

Crimie -  
Drugs - OM

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

10-14-97

Bruce/ELENA/DATTU:

In case you missed  
this exchange of  
letters. I expect this  
to get worse over the  
coming months - particu-  
larly write budget  
process.

Joe

CC: LEANNE



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY

Washington, D.C. 20503

October 9, 1997

The Honorable Newt Gingrich  
The Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker:

The purpose of this letter is to ask for your continued leadership in providing bipartisan support for a National Drug Control Strategy aimed at dramatically reducing drug abuse and its consequences in America. This malignancy in American society kills 14,000 annually and costs \$68 billion each year. Any erosion of the 50% reduction in drug use we have achieved over the past 15 years is intolerable. We must move toward a drug-free America.

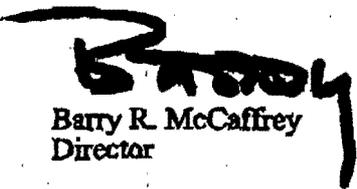
We are making progress. This year youth drug use dropped from 10.9% to 9% -- the first decrease in five years. There was also a substantial reduction in methamphetamine and crack cocaine use among arrestees. All of us are also grateful for: the explosion of national news media coverage of this issue; bipartisan passage of the historic \$195 million National Youth Media Campaign; and -- during this time of shrinking budgets -- increased federal funding to implement the National Drug Strategy. (12.7% increase in FY 97 and 5.4% increase in FY 98)

We have presented to Congress for their consideration the President's ten-year National Drug Control Strategy and a draft proposal of a revolutionary Performance Measurement System with quantified targets and measures. In the coming months, we will submit for Congressional consideration a Five-Year 1999-2003 Drug Budget. It is the Administration's collective judgment that these efforts, if supported by Congress, will achieve the lowest ever historically recorded rate of drug abuse -- before my two grandsons reach the eighth grade.

You and the National Drug Policy Office are in agreement on many core principles. We are both committed to establishing targets that will enable us to evaluate the effectiveness of drug control programs, thus holding ONDCP accountable to Congress and the American public. We both believe that losing one child to the downward spiral of addiction is one child too many. We both support the concept of an anti-drug media campaign that will use the power of advertising to change youth attitudes about the dangers of drugs. We both support the Drug-Free Communities Act that will dramatically expand community involvement in anti-drug efforts to 10,000 cities and towns. We are both committed to stopping the flow of drugs into our country.

I understand war -- organizing people, machinery, and violence. However, the metaphor of cancer is a more appropriate way to describe this dreadful drug threat. Our anti-drug tools must be primarily based on prevention and treatment -- as well as enforcement and international partnership. Over the course of my career, I have been called upon to help organize many complex and dangerous missions for America. In each instance, I was tasked with realistic objectives and given the tools needed to do the job. With bipartisan cooperation, we are confident we can dramatically reduce drug abuse. Hope you can continue to put politics aside and work in partnership to establish a drug-free America.

Respectfully,

  
Barry R. McCaffrey  
Director

NEWT GINGRICH  
SIXTH DISTRICT  
GEORGIA



(202) 224-0800  
DLAW071745 Oct

Office of the Speaker  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

October 7, 1997

General Barry McCaffrey  
Director  
Office of National Drug Control Policy  
Executive Office of the President  
Washington, DC 20503

Dear General McCaffrey:

I have reviewed the Office of National Drug Control Policy's (ONDCP) plan for victory in the war on drugs recently submitted to me. The timidity of this plan causes me great concern.

I personally offered the ONDCP the opportunity to inform Congress and the American people what is needed to win the war. The document I received is more like a plan for surrender than a plan for victory. Winning the war on drugs does not mean that ten years from now we should have more than 5 percent of our children as young as twelve years old on drugs.

When can we expect a real plan and real action? It has been 18 months since new leadership took over the ONDCP. After all this time, why are you only now "looking forward" to developing a proposal to strengthen and secure the border against drug smugglers? You also propose to pursue a media campaign to communicate to our youth the dangers of drugs. However, the plan only aims to offer children the "minimum exposure" needed to affect their views of drugs. Aren't our children worth more than a bare minimum effort?

The unwillingness or inability of the ONDCP to inform us of the tools needed for victory is extremely disappointing. I hope we can expect the Administration to begin to take seriously the threat drugs pose to our children and their future.

Sincerely,

*Newt*  
Newt Gingrich