The Enquirer's editorial board.

GEORGIE ANNE GEYER

How society expresses itself

As two prominent young athletes have died these last few weeks, it is the language used to describe their young deaths that has struck me as saying a lot about America today.

"Cocaine killed him," the television commentators have repeated over and over. "He was killed by cocaine ... cocaine, the killer drug ..." So it seemed to go, in the current language of drugs and death.

Many years ago, when I was just learning Spanish, one of the first structural differences we learned about that beautiful language was the one between Spanish and English verb usage. In English, the person causes the action; in Spanish, in many cases, the thing causes its own action, so no one is responsible.

"The tree fell down; the glass smashed itself; things happened to him."

In what is probably a smug Anglo-Saxon analysis, we used to say that this showed a linguistic and national fatalism, a lack of responsibility for one's actions, and a tendency to blame external factors for causal relationships.

That is why the language of the past weeks hit me with special force. I would have put it differently, saying, for example, "An athlete, being of sane mind and blessed with free will, voluntarily broke the law and took cocaine, an illegal drug known to be unusually addictive and potentially fatal, and thereby died."

I do not mean to sound cruel or uncaring; I suffer for the loss of young promise and for the families of these young men, dead before their time — in a sense like tragic heroes of old. But I am talking about how our society today expresses it-

Georgie Anne Geyer is a nationally syndicated columnist.

Whether it's the tragic drug deaths or other matters, it's important that we be very careful when describing and defining the situation. Cocaine may kill — but that is not the point.

self about these tragedies, for, in the end, language subtly tells us better than anything else what a people thinks about itself and about its destiny.

Language is a funny and wondrous thing. When I learned German, the first of my five languages, I studied it in Vienna, where I was at the university, and could not say a word. I studied some more with a tutor and then sat for hours writing out the grammar by myself. Then one weekend, I went home with two Austrian girlfriends, and suddenly I was speaking ... and speaking ... and speaking.

It is impossible to express in words the experience. I suddenly seemed to be a second being. I was within and without myself at the same time. It was, at once, an emotional, intellectual, and deeply physical thrill, the likes of which I had never experienced before. A world opened to me at the moment this new language was conceived inside me.

Then, as I learned other languages, I began ~~to~~ to love and to study their structures. It soon became clear that you could know so

much about a people — the Germans with their long, incredibly involved words and complex grammar, the Russians with their seemingly endless number of cases to confuse you — from knowing the language and even from studying their history.

As our language shows, we are now beginning to blame things outside ourselves for things that we have initiated. In our leadership, we have looked for kicky and/or charismatic leaders, instead of the rational managerial leaders who could really deal with our problems seriously. As our national celebrations show, we revel in the hyped emotional Hollywood moment instead of celebrating the deeper memories of our heritage.

The sociologists would, of course, have lots of good explanations for this. An increased welfare state has created an American type that believes society to be responsible for every ill. The illness, if not death, of the Puritan ethic has dimmed the old idea and imperative of personal responsibility. Our lowered cultural levels and lack of any sense of history as a nation have led to dependence upon the charismatic leader and his magic.

Television's abominable grammar (if one more anchorperson uses "I" when he should use "me," I am going to scream!) has tarnished the beauty of the English language.

All of these are negative traits, which, most unfortunately, we can now trace in our society and which, if continued to much greater extremes, will doom America in effect to second-rate status in the next quarter-century.

So, yes, I do think it important that, whether it's the tragic drug deaths or other matters, we be very careful when describing and defining the situation. Cocaine may kill — but that is not the point.

The Universal Press Syndicate
July 8, 1986

Weep for real tragedies

BEVERLY BECKHAM | Save tears shed over Bias who didn't have to die

TWO weeks ago, the name Len Bias meant nothing to me. I don't watch basketball. I don't read the sports page. I first heard his name when I heard about his death. The newscasters that day talked of nothing else. I listened to Red Auerbach and Larry Bird and men whose names I didn't recognize extoll this young athlete. Everyone of them referred to Bias as a "good kid," an "excellent kid," "a kid who was always smiling."

It wasn't until I read the newspaper that I found out Len Bias was 22, a man, not a kid. But who's quibbling. I suppose in the wide world of sports everyone's just a kid.

Len Bias' age aside for a minute, it was difficult even for someone not emotionally involved to listen to all the news, to read the papers and not feel sorry for the guy. He'd made it to the top. All his dreams were coming true. And then some cruel fate snatched him away.

Or so I heard again and again.

Then the whispers began. Cocaine was found in his car. Cocaine was detected in his blood. Still, the people who knew him insisted his death could not have been drug related. "I swear on my life, I hope to die if this kid ever used drugs before," Bias's college basketball coach, Lefty Driesell said.

I only hope that Driesell has his life insurance in order because Bias' death *was* caused by drugs. It was not the result of happenstance, fate or some rare disease as speculated. Still the grieving continues, the media and public bent over, beating their chests muttering, "Oh, what a shame" and "Gee, that poor kid."

Give me a break.

"Len's death is a warning from

God," his mother now says. God "lifted Len up so everyone, especially the young people, would grasp hold of him and just love him."

Now I know Mrs. Bias needs a reason for her son's death. We all need reasons — for the lump, the disease, the accident that sends us scurrying back to God.

But wait a minute. Does anyone actually believe that Len Bias snorted cocaine because God made him? That The Almighty called a meeting of all his angels and said, "Hey guys, take a look-see down there. These people are blowing themselves away, snorting coke, getting high. We've got to show them the light! Give them a sign. We'll use Bias. That'll get their attention."

Come on. God is not a public relations man, despite what they tell you on the 700 Club. He isn't behind this. Pleasure is. Instant gratification. The if-it-feels-good-do-it school of thought. God didn't take Bias' life. Bias took his own. Bias looked at whatever it was that killed him and made a choice.

Maybe he thought for a minute, of his family, of the Celtics, of the real "kids" as in children who look up to him. Or maybe he didn't. Maybe he thought only about the stuff he was about to inhale. I don't know. It doesn't even matter at this point. But I'm sure of one thing: You don't make a saint out of a drug user. You don't go around saying, "Poor Lenny. Look what happened to him." If you've got any sense of right and wrong, you save your tears, your sympathy and your grief for the people who deserve it — the people who didn't choose their disabilities, the people who die before they've had a chance to live.

