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Gov. Terry Branstad (IA)
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Michele Davis
Executive Director

REPUBLICAN GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION

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REPUBLICAN GOVERNORS' ASSAULT ON DRUGS

Drug abuse is an issue that is paramount in the minds of most Americans, with public opinion polls showing it as the Number One concern among Americans. Nationally, drugs, in addition to alcohol, are a factor in

- 56% of all traffic accidents
- 65% of all drownings
- 80% of all high school dropouts
- 90% of all teen age pregnancies
- 60% of all teen suicides and homicides
- 90% of all incest cases

Furthermore, national studies indicate that five per cent of all heavy drug users in America are accountable for as much as 67% of the nation's street crimes.

Any attempt to wage a legitimate battle on the war against drugs will take a cumulative effort on the part of federal, state and local officials with the support of every U.S. citizen.

In addition to the attempts by Congress to deliver a crushing blow to drug traffickers, Republican Governors throughout the nation have been waging battles of their own, calling for mandatory sentencing of drug criminals, additional funding for drug programs and a number of other proposals.

CALIFORNIA'S RESPONSE TO DRUG TRAFFICKING

U.S. Customs officials report that the West coast has become the trans-shipment point for cocaine destined for the East and Northern United States. As evidence of this point, the Los Angeles Police Department seized over 13,000 pounds of cocaine in 1987.

In California, Governor George Duekmejian has committed \$172 million to the state's efforts on the drug war. Part of the funds will be allocated for drug abuse and treatment activities, with a undetermined amount to be distributed for programs to assist in the investigation and prosecution of drug offenders.

The Governor is also calling upon the state legislature to pass a number of new measures to bolster the laws against drug trafficking and abuse. These measures would:

- * grant authorization to California law enforcement officials to use electronic surveillance, or wiretapping, for the investigation of various drug offenses;
- * increase the time law enforcement can retain control of seized property before forfeiture proceedings are commenced from 15 to 60 days. Law enforcement agencies would be allowed to use the confiscated funds at their discretion and;
- * impose longer, mandatory sentences on drug offenders
 - a 15 year minimum prison sentence for criminals convicted of possessing large amounts of cocaine, PCP or heroin for sale,
 - a 10-year sentence for repeat offenders possessing large amounts of drugs; and
 - deny probation to traffickers convicted of importing large amounts of drugs.

As Chairman of the National Governors' Association Committee on Justice and Public Safety, Governor Deukmejian will recommend that all states work together to develop and promote uniform state drug laws.

To finance the efforts, Governor Deukmejian is proposing additional increases in the upcoming fiscal year for a number of programs:

- \$575,000 for major narcotics vendor prosecution;
- \$500,000 for troubled counties that are experiencing an increase in drug trafficking; and
- \$800,000 for the state's Gang Violence Program.

The initiative covers a broad spectrum of new ideas to counter the increased rate in drug activities that threatens the state's security. And it is a step in the right direction to keep criminals and illegal drugs out of California.

WISCONSIN GETTING TOUGH ON DRUGS

It is estimated that alcohol and drug abuse cost the state of Wisconsin and its people over \$3.6 billion each year in lost productivity, higher taxes, higher welfare costs, higher health care costs and higher corrections costs. "But the most tragic costs cannot be calculated -- they are the premature and unnecessary deaths of too many people," said Governor Tommy Thompson.

Because of the widespread damage inflicted by drugs and alcohol on the state's citizenry, Governor Thompson earlier in the year announced a \$6.7 million program to curb their growing abuse.