

Editorial

A war on you

George Bush's so-called war on drugs has been a war against the American people, particularly the young and the innocent. A report prepared under the direction of Rep. Charles Rangel (D-N.Y.), the chairman of the House Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control, gives a horrifying picture of a rise in drug abuse coupled with increasing poverty as more and more Americans live at the fringes of society—unemployed, hungry, and often homeless.

This marginalized population is being ravaged by an expanding plague of drug use. Today, according to the committee report, "there are more Americans addicted to cocaine than there were three years ago. There are almost twice as many heroin addicts, and for the first time more than 3 million Americans using cocaine, heroin, or both weekly. Seventy-five percent of this addict population is *under* the age of 35.

"The fastest growing segment of this population lives in rural America and small towns, not the big cities. One in 10 of these addicts began to use cocaine or heroin for the first time in 1991. There was a 40% increase in first-time heroin users during that same period. In 1991, the number of Americans using psychedelic drugs for the first time increased for the sixth consecutive year."

Drugs are flooding into the United States and are being sold at cheaper and cheaper prices. From 1990 to 1991, the price of heroin dropped from \$65,000 to \$50,000 per kilogram, while the purity level of heroin rose from 78% to 87%. This has helped to increase demand. During this same period, cocaine-related emergencies increased 31% and heroin-related emergencies increased 26%, according to hospital statistics.

We blame the Bush administration for this rise, not because there has been inadequate funding for the Drug Enforcement Administration (even though budget cut-backs have led to easier penetration of drugs into the United States). We blame George Bush because his administration opposes those nationalist forces in Ibero-America who have been committed to eradicating the production of drugs from their countries, and because instead, his State Department supports Alfonso

López Michelsen, Carlos Andrés Pérez, and the political apparatus backed by the major drug cartels.

George Bush is a follower of the policies of Adam Smith and Milton Friedman, which argue that the growth and sale of drugs should be allowed on the free market. George Bush subscribes to the World Bank and International Monetary Fund strategy to force Ibero-America into growing drugs so that the usurious flow of funds into the major British and American banks can be sustained.

Every major religion—Islam, Judaism, Christianity—has deemed usury to be a mortal sin on a par with murder, for good reason. Every time you see a picture of a young child killed by drugs, either through an overdose or as an innocent bystander in a shootout between crazed drug dealers, remember that they are being killed by usury. They are being killed because of a policy which willingly allows drugs to flood into the streets of America in order that money flows into the coffers of otherwise bankrupt banks.

Drugs kill, but the policy which condones and encourages the pushing of drugs is the real killer. It is a policy of deliberate genocide, and it is being waged against the people of the United States and the world. It is a policy which favors speculation over production. It has allowed the infrastructure of the United States to be destroyed and money pulled out of manufacturing and agriculture while it flows into real estate speculation, stock manipulations, and asset stripping.

As the basis for agriculture and industrial production is being torn apart, people are being drawn into criminality in order to survive—from the Colombian farmer who now grows coca in order to feed his family, to an American adolescent who sees no hope of honest employment and turns to drug dealing. This is the crime of George Bush and his administration; it is his war against you. And his Democratic critics, many of whom openly back the decriminalization of marijuana, usury, and the IMF, are no better.

There is only one way to fight a real war against drugs and that is to end the usurious banker's dictatorship of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.