You grieve when a baby is born disabled, when the prognosis for that life is a wheelchair and operations and hospital and pain. Always pain. "Why am I like this Mommy? Does God hate me?"

You grieve when a young, vibrant woman with a baby and a toddler finds a lump one spring day and is dead before Christmas.

You grieve when a healthy, handsome guy falls from scaffolding never to walk again, when a fireman has a building crush him, when a cop is shot doing his job.

We have a million legitimate reasons to grieve. The reasons fill the beds at childrens' hospitals, across this country, at The Shriner's Burn Institutes, at hospital schools, at rehabilitation centers. Should I go on?

Why aren't we grieving for Samantha Smith's mother? She lost her entire family in a plane crash? And Jimmy Fitts. His parents sent him to Vietnam never to see him again. And what about the plane crash in Newfoundland a few weeks before Christmas? Where are the pictures of the widows raising their children alone? These are the real tragedies. These are the horrible, unfortunate, heart-breaking life situations over which the victim has no control. You grieve for these people because what happened isn't their fault. They are the true victims of circumstance, fate, whatever you want to call it.

But you don't grieve when a man — not a boy — knowingly and stupidly puts a substance into his body that can kill him. You don't pass the buck to God and say it was His will.

Beverly Beckham's column appears on Friday.

The Boston Herald

July 3, 1986

Len Bias, winner-turned-loser

Len Bias was a loser.

He was a winner for a while, a big winner. But he turned out to be a loser.

He was a winner at the University of Maryland, a 6-foot, 8-inch, 210-pound all-American slam dunk artist with a leased car and little need to show up for classes. Everyone seemed to know Lenny the basketball star was playing for something more urgent than grades.

Last winter, Regardies, a slick Washington-based business monthly, decided just for fun to calculate how much revenue a basketball superstar is worth to a college. They chose Patrick Ewing at Georgetown University. To those of us who are not all that familiar with the entertainment industry that calls itself college sports, the results were astounding.

Figuring in such factors as extra game attendance during Ewing's years, extra television revenue, extra NCAA playoff revenue, additional attendance attributable to Georgetown's 1982 NCAA championship and additional alumni fund-raising revenue, Regardies concluded Georgetown pulled in an extra \$14.4 million, thanks to Ewing's talents. And all the university had to chip in, Regardies figured, was \$48,600 for a four-year scholarship.

But Ewing got his reward, thanks to the New York Knicks. The Knicks signed him to a contract reported to be worth \$14 million over six years.

This was the brass ring to which Bias aspired. He almost made it. He was first draft pick of the Boston Celtics and second pick overall in the National Basketball Association draft.

"I schemed for three years to get that kid," Red Auerbach, Celtics president, said on ABC-TV's "Nightline."

At 22, the "kid" already had a \$1 million endorsement contract with Reebok athletic shoes in the bag, and millions more if he played his cards right. Unfortunately, he did not.

Less than a couple of days after being drafted by the Celtics, when he must have been feeling his most omnipotent and invulnerable, he took a one-way ride on the white pony. Lady. Snow. Blow. Toot. Nose candy. The big winner turned out to be one more loser. All because of a little cocaine.

"Coke," Richard Pryor once said, "is just God's way of telling you you're making too much money."

It numbs the senses and your common sense.

Drug users ought to be called "losers." That's what they really are.

Clarence Page

That's why people who normally couldn't care less about basketball suddenly find themselves caring about Lenny Bias, Maryland's winner-turned-loser. He was not a poor, struggling ghetto kid caught up in The Life that sucks kids into drug use like mythical Sirens drawing ancient ships to crash on the rocks. He was caught up in a different kind of life, that of the modern athlete.

Somewhere along the line, our athletic world became known less for Jack Armstrong the All-American Boy than for Michael Ray Richardson, John Lucas, John Drew, Quintin Dailey or Walter Davis the drug users. All were NBA players who, like too many other druggies in other sports, made headlines for drug use.

Basketball is a fast game with its own special style and grace. It calls for fast reflexes, quick decisions and an extra set of eyes in the back of your head, a special perception a player once described to writer John McPhee as "a sense of where you are."

According to news reports, Lenny the slam dunker should have had a better sense of where he was. His friends say he was a born-again Christian who used to warn his little brother to stay away from drugs. You have to wonder why this role model for others decided to ignore his own warnings.

He gambled and he lost. Coke kills capriciously, the coroner said. You never know if you can take a little or a lot until it is too late.

And even in nonfatal doses, it is sinister, experts say. It fires up the pleasure centers of the brain and burns them out. No matter how hard you try, you can never get the euphoria of that first high again. Every time you come down, you will feel worse than you did before you went up, because your brain has just that much less of its natural ability to provide any sense of pleasure. And, as with other "hard" drugs, you constantly need heavier doses to get high at all.

His university is retiring Bias' jersey, a distinction normally reserved for athletes who meet their ends by more honorable means.

There have been all kinds of eulogies and poetic quotes to try to make some sense of it all. But I can't help but think of one I saw on somebody's T-shirt: "Reality is for people who can't deal with drugs."

The Chicago Tribune

June 27, 1986

Your Friend, The Grim Reaper

We challenge you to find a more hypocritical argument than the one routinely used by the Rev. Jesse Jackson and Gene Upshaw, president of the National Football League Players Association, about the evils of drug testing. Random testing for drug use, they say, discriminates against young blacks and singles them out for censure by the public. Rather than trammeling these young men's rights by forcing them through humiliating drug tests, they say, team owners should leave the athletes alone and let those in trouble seek help confidentially.

Len Bias and Don Rogers have died of cocaine overdoses in the last two weeks, presumably with their dignity intact — which is to say, neither had been screened for cocaine use in the days prior to their death. Yet it's hard to find anything dignified about the death of Mr. Bias, who keeled over only two days after being drafted by the Boston Celtics, or the death of Mr. Rodgers, a defensive back with the Cleveland Browns, who died on the eve of his wedding after ingesting what a pathologist described as enough cocaine to "kill an elephant."

