

U.S. CONGRESS



UNITED STATES

OF AMERICA

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 92^d CONGRESS
FIRST SESSION

VOLUME 117—PART 19

JULY 12, 1971, TO JULY 16, 1971

(PAGES 24435 TO 25730)

INTERNATIONAL DRUG CRISIS

Mr. MONDALE. Mr. President, this past 4th of July, a series of three articles appeared in the St. Paul Pioneer Press, each portraying an important aspect of the international drug crisis. This series reveals both the unremitting danger of abundant heroin supply and the many pitfalls in present narcotics control policy.

"It's Harvest Time in Turkey" focuses on the incentives and mechanisms for Turkish opium farmers to evade present opium control laws. I should like to add that despite restrictions on acreage authorized for poppy cultivation the illicit production in Turkey reportedly doubled last year.

Another article, by Leon Daniel, traces the invidious network of heroin supply from Southeast Asian producers through Thailand and Laos ultimately to American troops in Vietnam. It captures the incredible irony of our position in Southeast Asia—after 10 years, 50,000 lives, and more than \$100 billion spent in Vietnam, we now reap the bitter harvest of tens of thousands of GI's returning from Indochina as heroin addicts.

According to this article, our own embassy in Thailand—Thailand is a key heroin supplier—refuses to talk with news reporters about drugs for fear of "embarrassing" the Thai Government.

Our Government is undoubtedly more embarrassed that we continue to finance our own destruction, by allowing recipients of massive American aid to kill us with drugs.

Finally, in a third article, we hear from Director Ingersoll of the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs that even with all the heroin seizures and arrests in this country, there has been not a ripple in the plentiful supply of heroin pouring into the United States.

Early this year, I introduced a bill which incorporates the essential aspects of an effective international narcotics law. It would eliminate the terrible confusion and inconsistency of present policies by spelling out the high priority solving the drug crisis must command.

To offset attractive cash earnings for opium farmers, my bill would provide substantial assistance for the implementation of intensive, modern agricultural methods. Equally important, it would provide assistance for strict narcotics law enforcement.

But for those nations unwilling to stop the terrible human devastation caused by heroin, my bill would end the absurdity of continued foreign aid.

I would like to submit for the consideration of Senators these three worthy articles from the Pioneer Press. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that they be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From St. Paul (Minn.) Sunday Pioneer Press, July 4, 1971]

HEROIN FROM TURKEY, ASIA "PLENTIFUL"
(By Mark Brown)

WASHINGTON (AP).—Despite recent large seizures here and abroad, the supply of heroin is still plentiful, says the United States' top narcotics law enforcer.

John E. Ingersoll, director of the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs, said most of the heroin entering the country is processed in France from Turkish opium, but an increasing amount is coming from Southeast Asia.

At least three narcotics rings are involved in the smuggling from Southeast Asia, Ingersoll said in an interview, and American servicemen are "amply represented" among all three.

Ingersoll, who returned recently from an inspection visit to Southeast Asia, said that if heroin use persists among U.S. troops in Vietnam, American soldiers should be "isolated from the civilian population."

The interview took place before President Nixon announced an agreement by Turkey to stop growing the opium poppy by July 1972.

The White House said narcotics negotiations are continuing with six other countries where the poppy seed is grown.

The questions and answers:

Q. At a White House seminar on drugs, Mr. Finlator (asst. BNDD director) mentioned the narcotics systems that you are trying to crack. Could you describe the makeup of these nine systems and how they operate?

A. Well there are 10, and it's kind of hard to describe them in general terms because each of them are distinct kinds of operations. One involves people scattered all over the world who deal principally in heroin, or opium derivatives.

Another one was exemplified by what we called Operation Flanker, with the arrest of a number of organized crime figures last February and a number of arrests since then. Another one was Operation Eagle, where most participants were of Cuban extraction.

Another one involves the clandestine production of dangerous drugs in the United States. We've made some significant inroads there. We haven't publicized much of what we've done or brought it together, but I guess the attorney general will mark an announcement of this at his next press conference.

