

UNITED STATES



U.S. CONGRESS
OF AMERICA

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 92^d CONGRESS
FIRST SESSION

VOLUME 117—PART 11

MAY 6, 1971, TO MAY 14, 1971

(PAGES 13723 TO 15164)

In particular, any systematic attack on them is simply too expensive to be considered worthwhile. This means that errors exist which are, or can be, known about but which may be ignored and left in the DP systems.

IGNORED FOR 5 YEARS

Just how long errors can be ignored was brought out vividly for me in San Francisco at the Spring Conference of the Association for Systems Management last month. After my talk one systems analyst won a big cheer from the other systems types by pointing out that his experience was that the DP group never got around to correcting non-vital errors—and that he had been waiting for some for no less than five years!

That cheer told me clearly that this ignoring of even acknowledged errors was not just an isolated incident, but instead was a usual occurrence.

At the same time some computer errors do get attention. We know this when we see the amount of time given to recompiling and re-compiling systems that have been "implemented" long ago, and when we look at maintenance budgets.

But the decision as to which error will get handled, which will be discovered but not ignored, and those which simply won't be looked for or acknowledged if found, must have some logic behind it. And I think it has—the old, standard logic of the squeaky wheel. And naturally, the bigger the wheel that squeaks, the more likely it is to get attention!

THREE SAMPLES

Following up these two points—the Mofatt comment and the San Francisco cheers—I looked at three particular cases where you would reasonably expect such conditions not to occur—where indeed you would not expect to find many errors.

These cases have all been commented on in the column before, for different reasons, and so form a random, if small, sample. They are the Master Charge case, the Educator's Consultants case and the Tucson case.

Master Charge has plenty of money to hire the best analysts, Educator's Consultants makes a living selling the use of its software, and the university knows enough about data processing to be able to give postgraduate courses in it. These cases have all been commented on in the column before, and for different reasons. They therefore do form a random, if small, sample. What I did was to look for hidden errors that had not been known about when they were first talked about here, but which have since become visible.

MASTER CHARGE—4 NEW ERRORS

Take the Master Charge case. Originally it was selected as showing arrogance in the placing of the mailing address in a non-standard position at the top of the envelope where it could be obscured by standard metering. Later, however, this system was found to also:

Issue bills that were arithmetically wrong—by hundreds of dollars.

Issue bills that called for payment before the billing date.

Confuse the reader with unnecessary data and abbreviations.

Be unable to produce confirmatory data when promised—or for months later!

None of these were found in the first go-around—only afterwards. They can therefore be considered as being hidden errors.

5 NEW ERRORS

Nor was the Master Charge alone. The Educator's Consultants case had the original error of using too short field lengths, and then using the field lengths that were available badly. Later it was discovered that in addition to these it was possible for the system to:

Completely omit grades.

Completely omit subjects taken.

Allow attendance reporting to fall two weeks behind.

Confuse all-round mediocrity with good classroom work and lousy homework.

Overprint computer data over important printed data, thereby losing both the computer-generated and the printed data!

TUCSON CASE—6 ERRORS

Even more daring than either of the others, however, was the Tucson case. Here it turned out that the original complaint, not checking inputs, was invalid. Perhaps that is why it was found to have more hidden errors than the others.

In this case it was later found:

That the operator had failed to obey run-sheet instructions.

Obsolete forms had been used, omitting vital information.

The university's rules were being broken by faculty members.

Valid complaints resulted in the blame being placed on the innocent.

The college failed to check the validity of the output.

Bad coding of descriptive data (1 for male, etc.) had been used.

Now, I don't know what you make of these facts—the number that were discovered when searching into apparently simple cases, or the complaints of the systems mean that nonpriority cases just don't get attention.

I don't even know what I really get of it—not just yet. But I do think that it indicates that computer errors are a much more important topic of consideration than we have currently realized.