The two young men — Len Bias was 22, Don Rogers was 23 — were known as gregarious, hard-working, likeable young men. Neither had a reputation for drug abuse. Yet for some reason, they made the same stupid, lethal mistake. They ingested enough cocaine to make their brains shut down and their wildly beating hearts, no longer guided by impulses from the brain, to fill their lungs and chest cavities with blood. Within moments of their cocaine "rushes," both were propelled into the vacuum of death.

In perhaps the greatest indignity of all, their deaths have lured publicity jackals out of hiding. The Rev. Jesse Jackson, who, as we have noted, previously opposed random drug testing, took the liberty of inviting himself to the White House to discuss the matter. Mrs. Nancy Reagan, the object of the invitation, still knows nothing about the proposed confab. The Rev. Jackson blamed government for having failed to spend enough money on drug education, without admitting that America's preachers and parents may be responsible for failing to instill in youths the kind of deference to parents or respect for selves that prevents people from experimenting recklessly with drugs.

Gene Upshaw meanwhile has continued to fight drug testing. "This tragedy," he said, speaking of Don Rogers' death, "points out the need for an in-depth program to educate players regarding the risks of drug usage. Drug use is a very complex problem. There is no quick, easy answer.

"We continue to feel that the best way to attack the problem is with a comprehensive program that includes confidentiality, education, counseling rehabilitation, and testing."

Fortunately, a growing number of professional athletes have told "protectors" like Mr. Upshaw to

get lost. Basketball stars Ralph Sampson of the Houston Rockets and Magic Johnson of the Los Angeles Lakers have advocated drug testing in professional basketball and in college basketball.

Good for them. It's no secret that athletes represent a high-risk group for drug abuse. A drug culture in sports began taking root in the '60s, when team doctors made the "innovation" of prescribing pain killers and "uppers" for athletes and strength coaches gave anabolic steroids to their young charges. Thus introduced to drug abuse, it was a tiny hop for young men and women to accept cocaine or smack from "friends."

Team owners finally caught on, and several years ago began asking for drug tests on the reasonable ground that drug use demonstrably worsens individuals' abilities to perform and earn

their huge salaries. There's nothing constitutionally suspect in the argument, since courts have approved of drug testing in a number of comparatively "clean" industries, such as auto manufacturing and national security. Nor is there anything suspect about the observation that there's a huge drug problem in professional sports, as last year's baseball drug trials and this year's drug deaths show.

Yet it's unfair to cast the drug-testing controversy as a union-management battle. Athletes bear some responsibility for the problem, since they tried in the past to wish it away, rather than insisting on action from their unions. Fortunately, that's begun to change. The player's union for men's professional tennis has designed and instituted a system of mandatory drug testing which, while offending a few proud souls, may save a few lives.

American athletes, who once were cast as role models for how to succeed in life, now have become tragic symbols of how drugs can kill. While tests can't always prevent the sort of freak accident that claimed the life of Len Bias — he had been screened three weeks before his death — they can serve as a powerful deterrent to future drug use. And athletes can change their image as victims of their own weaknesses by showing society they know how to take tough, positive steps to limit the chance that their friends and colleagues will snort themselves into oblivion.



JOHN HUGHES

Drugs and the individual

LEN Bias, the basketball player who could jump through the roof, had everything going for him.

He was in perfect health. He was an outstanding athlete. He was about to be received into the magical circle of the Boston Celtics.

Though fame and money could not ensure happiness, both lay within his grasp. A lifetime of satisfaction and fulfillment seemed ahead.

At 22, he cast all this away in a few seconds of stupidity designed to produce a few minutes of unnatural stimulation induced by cocaine.

Across the Atlantic, Olivia Channon, also 22, was talented and pretty, the daughter of a millionaire and British Cabinet minister.

She had been to prestigious Oxford University and it was in a room there, after celebrating the end of final examinations, that she was found dead after a binge on drugs and alcohol. Though apparently not a regular heroin user, she had the drug in her bloodstream.

The waste of any life and talent is tragic. The loss through drugs of young men and women on the brink of achievement is doubly so.

Why do they do it?

What can the rest of us do to help?

We can, of course, do more to mobilize against the big-time drug traffickers. There are thought to be some 6 million regular cocaine users in the United States. The main cocaine-producing countries are Bolivia and Colombia. The US could show those two countries that it really means business when it comes to stopping the export of cocaine.

The military could be used to supplement the thinly stretched resources of the Coast Guard and drug enforcement agencies. The Pentagon is not happy

about this prospect; it believes its weapons should be kept sharply honed for war. Some would argue, however, that drugs pose as great a threat to national security as alien ideology and hostile rocketry.

Some have suggested tougher handling of convicted drug dealers. Columnist James J. Kilpatrick is quoted: "Capital punishment may not be much of a deterrent against murder, but the sight of a few corpses swinging from a scaffold might work with drug dealers."

More manpower and resources, improved techniques for interdiction of drug shipments, perhaps more draconian punishment — all this might help cut down the flow of imported drugs.

But the problem will not, I think, be solved until individuals' appetite for drugs fades away. Some 15 years ago, I spent five months investigating the illegal narcotics traffic around the world. Since then, law enforcement agencies have improved. Old traffic patterns have been closed off, but new ones have opened up. Some of the old drugs are no longer so much in use, but different ones have supplanted them.

Fifteen years later, it still all comes back to the individual. I remember the musings of a United Nations official in Geneva: "Programs to cut back drugs are important . . . but this is basically cops-and-robbers stuff."

"It all ends up with the user, the addict. The solution to his problem must be a metaphysical one. He has to work out the riddle: What is man? And can he find himself through drugs?"

At Len Bias's funeral, the Rev. Jesse Jackson said: "On a day the children mourn, I hope they learn."

The lesson is that drugs turned even a winner like Len Bias into a loser.

James J. Kilpatrick

Drug consumers, not dealers, are the problem

WASHINGTON — For the past 10 days the local papers have been filled with the sad story of Len Bias. Here was a young man, 22 years old, who let fame and fortune slip through his hands, all for a slug of pure cocaine.

In the world of college basketball, Bias had just about everything. He was an all-star. He had signed a contract with the Boston Celtics that would have brought him an estimated \$2 million a year in salary and product endorsements.

To celebrate his departure from the University of Maryland, he went to a party with a few of his teammates. Somebody said, "Try this." The coroner said it may have been the first time Bias ever had known cocaine. Moments later the athlete was dead.

