

President's Personal File
President's Speech File

Tuesday, September 11, 1973,
Drug Abuse Conference

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN...

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEETING WITH DRUG ABUSE CONFERENCE

Tuesday, September 11, 1973
11:00 a.m. (5 minutes)
The East Room

From: Geoff Shepard

BACKGROUND

Purpose: To emphasize your continued interest in combating drug abuse by opening this drug abuse conference.

Conference Background: This is a one-day conference involving police, judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, and treatment specialists from 36 cities, who are here to discuss implementing new "aggressive outreach" programs. These would identify (through urinalysis) drug abusers upon arrest and provide treatment for them.

Today, an individual arrested for a non drug-related offense (i.e. rape or armed robbery) could be bailed, or later released on probation or parole, without anyone knowing about or providing treatment for that individual's drug dependency. The identification and treatment program is not designed to provide treatment instead of bringing the individual to trial -- it is rather designed to make sure treatment is available for that individual whenever he returns to the community.

In opening the conference, you should touch upon your determination to combat drug abuse through both law enforcement and treatment and make the point that the "aggressive outreach" program (which will be covered in detail by your spokesmen) is another of the many federally funded efforts in this area.

Your Record: Since taking office, you have launched major national and international initiatives, more than doubled the number of federal narcotics agents, established a special IRS unit to go after middle

10 x
initials
9/11/73

Source -
Troop
Treat the addicts
Education
Peter

and upper level traffickers and financiers, utilized federal-state and local strike forces to identify and arrest street-level pushers, and increased the total federal drug budget to over ten times what it was in 1968. More federally funded treatment facilities were created in 1973 than in the previous 50 years put together.

A list of speakers to address the Conference is attached at TAB A.

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS:

10:55 a. m. You have agreed to join the following men in the Blue Room to meet them briefly before the Conference begins:

Dr. Robert DuPont, Director of Special Action Office for Drug Abuse Prevention

John Bartels, whom today you will nominate to be Director of Drug Enforcement Administration, and

Ambassador William Handley, Special Assistant to Secretary of State for Narcotics Affairs

Ollie Atkins only to take one photograph.

10:58 a. m. These gentlemen will depart the Blue Room and join the Conference in the East Room.

11:00 a. m. You pause for announcement, enter the East Room, and proceed to platform along East wall. From podium, you deliver brief remarks. (Suggested remarks at TAB B.)

FULL PRESS COVERAGE.

NOTE: Dr. DuPont and Mr. Bartels will be seated on the platform.

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11:05 a. m. Your remarks conclude and you turn Conference over to
Dr. DuPont and depart.

PRESS PLAN

There will be full press coverage of the Conference remarks only.

SPEAKERS
DRUG ABUSE CONFERENCE

John R. Bartels, Jr.
Acting Administrator
Drug Enforcement Administration

Peter G. Bourne, M.D.
Assistant Director
Office of Programs
Special Action Office for
Drug Abuse Prevention

Robert L. DuPont, M.D.
Director
Special Action Office for
Drug Abuse Prevention

Michael J. Furst
Director, Coordinating Office
for Drug and Alcohol Abuse
Programs
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Harold H. Greene
Chief Justice of the Superior
Court of the District of Columbia

Arlen Specter
District Attorney
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Lawrence N. Sullivan
Public Defender of Delaware
Wilmington, Delaware

Charles B. Wheeler, Jr. M.D.
Mayor of Kansas City, Missouri

Jerry V. Wilson
Chief of Police
Metropolitan Police Department

TALKING POINTS

1. I am pleased to open this conference between local and federal officials on drug abuse. The problem I have characterized as "public enemy number one" requires all of our efforts working together and exemplifies government moving forward to deal with the people's business.
2. As you are aware, my Administration has moved forcefully to combat the problem of drug abuse at all levels. This year I have asked Congress for over \$750 million -- well over ten times the amount spent to combat drug abuse when my Administration took office. And though you would never believe it from our critics, more than two-thirds of this amount is spent on drug abuse treatment and prevention, with the remaining one-third being spent for law enforcement.
3. Congress recently concurred in my decision to combine all federal drug enforcement efforts into a single Administration within the Department of Justice. John Bartels has been Acting Administrator for two months and has done a superb job. He is a professional, and we need tough, dedicated professionals in this area. I am today announcing my intention to nominate him as permanent Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration.
4. In the area of treatment, Bob DuPont has just returned from visits to treatment facilities in many of your cities. He tells me we have almost reached the point where an addict cannot say he had to commit a crime because there was no treatment available. This is one goal we set in combating drug abuse, but having provided treatment for volunteers in not enough. We must aggressively reach out to other drug abusers passing through the criminal justice system, identify them and provide treatment for them. Today's conference is to discuss methods to implement these programs.
5. I will now turn the remainder of the conference over to Dr. DuPont and John Bartels -- two tough, dedicated professionals who are leading my federal domestic drug team. I pledge them and you continued federal support in combating "public enemy number one."

Source - Turkey

Law enforcement penalties for pushers -

Treatment for addicts.

Education

Public Enemy #1

10% - arrested

1/3 in treatment

Education

John Burt

Drug Enforcement Admin

Dr. Du Pont

Special action office for

Drug ^{Admin} Prevention

Outreach

(Gergen)

September 10, 1973

PROGRESS ON DRUGS

"Turning the Corner" on Addiction

There is some evidence that we're "turning the corner" on hard drugs:

-- The WH has reports from 10 "key" cities that the number of new addicts is down dramatically this year. In D. C., number of new addicts went from 2,500 in 1969 to 100 in 1972. (That is by far the best example).

-- These reports also show that the number of deaths from drug overdoses is also down, though not so dramatically.

-- The rate of hepatitis is also down, (hepatitis is spread by dirty needles and is indicative of the addiction rates).

-- In almost all major cities, there is adequate capacity for volunteers for treatment and in NYC, which has had the worst drug problem, there is now a real excess in capacity for treatment. Therefore, according to Geoff Shephard of the Domestic Council, we have reached our goal of providing treatment so that no addict in these major cities can claim he was forced to a life of crime because treatment was not available.

-- Reports also indicate that there has been a marked decrease in drug-related crime (mostly crimes against property) in D. C. and NYC.

Record Seizures and Arrests

With U.S. assistance, there were record seizures of opium in FY '73 around the world. Totals for the year were 26 tons, up some 35-fold over preceding year.

At the same time, there have been a record number of arrests in the United States for drug trafficking; over 24,000 in FY '73 compared to some 15,000 in the preceding year.

Results: Major shortage of heroin in Eastern cities of U.S. has continued for over 8 months. Prices have jumped and purity is down.

Expanded Treatment

In little more than 2 years, the number of clients in treatment programs supported by Federal funds has jumped from some 16,000 to over 72,000.

Total drug abuse treatment capacity supported by Federal funds now exceeds 150,000.

Funding

Under RN, all-out attack on worldwide drug abuse has led to an 11-fold increase in Federal funding in four years.

Reorganization

RN creations on drug to combat drug abuse:

-- Drug Enforcement Administration with 2,500 new agents, consolidating drug activities at Justice.

-- Special Action Office on Drug Abuse and Prevention.

-- Cabinet Committee on International Narcotics Control, which now has joint action plans with 59 foreign governments. (Turkey has banned opium cultivation, France has stepped up seizures, Thailand have recently made record seizures, and Argentina, Brazil and Venezuela have recently set Latin American record for seizures.

-- Committee on Drug Abuse within WH Domestic Council.

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