At the very least, I think that the current public distaste for computers is based on a veritable epidemic of computer errors (which is certainly with us), and much worse, it may be that the visible errors are only the tip of the iceberg.

And that's a really chilling idea.

THE DEADLY MENACE OF DRUG ADDICTION

Mr. MONDALE. Mr. President, the deadly menace of drug addiction has rapidly reached crisis proportions in the United States.

The magnitude of this crisis can be illustrated with recent statistics for the Twin Cities. There are now an estimated 1,000 heroin addicts in Minneapolis and St. Paul. Last year in Minneapolis alone, 11 people died from drug-related causes. In just the first 2 months of this year, five people have already died from drugs, most of them from heroin. These numbers convey little of the tragedy for individuals who have lost a son or father. They cannot make us realize the torturous impact of heroin on human life and potential. How can this kind of destruction happen to us and, more importantly, how can we stop it?

Community self-help programs are underway in Minnesota to combat the dangers of drug addiction. Governor Anderson has given drug abuse a top priority, offering comprehensive proposals to strengthen State education and treatment programs. I hope that these measures will be adopted.

But the strengthening of State and local programs cannot succeed without Federal help. Like doctors fighting smallpox, they need vigorous international controls to quarantine the deadly germ—white powdered heroin which is produced and processed in friendly countries.

International control over heroin has

diminished, not increased, during recent years. The failure of our efforts in this area is revealed in the quantum increase of heroin importation over the last 12 months. And the reason for failure lies squarely in diplomatic side-stepping of this issue by the administration.

For example, in 1967 Turkey—producer of 80 percent of the heroin consumed in the United States—announced its intention to get out of the opium business altogether by the 1970-71 crop. Despite its intention, Turkey has expanded opium acreage under cultivation in the past 2 years, and reports show that poppy production may have doubled. And the administration continues to claim success in cooperation with Turkey on opium control.

Since 1967 we have given Turkey a billion dollars in foreign aid, without reservation regarding opium production. Last year, when Attorney General Mitchell said that he would welcome sanctions against Turkey, the State Department repudiated him the very next day. With a billion dollars in aid flowing freely through the pipeline, can Turkey possibly think we are serious about opium control?

Legislation I introduced earlier this year would add the firmness our diplomatic efforts lack. My bill would make cooperation with opium producing and processing countries more meaningful by tying aid to crop diversification and law enforcement efforts. And for the first time my bill would make clear that we do not intend to finance countries to supply us with heroin.

The International Opium Control Act has stirred favorable reaction in Minnesota. As further evidence of concern and support for prompt action, I offer two articles published last week in the Minneapolis Tribune.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following articles be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the articles were ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

THE DRUGS THAT KILL

An American Medical Association spokesman describes a study released this week as the first real evidence, based on good research, that regular marijuana smoking can cause serious psychological damage to young people. If the findings hold up under challenge—some experts are skeptical because of previous research to the contrary—then marijuana will take its place with cigarettes and alcohol as major health hazards.

Even if a health hazard, however, marijuana is not the only serious part of the drug problem. Another serious part—the part that also ought to receive major attention in the community—is the apparent increase in use of drugs that kill. The Tribune's series last week by staff writer Sam Newlund showed that 11 persons died in Minneapolis from drug abuse last year, and five died the first two months of this year. Heroin was the biggest killer. Amphetamines, barbiturates and synthetic narcotics also took a toll. Marijuana did not cause any of these deaths.

The victims ranged in age from 16 to 62. One was a Vietnam combat veteran. The number of others, still living, who are addicted to dangerous drugs is not definitely known. Half the 2,702 drug arrests in Minnesota last year involved drugs other than marijuana. The Twin Cities are believed to have as many as 1,000 heroin addicts. And

countless others, from housewives to medical personnel to "speed freaks," are hooked on amphetamine stimulants considered to be more dangerous in some ways than narcotics.