His death lanced a boil. Over the next few days it transpired that Bias, brilliant on the court, was a failure in the classroom. After four academic years at Maryland, he was still 21 credits short of earning a degree. During his last semester, he had enrolled in five courses. He withdrew from two of them and got F's in the other three.

More facts became public: Of 12 players on the Maryland team, five had flunked out of school. Wendy Whittemore, academic counselor to men's basketball, resigned. She said, in an understatement, that education was not a top priority among her charges.

The Washington Post rounded up data from other colleges: "At Georgia Tech, one of the three seniors on the team graduated this spring. None of the three seniors on Clemson's team or the two seniors playing for North Carolina State graduated."

Interviews with coaches and players tended to put blame on the strenuous schedule and the wearisome travel demanded by the National Collegiate Athletic Association. The players can pass undemanding courses, but they find it all but impossible to study for the tough ones.

Six months ago, following a damaging lawsuit, the University of Georgia went through the same agonizing soul-searching that the University of Maryland is experiencing now. Dozens of other colleges and universities are in the same boat.

What price glory? Winning football and basketball teams earn money the institutions sorely need. All-star athletes are heroes to alumni. The players are housed in separate dormitories, fed special diets, cosseted with remedial education and private tutors. They are today's Roman gladiators, stars of a coliseum. But what has a university done for them? It has profited from their athletic skills, but in too many cases the university has not insisted upon the development of academic skills as well.

Len Bias was a marvelous shot and a whiz at rebounds, but in terms of the cultural and intellectual values that are supposed to go with higher education, he was a cipher.

Whose fault? Let us recall Pogo's famous line: We have met the enemy and it is us. Cocaine would not be so tempting to the young if it had not become the drug of choice of 5 million adults. Drug dealers are not the problem. Drug consumers are the problem.

The marketplace figures in other aspects of the Len Bias story. Colleges compete furiously for the most promising athletic talent coming out of high school. The supply is limited; the demand is great. Professional teams wait avidly for the draft of players. We are talking of money, of gate receipts, of salaries in six and seven figures. Why are such salaries paid? Because the fans turn out and buy tickets.

Is it any wonder that values get subordinated? In the hours immediately after Len Bias died, there was an evident rush to hush things up. No one close to the young man wanted to talk to police. Truth became hostage to the university's reputation. Now a grand jury investigation is in prospect, but no grand jury is equipped to get at the bottom of this story. The grand jury will not ask the right questions and it will not return the right indictments.

Society as a whole is beyond a grand jury's writ, and it is in that hungry and hypocritical realm that the trouble lies. The mania for collegiate sports is just that — a mania, a form of mental illness that infects coaches, college presidents, boards of trustees, state legislators and the press. Some institutions successfully resist the disease. Others succumb, and the integrity of the academic process suffers.

Whom the gods would destroy, said Sophocles, they first make mad. Sophocles had it just about right. — (c1986.)

Universal Press Syndicate
July 1, 1986

The message: 'We're fed up, tired of drugs'

Would you object to being tested?
Yes . . . 21%
No . . . 77%
Not sure 2%

By Sam Meddis
USA TODAY

Drug testing in the work place — a hot new front in the drug war — has broad support across the nation, a new USA TODAY poll shows.

In a week that a presidential commission called for drug tests on federal workers and asked private firms to consider the same, the poll

finds:

■ 62 percent of us support mandatory drug testing for federal workers and employees of government contractors; 29 percent oppose.

■ 43 percent are for drug testing in private firms, and 48 percent are against it.

■ But the overwhelming majority of us — 77 percent — would not object to being tested in the workplace.

"What you're seeing overall is that the American public is saying, 'We're fed up. We're tired of drugs. And whatever it takes to do it, let's do it,'" says Carlton Turner, director of the White House Drug Abuse Policy Office.

The survey of 762 adults randomly selected across the USA was conducted Tuesday and Wednesday nights by the Gordon S. Black Corp. of Rochester, N.Y. It has a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percent.

Drug-testing support comes from people like Gretchen Brenner, 40, of Kansas City, Mo., a Veterans Administration dental assistant — one of the people who could be screened if the commission's recommendation is adopted.

"If people feel their jobs are in jeopardy, they wouldn't be so willing to take drugs," she says.

Brenner and her co-workers have discussed the possibility that screening could violate constitutional rights.

"But I don't care," says Brenner. "I didn't want to be forced to put a smoke detector in my home, but I felt it was for my own good."

The survey findings come at a time when many sectors are feeling a big drug-testing push:

■ The National Collegiate Athletic Association introduces drug testing next school term in all sports championships. In the poll, 69 percent favor testing college athletes; 26 percent oppose.

■ The Federal Aviation Administration tests 24,000 air controllers and safety inspectors this fall.

■ By early summer, the Customs Service starts testing up to 14,000 employees.

■ The Drug Enforcement Administration plans to randomly test 2,400 staffers.

■ About 26 percent of Fortune 500 companies already screen applicants and employees.

Just March 1, Du Pont Co. — which employs 110,000 — began drug testing for new job applicants.

The number of companies testing will double within a year, says J. Michael Walsh of the National Institute of Drug Abuse.

Today, his panel of industry and drug abuse experts will issue a report on drugs in the workplace. It is expected to call for more research on tests and for policies that treat drug abuse as health and safety issues, not law enforcement ones.

"Technology has just reached the stage where testing has real utility," says National Institute of Justice head James Stewart.

For the past 18 months, the justice institute has sponsored testing of 24,000 people arrested in New York City and Washington, D.C. Accuracy of the test: 95-98 percent.

In general, most testing involves urine samples. If a drug is present, a chemical reaction occurs, and then a computer analyzes the result. Most commonly tested drugs: cocaine, barbituates, amphetamines, marijuana, Quaaludes, opiates and PCP.

Proponents call testing a powerful weapon in the drug war. The demand for illegal drugs is vast. The \$110 billion industry feeds more than 20 million regular marijuana users, 6 million regular cocaine users and about 500,000 heroin users, among others.

Some experts say testing could backfire.

Barbara Cooper-Gordon, who runs the drug treatment program at New York's Beth Israel Medical Center, daily sees such drug abusers as teachers, nurses, doctors, Wall Street lawyers and stockbrokers.