Q. Operation Flanker disclosed that the Mafia is involved with narcotics. Isn't that something they hadn't dealt in extensively?

A. Well, their announced policy since 1956 has been not to be involved, but there are deviations from that policy at fairly high levels and there's been nothing done, apparently to enforce it. There are significant traffickers.

Q. Who are some of the other groups?

A. There's the Cuban group, Eagle; although their main product was cocaine, they were also bringing heroin in. Presently there's a good deal of heroin being transhipped through various South American countries.

Q. Does most of the heroin coming into this country come from the Middle East through France?

A. Most of the heroin that is used in this country is derived from opium that is diverted in Turkey. Turkey is a legal opium producer and exporter for medical purposes. But large quantities every year have been diverted into illicit channels.

Q. At the House committee the other day, you mentioned that you had had some negotiations with President Thieu. Is the Thieu government showing sufficient concern over trafficking in heroin?

A. Ambassador Bunker told me he has never seen the Thieu government respond to any other issue as it has on this one. There has been an immediate and a very strong response. Whether they're doing enough, I think, remains to be seen.

They've done a lot. They've shaken up their customs operations; they've changed the leadership in their national police activity on this project and President Thieu has taken a personal interest in what's happening.

Q. Is heroin any less easy to get for the American troops over there now than it was two or three months ago?

A. No, I haven't seen any sign of that yet. But I do know that some of the people who were moving it in that direction have now, temporarily at least, stopped to look at the situation . . . believing that South Vietnam has been shut off.

Q. How would heroin get from Southeast Asia to the United States? Is there yet another system?

A. Yes. There are at least three different groups, we think, that are moving heroin into the United States from Southeast Asia.

Q. In getting their supplies, are they dealing with people like the Laotian general that you mentioned in testimony before the House committee?

A. No. The heroin manufacture itself appears, at any rate, to be conducted basically by ethnic Chinese living in these areas.

The heroin that's moving into the United States appears to be coming from Hong Kong or Bangkok, primarily. Some of it is coming straight from Vietnam through the mail, belongings of servicemen and so on.

Q. Have there been any significant seizures of heroin coming into the United States from Southeast Asia?

A. Yes, just the other day eight pounds were seized here in Washington, D.C., and about a month or so ago there was a little over seven pounds, I think, seized at Fort Monmouth, N.J., in the mail. And we have some others, all in the last year or so.

Q. The number of seizures here have gone up. Have these seizures at all put a dent in the heroin supply?

A. No. There's still a lot of it around. There appears to be a sufficient supply of heroin available on the streets, and the price hasn't fluctuated significantly or noticeably.

IT'S HARVEST TIME IN TURKEY

(By William Tuohy)

AFYON, TURKEY.—It's harvest time here, and the carpet of white and purple poppy blossoms are losing their petals, exposing the green, plum-sized opium pods to ripen in the sun.

This year's harvest on the 4,000-foot high Anatolian Plateau is expected to be a bumper crop.

It also might possibly be the last.

Turkey, leading source of the opium derivative, heroin, channeling illegally into the United States, agreed Thursday to eradicate totally the production of poppies by late next year.

But the 75,000 farm families of central Turkey, to whom opium is their cash crop, their livelihood may never understand, even though U.S. dollar subsidies are pledged to them.

"OUR LIFE is built on growing poppies," said 40-year-old Lutfi Yeldiz, in the nearby village of Kumartas. "We produce our opium and sell it to the government. They say they use it for medicine . . . We have heard in the newspapers that America is against opium, but we do not know why. I don't understand what you mean by drug addiction."

As Yeldiz says, legally produced opium is sold through government agencies to world wide pharmaceutical firms which convert it to morphine and codeine to help the sick and injured.

But the same raw opium, illegally trafficked and refined into heroin, eventually finds its way into the veins of countless thousands of addicts. President Nixon said more than 60 per cent of the heroin peddled in the United States comes from Turkey.