As was brought out in the articles, the pushers of drugs are not always the professional criminals exploiting a market. Many are drug users themselves, including teenagers, who want to share the experience and finance their own purchases. Further, not all drugs come through illegal channels. The drug industry produces and promotes billions of amphetamine pills for medically questionable purposes. Finally, drug use itself is not the only serious aspect of the problem. The articles described how extensive burglary operations are carried on to underwrite drug acquisitions.

There are no final answers to these problems—just many attempts to find answers. The self-help community programs seem promising and could use more aid. Gov. Anderson's proposals for education and treatment should be approved by the Legislature. Authorities need to direct their efforts more at the large drug wholesalers. And Sen. Mondale's plan to dry up the flow of heroin from Turkey could be effective. In the final analysis, however, the real solution is for Americans to come to the recognition that overuse of drugs—whether amphetamines, marijuana or alcohol—is not the answer to life's problems.

NORTH SIDE "BROTHERHOOD" OFFERS HOPE TO DRUG ADDICTS

(By Sam Newlund)

They call themselves a Brotherhood, and they mean business.

Their enemy is drug addiction and their aim is to save their black brothers and sisters from its evils.

"Hey, man—drugs? They offer you nothing but oblivion," one of them said last week.

The Brotherhood is a tough-minded corps of north Minneapolis black men, most of them former addicts, who have set up a drug-fighting Halfway Inn at People's Church, 1001 Penn. Av. N.

To enter the program, addicts must sign a pledge agreeing, among other things, to abstain from hard narcotics, to attend group meetings, to submit to spot chemical tests and to commit no crimes.

Those who break the rules must answer charges before a tribunal of their peers.

About half the 13 who had signed the pledge last week are on a methadone-maintenance program. Methadone is a synthetic narcotic used to break heroin addiction.

The group also plans to spread the word—to youngsters, parents or anyone who will listen—that drug addiction is a monstrous cop-out.

The Brotherhood grew out of alarm in the North Side black community over a recent rash of deaths from drug overdoses and deaths related to illicit drug traffic.

With the help of People's Church's white minister, the Rev. Roland Robinson, a program was written and an application for a \$30,000 subsidy was submitted to the State Crime Commission.

Mr. Robinson estimates there are 900 North Siders using opiates (including heroin) and cocaine, and that one in five of them is addicted.

Halfway Inn rules provide that members using methadone take their daily doses in the presence of two of the Brotherhood's four leaders and a registered nurse.

Methadone is picked up twice daily from nearby Pilot City Health Center and brought to the church for swallowing. Efforts are under way to set up a permanent "kick pad" where addicts trying to break their drug habits can live during the time they are suffering from withdrawal sickness.

A telephone is manned around the clock

to help any caller who may have taken an overdose of drugs.

But the program's principal strength probably is the presence of ex-addict counselors who can help the initiates get "clean" because they have suffered through that difficult time themselves.

"Rapping," in the form of regularly scheduled "group therapy" sessions, is a key part of the program.

No holds are barred in the rap sessions. At the first group meeting, last Monday, members argued heatedly about how tough the Brotherhood should be when a member returns to drugs or fails to obey the rules.

Three days earlier a bi-racial group of adults and children crowded into a church meeting room to see a slide presentation and a movie about drugs and addiction. None of the drugs shown on the slides—from coffee to heroin—escaped critical comment from members of the Brotherhood. Some sample comments:

Marijuana—"The bad thing about marijuana is that you get 20 years if you get caught with it in your possession."

LSD—"I know a couple of kids who took a trip and haven't come back yet."

Tobacco—"This is an addictive drug."

Cocaine—"I've seen people spend \$400-\$500-\$600 in a couple of hours. I've seen it. I've done it. You could break Rockefeller with this drug. He'd be dead or he'd be broke."

Tranquilizers—"You'd be surprised how many housewives are strung out (addicted) on these."

Spot remover and gasoline—"A dude who takes this has to be a mad dog . . . It's a cheap high, a stupid high and a death high."