Cooper-Gordon calls mass screenings a "witch hunt."

Employers could better spend money educating managers on how to spot drug problems, she says, such as watching for declining job performance, increased absenteeism and mood swings.

John Hardgraves, 25, a tutor at Jersey City (N.J.) State College, disagrees. He is against "drugs for anybody." He believes workers should be tested "every two weeks."

Widespread testing could be expensive — between \$4 and \$10 per sample for the most common urine exams and about \$30 for a more sophisticated test.

Allan Adler of the American Civil Liberties Union says many of us — frustrated by the government's stalemated drug battle — are getting caught in an anti-drug frenzy.

"People are not aware of the fallibility of the test or the scope of the invasion of personal privacy," he says.

Medications for physical and psychological disorders can throw off results, and tests can't distinguish between a chronic user and an occasional off-the-job user, he says. A bad test could ruin someone's reputation.

But Arthur Brill of the President's Commission on Organized Crime — which proposed testing this week — says screening is "no different in concept than all of us taking vision tests before getting a driver's license."

The poll also found:

■ 55 percent agree testing would be a violation of privacy rights; 37 percent do not. "I think I would only object if I were guilty," says Marie McCawley, 67, a Dunedin, Fla. homemaker. "I'm in favor of anything that will get rid of drugs."

■ Most of us — 91 percent — would let first-time offenders off with a warning. Only 27 percent favored work suspension.

■ Most concern focused on jobs involving public safety — "things directly relating to life and death," says Lisa Quiambo, 24, a Wheaton, Ill., nurse.

And 64 percent favor testing for professional athletes. Baseball commissioner Peter Ueberroth, who recently disciplined 21 players for drug use, has vowed baseball will be drug-free this season.

Amateur sports ranked as high: 65 percent favor testing for high school players.

But National Federation of State High School Associations, which represents interscholastic sports programs across the USA, supports drug education rather than testing.

Forrest Varlin, a maintenance supervisor in Los Angeles, backs testing but thinks "people are picking on athletes a little more than other people. They are in the limelight a little more."

While everyone wants to end drug abuse, many wonder if the risks of drug testing outweigh the benefits.

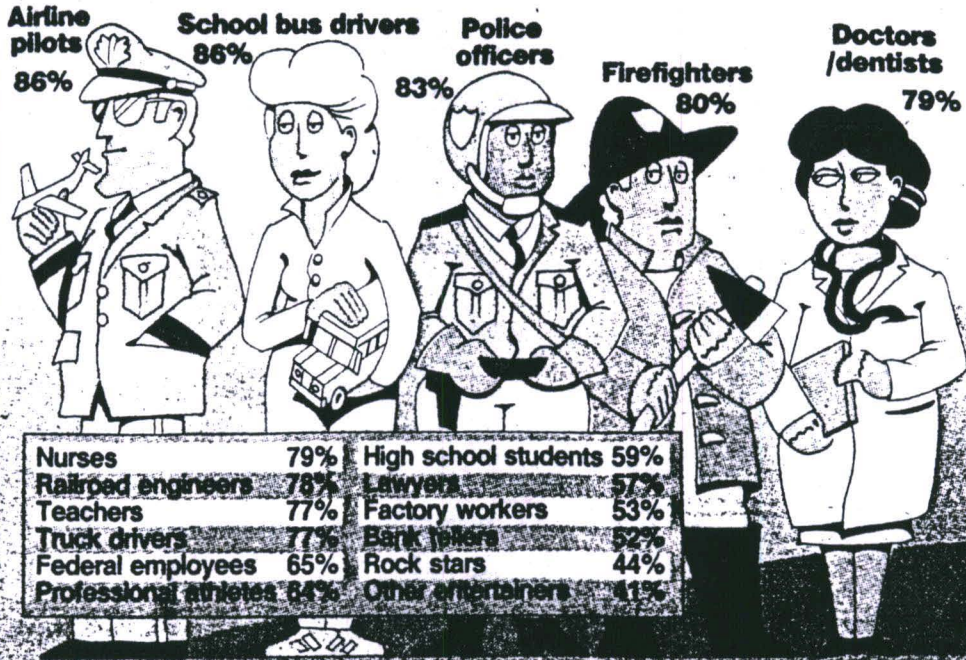
Former Justice Department official Jeff Harris worries that "wholesale" screenings could open the door to other personal intrusions — perhaps into workers' sex lives or finances.

"My concern," he says, "is where does it stop."

Contributing: Patrick O'Driscoll, Darcy Trick, Susan Allen, Wayne Beisert

Poll: We back drug tests

Who should be tested?



Source: Gordon S. Black Corp. - USA TODAY poll

By Bob Laird, USA TODAY

TODAY'S DEBATE: Fight drug pushers, don't test everybody, 10A



By Bob Riha Jr., USA TODAY
FORREST VARLIN: L.A. man favors testing but 'people are picking on athletes.'



By Daniel M. White
GRETCHEN BRENNER: Federal worker in Kansas City strongly backs tests.



By Robert Deutch, USA TODAY
JOHN HARDGRAVES: New Jersey college tutor is against 'drug for anybody.'

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 14, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DOMESTIC POLICY COUNCIL

FROM:

RALPH C. BLEDSOE
Executive Secretary



SUBJECT:

Meeting on July 15, 1986

Attached are an agenda and materials for the Domestic Policy Council meeting scheduled for Tuesday, July 15, 1986 at 2:00 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room. The sole agenda item is drug abuse policy.

The meeting will include a presentation by the Drug Abuse Policy Office, and discussion of policy options and issues pertaining to communication, education, health, safety/productivity and law enforcement support in the drug abuse field. A paper describing the options and issues is attached.

This will be an important meeting as it will address several major proposals related to our current extensive drug abuse efforts.

attachment

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

DOMESTIC POLICY COUNCIL

Tuesday, July 15, 1986

2:00 p.m.

Roosevelt Room

AGENDA

1. Drug Abuse Policy -- Carlton Turner
Deputy Assistant to the President
for Drug Abuse Policy
Office of Policy Development

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 14, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DOMESTIC POLICY COUNCIL

FROM: CARLTON E. TURNER

SUBJECT: Drug Abuse Policy Opportunities

Issue -- To determine the next major steps in the President's campaign to achieve a drug-free Nation.