Unlike the growing of wheat or barley, the opium plant is enormously rewarding to the dirt-poor farmers of Afyon.

In addition to gathering the raw opium,

the farmers use the leaves for salad greens. They eat or bake bread with poppy seeds. They press the rest of the seeds into cooking oil. Then they use the residue for animal feed. They cut the stalks for firewood. And they ship the husks of the pod to Holland and Germany where more opium gum is extracted, and the rest used for pressed board.

Thus, the opium crop is at least three times as profitable as anything else the farmers could grow in the hard-scrabble country of central Anatolia—without intensive, modern farming methods.

This year's legal crop—estimated at perhaps 100 metric tons—is taken by the farmers to government purchasing offices where they receive about \$4 a pound for raw opium—depending on the quality. This is the product sold to legitimate foreign drug firms.

But at least an equal amount, according to informed estimates, and perhaps more is funneled off into the illicit trade to be smuggled out of Turkey.

Each year, farmers officially estimate how much opium gum they will produce, but these estimates are invariably thought to be on the low side. Other farmers produce opium in illegal fields.

The surplus illegal opium is purchased—usually in advance—at four times the legal price by "commission men" from Istanbul and Ismir, who are often themselves farmers who have prospered in the opium trade. They usually pay the opium farmer in advance for his illegal production—which is a keen incentive to the cash-short growers.

ASIAN SUPPLY FILTERS THROUGH CAMBODIA (By Leon Daniel)

BANGKOK.—Despite, or perhaps because of, America's investment of blood and treasure in Southeast Asia, one of the region's most successful commercial ventures is the illegal production and sale of heroin.

Compounding this tragic irony is the fact that virtually all of the heroin smoked, snorted and injected by American GI's in Vietnam is smuggled through Thailand, a staunch American ally in the Indochina war.

Thailand also is the conduit for an increasing amount of illicit heroin entering the United States.

Spurred by President Nixon, the U.S. government has now turned more of its attention to trying to solve the problem that may ultimately prove to have more staying power than the war itself.

The practice of the American diplomats in Bangkok was to meet queries from newsmen about Thailand's opium-heroin traffic with reactions ranging from boredom to hostility.

Newsmen were told they could not interview for the record American officials here on the subject.

The explanation was that news stories about the opium-heroin traffic would damage relations between the United States and Thailand.

While the diplomats were trying to keep a lid on the embarrassing situation, agents from the U.S. Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs were working against great odds to stem the opium-heroin tide through Thailand.

It took a couple of U.S. representatives, armed with congressional investigative powers, to spell out publicly Thailand's role as a passageway in the opium-heroin traffic.

Reps. Morgan Murphy, an Illinois Democrat who represents Chicago's drug-troubled south side, and Robert Steele, a Connecticut Republican, came up with some recommendations.

They said the U.S. mission in Thailand "should be more forceful" in convincing the

Thai government that the United States not only needs, but expects, rapidly increasing action to stop the illegal traffic in opium and its derivatives.

Most of the heroin used by GI's in Vietnam is produced from poppies grown in mountainous areas of Burma, Laos, Thailand and parts of Yunnan Province in Communist China.

Murphy and Steele, a former Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) agent, charged that in Laos "government armed forces are major wholesalers of opium and heroin and have been directly involved in large-scale smuggling activities."

They also said for the record that most of the opium produced in Southeast Asia is smuggled through Thailand.

U.S. narcotics agents here told the two congressmen enough to finally get a startling story before the public. Here is the story that emerged:

Some of the Southeast Asia opium is processed into heroin which is smuggled to the United States by couriers on commercial and military aircraft. Some is mailed to the United States by U.S. military personnel, using both commercial and military postal services.

Most of the heroin is smuggled into South Vietnam through Thailand and Laos.

American citizens, mostly former servicemen, recently have moved to Thailand and have gotten into the business of smuggling heroin.

U.S. agents told the congressmen that bar patrons are recruited as heroin couriers to the United States and that U.S. military personnel on active duty are recruited to ship heroin to the United States through the military postal system.