Most of the comments were made by two of the four Brotherhood leaders, Felix James and James Spaulding. Their scorn was extra vindictive when a picture of heroin was flashed on the screen.

"Here's the garage," said James. Added Spaulding: "It'll make you hate your mommy, your daddy, your sister, your brother."

Summed up James: "That's pure death. When you take and shoot that stuff, it's pure death."

Early this month 23-year-old John Foss (the name is fictitious) was discharged from the Army after serving as a combat rifleman in Vietnam. Within two days after returning home, he began methadone treatment at Pilot Center and transferred soon after to Halfway Inn.

Foss first shot heroin into his arms at age 18, was on methadone when he was drafted two years later, and took up heroin again in the Army—both in this country and in the Far East.

Slight of build, Foss explained in an interview at the church that he turned to drugs "partly because I wanted to be recognized, I guess."

"I always wanted to be somebody," he said. "I guess it was a thing I could brag about."

"My mother and father," he said, didn't want me to mess around with no narcotics. They put it to me so bluntly. . . . But if someone tells me don't do something I'm going to do it to find out why."

Foss estimated that 65 percent of the members of his outfit in Vietnam used drugs of some kind. In Vietnam, he said, heroin is cheap and easily available from villagers. "It's just like going into a store and buying cigarettes."

He said he became addicted in Vietnam after the first time he killed an enemy soldier. His outfit, Foss said, was "just sitting around" one morning when "all of a sudden we heard all this noise."

Enemy soldiers came "running, shooting and hollering," he said. "The dude that I killed, he was real young. He just kept running and I shot him nine times."

"What shocked me," he went on, "was that we had to count their dead. Then we took their weapons and buried them . . . I was feeling real bad."

It was after that experience, Foss recalled, that a fellow soldier asked him if he wanted to sniff some heroin.

"I tried it and really got high," he said. "It was a high that I had never experienced in my life. I was trying to forget the incident."

According to Foss, it was common for him and his buddies to go into combat high on heroin.

"Being high was easier," he said. "You really didn't care. You always had the thought in your mind that it might be you—it's him or you. Killing somebody you don't even know. For what?"

At Halfway Inn, Foss said, he does a lot of reading, thinking and talking. He said the methadone is working—"it's a real nice feeling to be clean"—and he is now looking for a job.

The leaders, he said, "are just more or less helping me to decide on what I am and who I am. They're helping me to understand why I used drugs in the first place. We just kind of sit down and rap."

To join the group an addict "really has to want to quit," Foss said and the attitude of the leaders drives home that point.

"We are here to save lives," says a brochure explaining Halfway Inn. "We want to salvage the souls of some of our brothers and sisters before they jump off the deep end. We are 'catchers in the rye' seeking to turn the blind ones back before they fall off the cliff. We are determined to do this because we have seen too many people over the years, some of them close friends, die."

FREEDOM FOR POLAND

Mr. BROOKE, Mr. President, on May 3, many Polish citizens of this country observed the 180th anniversary of one of the great events in the history of the Polish people, the adoption of the Constitution of 1791.

The creation of the free state of Poland represented one of the first efforts to establish a popular, liberal form of government in the era characterized by the flowering of freedom in the Western World. Although it was to come to an end within a mere 4 years, the May Third Polish Constitution still shines as a monument to the principles of national pride and self-determination that have marked the Polish people.

The great contribution which Polish-Americans have made to the development of the United States, beginning with the very significant military leadership of General Kosciuszko during our own revolution for independence, form an important part of the history of our Nation.

I hope that the millions of Polish people will once again come to enjoy fully the basic rights and liberties of a free people.

THE ELDERLY: AN INVISIBLE CITY

Mr. EAGLETON, Mr. President, recently the St. Louis Globe-Democrat published a series of five articles entitled appropriately "Invisible City."

These articles describe vividly the plight of many of the 164,000 elderly people of St. Louis and St. Louis County who constitute a kind of invisible community within that urban area.