Background -- The situation in 1981 was not promising. During the previous two decades, the use of illegal drugs in the United States spread into every segment of our society. The public lacked accurate information about the hazards of some of the most widely used drugs, and government efforts to combat the use of illicit drugs lacked credibility. National programs were directed at a single drug -- heroin -- and on one strategy -- supply reduction. The moral confusion surrounding drug abuse weakened our resolve to stop illegal drugs coming from overseas. The U.S. became a major drug producing country. Drug trafficking and organized crime became the Nation's number one crime problem; and use of illegal drugs expanded, especially among our young people. There was a feeling of inevitability regarding illegal drugs and uncertainty over what was the right thing to do.

The President's Strategy: Early in his Administration, President Reagan launched a major campaign against drug abuse. The objectives were to improve drug law enforcement, strengthen international cooperation, expand drug abuse health functions as a private sector activity, reduce drug abuse in the military, and create a nationwide drug abuse awareness effort to strengthen public attitudes against drugs and get everyone involved. His strategy was published to provide a blueprint for action.

National Leadership: President and Mrs. Reagan have led the Nation and the world in setting the right direction and encouraging both government and the private sector to join in stopping drug abuse. The Vice President is coordinating the complex functions of interdicting drugs at our borders. The Attorney General has taken charge of coordinating the overall drug law enforcement policy and activities.

The Federal Role: The Federal role is to provide national leadership, working as a catalyst in encouraging private sector and local efforts, and to pursue those drug abuse functions which lie beyond the jurisdictions and capabilities of the individual states. Federal drug programs have been reoriented to meet specific regional needs. Initiatives emphasize coordination and cooperation among officials at all levels of government and use of government resources as a catalyst for grassroots action.

The Umbrella of Effective Enforcement: The strong law enforcement effort, including vigorous action against drug production and processing laboratories in source countries, has increased public awareness of the drug abuse problem. Eradication programs and military support have been added to the fight. The Federal budget for drug law enforcement has expanded from \$700 million to \$1.8 billion annually.

The Growth of Private Sector Efforts: Due largely to Mrs. Reagan's leadership and dedication to the youth of America and the world, private sector drug abuse awareness and prevention programs have increased significantly over the past five years. The number of parent groups has grown from 1,000 to 9,000. School-age children have formed over 10,000 "Just Say No" clubs around the country. The advertising industry, television networks, high school coaches, the medical profession, the entertainment industry, law enforcement officers and many others have joined in the national effort. Examples include over 4 million drug awareness comic books which have been distributed to elementary students, sponsored by IBM, The Keebler Company, and the National Federation of Parents. McNeil Pharmaceutical's Pharmacists Against Drug Abuse program is now firmly established across the country.

Discussion - The President's program has been successful in dealing with the drug problem. Compared to 1981, drug use is down in almost all categories. Notable is the success of the U.S. military in reducing use of illegal drugs by over 65 percent through strict policies and testing to identify users. Across the Nation, the private sector is taking a strong stand.

Public attitudes are clearly against use of illegal drugs and drug awareness is at an all-time high. Today, drug use is front page news. Corporations are recognizing the tremendous cost of drugs in the workplace; parents and students are recognizing how illegal drugs in the schools erodes the quality of education. The consequences of drug use are becoming more severe as users turn to more potent drugs and more dangerous forms of abuse. There is increasing concern about the threat that drug abuse poses to public safety and national security. And a new understanding is evident: Drug abuse is not a private matter -- using illegal drugs is irresponsible behavior -- and the costs are paid by society.

There is broad public support for taking strong action to hold users responsible and to stop the use of drugs. Aggressive corporate and school measures to end drug abuse, including use of law enforcement, expulsions and firings, have met with strong support from workers, students and the community. According to a USA Today poll, 77 percent of the Nation's adults would not object to being tested in the workplace for drugs.

We have reached a new plateau with a new set of opportunities. We should pursue the limits of possibility in eliminating drug abuse. The time is right to create a national environment of intolerance for use of illegal drugs.

Issues For Consideration

The President's National Strategy continues to be a sound blueprint for the comprehensive drug abuse program. Several opportunities exist to move toward the goal of a Nation free of illegal drugs in the 1990's. The issues involve communication, education, health, the workplace, and drug law enforcement support.

A. COMMUNICATION

The teamwork of the President and Mrs. Reagan, working together, have brought significant gains in the fight against illegal drugs. Attitudes have changed, awareness has increased and many people are ready to join in the fight. Recent deaths from cocaine use have focused attention on the issue. Yet there appears to be widespread lack of knowledge regarding the government efforts underway. A major Presidential address to the Nation could focus the issue, declaring that the national campaign against drug abuse has entered a new phase. The timing of such a speech is a factor, recognizing that some early discussions have leaked to the press.

OPTION #1 -- Recommend a Presidential address at the earliest possible time; late July or early August, follow-up with implementing action by the Cabinet.

Pros

- Move while public interest and media attention is at a peak. Likely to be most effective.
- Avoids potential criticism of politicizing the drug effort by action near the November elections.

Cons

- Possible suggestions of opportunism, reacting to recent deaths of athletes.

OPTION #2 -- Recommend a Presidential address in September or October, after a number of Federal actions have been taken to strengthen the drug effort and follow up with continuing action by the Cabinet.

Pros

- Allows time for specific actions which can be reported in the speech.

Cons

- More closely aligned with the beginning of the school year, timely for students in high schools and colleges.
- Current high level of interest may dissipate because of the delay.
- Potential for criticism of being political by being closer to election.

B. EDUCATION

The major initiative is to establish a national objective for every educational institution, through college level, to be drug-free. To prevent drug abuse before it starts, drugs must be addressed in early school years and drug abuse prevention must continue throughout the entire school career. Teachers, school administrators, parents and individual students can share the commitment to a drug-free school. School organizations - sports, academic, drama, student government, etc. - and effective student leadership can make the difference. Schools and colleges must make the drug-free policy known and then not tolerate violations of the policy.

ISSUE # 1 -- Develop effective ways to promulgate accurate and credible information on how to achieve a drug-free school. The Secretary of Education is preparing an excellent booklet for national distribution which will respond to this issue.