(On April 5, the Bureau of Customs seized 17 pounds of heroin in a piece of military mail from Bangkok. The package, seized at Fort Monmouth, N.J., contained heroin with an estimated street-sale value of \$1.75 million.)

Some of the heroin smuggled into South Vietnam is carried in commercial aircraft and planes of the Laotian-Thai and South Vietnamese air forces.

The congressmen also said that heroin has been smuggled in planes of Air America, a private airline financed by the CIA, "although there is no evidence that any official of a U.S. agency has ever been involved in the smuggling of heroin into South Vietnam."

RECYCLING PAPER AND WASTE OIL

Mr. MOSS. Mr. President, recycling was in the news again yesterday. I invite the attention of Senators to two articles published yesterday in the Washington Post. The subject of the first article is a report by the Prince George's County Committee of the Maryland Environmental Trust. After citing some statistics to demonstrate the need for increased recycling of paper in the Washington area, the report makes several recommendations. Among them: that the Government Printing Office and the General Service Administration make substantial use of recycled paper. This recommendation is in line with two bills I have recently introduced into the Senate.

The other article describes a proposal that the State of Maryland establish a \$1 million pilot project for the collection and re-refining of waste oil.

These proposals are worthwhile, and thoroughly consistent with bills that I

and other Senators have introduced on the subject of recycling. Because I believe these articles to be of general interest, I ask unanimous consent that they be printed in the RECORD.

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

READ AND RECYCLE—AND SAVE OUR TREES

About 300,000 tons of newsprint are used yearly in the Washington area, but only 21,000 tons of that is recycled. The difference means a lot of trees cut down.

The matter of trees has become an issue of great concern to the Prince George's County Committee of the Maryland Environmental Trust, which has issued a report calling for a broader program of recycling waste paper.

Their target: 280,000 tons of solid waste which, they say, could be put to good use.

The 7 per cent of newsprint that is currently being recycled annually saves 420,000 medium sized trees, according to the committee report. In addition, the recycling reduces papermill pollution and garbage collection problems, the committee said.

Japan today leads the world by recycling 50 per cent of its paper. If the metropolitan Washington area did the same, according to the committee report, three million trees could be saved annually.

Adding to the problem, the committee said, is the fact that national newsprint consumption—now at 9,545,000 tons yearly—will double by 1985.

Difficulties are also increasing currently, the report said, because of a depression in the wastepaper dealers market. Dealers now pay \$6 a ton, and sell it for an average of \$17 a ton, but the profit is only \$2-3 because of increased costs for processing and freight.

The recycling process is not new. It's been used for 50 years, and currently about 25 firms handle and recycle fiber, the committee said. The Garden State Paper Company of Garfield, N.J., one of the early pioneers, was the first to find a way to remove ink from old papers and to build a papermaking machine for recycled newsprint.

The Bergstrom Paper Company of Neenah, Wisconsin, has recently made significant advances, according to the report, in processing recycled fibers into suitable office writing and business paper. By including the inks, resins, and clays in the paper, this process leaves a residue of about three pounds of waste per 100 pounds of reclaimed paper, as opposed to 20 or 35 pounds in other methods.

The result, the report said, is that one ton of recycled fibers saves 20 live trees and one ton of unclaimed polluted waste.

Bergstrom's local agent, Wilcox-Walter-Furlong Paper Co., has been promoting recycled/100 bond and offset printing paper. In addition, one Metro-area retail grocery outlet has recently introduced recycled bathroom tissues and towels.

But what can other people do? The committee report had some answers.

First, the waste from lumber mills, shops and yards, municipally condemned trees, and the clearing of lands by construction, contractors, could all be shipped by rail to wood-pulp mills for making paper.

Recently, the report said, one area city could not find a source to dispose of 600 tons of diseased and storm damaged trees. That waste could have been used.

Both business and government, the report said, could help the problem by using recycled paper. The committee suggested that the U.S. Government Printing Office and General Services Administration, both very large buyers and users of newsprint and office stationery, could use totally recycled