ISSUE #2 -- Make it mandatory that all schools have a policy of being drug-free and direct the Secretary of Education to explore ways to withhold Federal funding from any educational institution which does not have such a policy.

ISSUE #3 -- Instruct the Attorney General and the Secretary of Education to inform the heads of all educational institutions, public and private, of the Federal law regarding distributing drugs in or on, or within 1,000 feet of a public or private elementary or secondary schools. In summary, this law provides for penalties up to twice the normal term and second offenders are punishable by a minimum of three years imprisonment or more than life imprisonment and at least three times any special parole term.

ISSUE #4 -- Explore ways to require that drug abuse be taught as part of the health curriculum instead of as a separate subject and seek funding to be made available to schools specifically to purchase new health text books which make this change.

C. HEALTH

Health interests are at a peak. The dangers of drugs are more widely evident than at any time in recent history. Many people are expressing amazement regarding the long-known effects of cocaine on the heart and respiratory systems which can lead to death. Yet even more awareness is needed. There was massive public concern over allegations of negligible amounts of herbicide on marijuana, yet the same level of concern is not evident over the deadly, yet common, application of PCP to marijuana. Additionally, much remains to be done to make appropriate treatment available to those experiencing health damage and addiction. The high correlation between intravenous (IV) drug use and AIDS requires prompt action.

- ISSUE #1 -- Develop ways to provide funding assistance to states which implement programs to support specific drug-related health problems-
- Develop mandatory treatment for intravenous (IV) drug users.
 - Identify drug users and force them into appropriate treatment.
- ISSUE #2 -- Accelerate research in critical areas-
- Drug testing techniques and approaches.
 - Highest priority to comprehensive cocaine/coca/coca paste research program. (health, herbicides, detection, etc.)
- ISSUE #3 -- Develop means for limited Federal assistance to selected prevention initiatives and provide seed money for promising initiatives.
- ACTION, NIDA or other approaches?

D. SAFETY/PRODUCTIVITY

A relatively few drug users are causing our families and our society to pay a high price for their irresponsibility. Attitude surveys show wide support for identifying users of illegal drugs and for stopping the users and the sellers of illegal drugs. A vocal minority still chooses to argue for drugs as a victimless crime and to point to the Federal government for a solution. In the interests of the American people and their future, leaders must take action.

A drug-free workplace is the right of every worker. Public safety considerations require prompt action to identify, remove and treat individuals who are in jobs where their drug abuse endangers the public safety. Employers must establish a clear policy, ensure that the policy is understood and applied, and include specific rules, procedures for identifying violators and uncompromising discipline consistent with the public trust. As the nation's largest single employer, the Federal government should serve as a model for dealing constructively with drug and alcohol abuse in the workplace. The Military Services have led the way in identifying drug users and moving toward a drug-free force. Several Federal agencies have begun or are planning similar programs.

- ISSUE #1 -- Institute a testing program for pre-employment screening of all applicants for Federal jobs, with a policy that a confirmed positive test for illicit drug use disqualifies the applicant and another application may not be made for one year.
- ISSUE #2 -- Require a comprehensive testing program for all Federal employees in national security positions, safety-related positions, law enforcement officers and support personnel, drug abuse organizations, and any positions designated as sensitive by regulation or by the agency head.
- ISSUE #3 -- Establish a national goal of a 70% reduction in drug users within three years; ask the private sector to help in meeting the goal.
- ISSUE #4 -- Request the Secretary of Defense to explore ways to require Defense contractors to have a policy of a drug-free workplace.
- ISSUE #5 -- Even though overall drug use in the military has been reduced by 67 percent, 8.9 percent still use. Request the Secretary of Defense to intensify efforts to achieve drug-free military service.

E. DRUG LAW ENFORCEMENT SUPPORT

Strong and visible drug law enforcement is critical to maintaining an atmosphere in which major health programs can effectively separate the user from the drug. The success of drug law enforcement has caused significant changes in the nature of drug trafficking and in trafficking routes. Drug enforcement agencies are responding to the changes. It must be made evident to all that the drug law enforcement is flexible and relentless and will pursue the drug traffickers wherever they move.

As the emphasis turns to the user, it is important that the initiative be viewed as health-oriented with a strict, but caring approach. Law enforcement can make a special contribution to drug abuse prevention and education programs in two ways: by sharing their knowledge and prestige in a caring way, particularly with young people; and by vigorously pursuing the sellers and distributors. The entire criminal justice system must provide prompt and strong punishment to drug dealers.

ISSUE #1 -- Instruct all Law Enforcement Coordinating Committees to request every U.S. Attorney to seek and prosecute violators of 21 U.S.C. 845A (selling illegal drugs on or near school property) to emphasize seriousness of stopping drug pushers. Require special reporting on these cases.

ISSUE #2 -- Expedite the development of a comprehensive Southwest border initiative to enhance ongoing operations, making appropriate use of military support and technology. Include planning to insure flexibility in the use of all law enforcement resources and, if needed, a reorganization of the operating management structure and responsibilities.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

THE SECRETARY

July 11, 1986

Memorandum to Alfred H. Kingon
Assistant to the President and
Cabinet Secretary

1. The Administration's war on drugs should include an effort to get drugs out of our nation's schools. We have already begun such an effort -- by calling attention to the problem, by pointing out successful drug prevention efforts, and by recommending effective strategies; this effort will culminate in the publication in September of our handbook, Schools Without Drugs.

2. We think it is important to commit some federal funds to this effort -- as evidence of our seriousness, because funds would be useful in the effort, and because other drug legislation proposals on the Hill are receiving serious attention. We think many of those proposals fail to address the problem in the proper way. We therefore recommend an Administration initiative that would assist schools in implementing effective drug prevention programs. This effort could justify its own new money; but if we wish to avoid increasing outlays and budget authority, we could target part of the existing \$500 million Chapter 2 block grant to the states for elementary and secondary education.

3. Since its inception in 1981, the Chapter 2 block grant has been the target of numerous congressional attempts to reinstate separate categorical programs. Such efforts are gaining momentum. Legislation has passed the House and is pending in the Senate to set aside money from the Chapter 2 program for particular purposes. In the Senate, legislation has been introduced to earmark all Chapter 2 funds for four specific purposes. The chances of passage of some legislation breaking up Chapter 2 seem good. If we act now, we can turn these developments to our advantage by using Chapter 2 as a vehicle for our war on drugs in the schools. The Administration could propose legislation to set aside \$100 million for drug prevention from the \$500 million Chapter 2 block grant.

4. Our program for drug-free schools would have the following features:

a. While most of the relevant drug education proposals now before the Congress stress merely courses and curricular materials, ours would stress prevention. This would include not only education, but also assistance for developing and enforcing tough disciplinary policies in the schools.

b. The bulk of the money would go to local school districts, with a lesser amount to states for state-level projects, as in the current Chapter 2 block grant. There would also be a portion administered by the Department for national prevention demonstration programs and research.

5. The legislation would provide for:

a. State set-asides for drug prevention activities at the state level. These would include teacher training, technical assistance to local school districts, and development of statewide programs with law enforcement agencies. These would be limited to no more than 20 percent of the total grant.

b. State discretionary grants to local school districts, which would account for most of the funds. These would require each district to submit to the state agency a plan to achieve "Drug-Free Schools." The plans would address the following issues--the extent of the drug problem, an enforcement plan to eliminate the use of drugs on school premises, the development of drug prevention curriculum, staff training, and community and parental involvement. These grants could be for one to three years, and would require annual progress reports and final assessments of program effectiveness.

c. Federal discretionary grants for activities such as: development and dissemination of program models and materials on alcohol and drug prevention in the schools; workshops and seminars to encourage greater cooperation between schools and community agencies, including law enforcement, the courts, and social services; research into the effects of drug use in the schools, and into the effectiveness of possible solutions to the problem.

This proposal could easily be modified as to details or level of funding.

We would be glad to provide more information about this proposal, or to discuss alternate ones. As you know, Congress returns Monday, and we expect that there will be movement in committee within a week or two on the other legislation breaking up the Chapter 2 block grant. If the Administration wants to hijack this moving train and turn a potential political defeat into a victory, time is of the essence.



William J. Bennett



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
THE SECRETARY

June 18, 1986

Memorandum to Donald T. Regan
Chief of Staff

This memorandum responds to your request for an elaboration of my view of the situation facing the Administration with respect to the drug problem.

A. The Problem.

1. There is no doubt that the Administration has made major efforts in the battle against drugs, efforts we can point to with pride. But even though it is hard to get firm data on the exact magnitude of the problem, the fact remains: drug use is at an unacceptably high level in the United States.

- o According to DEA, 10 to 25 percent of the U.S. population now regularly uses drugs.
- o 61 percent of our high school seniors have tried an illicit drug; 41 percent have used drugs other than marijuana.
- o In some areas the use of cocaine, particularly in the form known as crack, has been increasing so fast that it is outpacing all prevention and rehabilitation efforts.

2. Public alarm about the drug problem is growing. For example, in an editorial last week entitled "The Plague Among Us," Newsweek announced plans "to cover [the drug problem] as a crisis, reporting it as aggressively and returning to it as regularly as we did the struggle for civil rights, the war in Vietnam and the fall of the Nixon presidency."

3. The complexity of the issue and the complications of federalism notwithstanding, the American people will expect the Federal Government to lead the fight against this national threat. We should expect that our Administration's efforts will be subject to close examination -- and, whatever the merits, to criticism. I expect that we will increasingly hear that:

- o American foreign policy, particularly in Central America, has failed to make effective action against drug production and trafficking abroad a sufficiently high priority.

C. Administration Efforts.

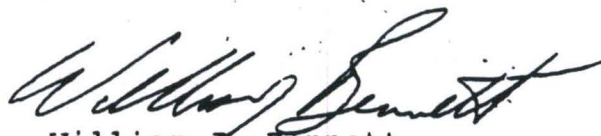
1. The Administration should reassess its current efforts and consider whether additional steps are needed.

2. We should review existing policies and current legislative and budgetary proposals to develop a more comprehensive and aggressive strategy to attack drugs.

- o We could consider once again a wide variety of measures that would improve our ability to curtail the production of illegal drugs and to interdict drug shipments.
- o We could review our enforcement of existing Federal laws -- such as laws making it a Federal crime to sell to minors -- and the resources we are devoting to such enforcement.
- o We could review the push for pending legislative proposals, such as those to curb money laundering and to allow the forfeiture of assets gained through illegal drug sales; and we could consider new proposals.

3. Above all, the Administration should send a clear, consistent, message on behalf of our society: drug use will not be tolerated. We should make clear that drugs pose a serious threat to our well-being, and that we can and will meet this threat.

4. The President could signal the start of a major new Administration effort. He could announce that he has instructed all Departments to report to him what they are doing to fight drugs, and to prepare new proposals -- administrative, legislative, and budgetary -- for extending their efforts. In particular, he could ask that senior members of the Administration personally commit themselves to the battle against drugs as a top priority within their areas of responsibility, following the outstanding example of Mrs. Reagan.


William J. Bennett

- o The Federal Government has not vigorously used the considerable legal authority it does possess to fight drugs, and it has failed to provide sufficient assistance and resources for effective enforcement at the Federal, State, and local levels.
- o Federal support of effective drug prevention measures has been inadequate.

These charges are in some ways and to some degree unjust. To the extent that this is so, we must do a better job of explaining what we are doing. We must be prepared to give a clear and coherent answer to the simple question: "What is the Administration's plan for winning the war against drugs?" It is, therefore, time for a fresh assessment of whether the Administration can or should be doing more.

B. Department of Education Efforts.

1. Our children are alarmed by the drug problem confronting them, and they are seeking more forceful action by adults:

- o Teenagers view drugs as the single biggest problem they face today. Their concern has increased steadily in recent years:

-- 40 percent call it the most serious problem they face.

-- By comparison, 2 percent identify nuclear war and 3 percent identify financing college as the biggest problem teenagers face.

- o 80 percent of teens believe that law enforcement against the sale and use of drugs is not tough enough.

2. In September, we will publish a second "What Works" report. This report, Schools Without Drugs, will tell parents, students, teachers, and administrators how they can get drugs out of our schools; and it will include some instructive success stories.

3. We will follow this publication with a sustained and coherent set of activities to assist parents and others in making their children's schools drug-free.