

Thanks for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 11:00 p.m. on January 9 at the Four Seasons Hotel in Houston, TX, for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on January 10. In his address, the President referred to physicist Richard Seed, who announced on January 6 his intention to clone a human being within 2

years. Attached to the transcript of the address were copies of the President's memorandum of March 4, 1997, and his message to the Congress of June 9, 1997, on human cloning (*Public Papers of the Presidents: William J. Clinton, 1997 Book I* (Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1998), p. 233 and p. 711).

Remarks on Ending Drug Use and Drug Availability for Offenders and an Exchange With Reporters

January 12, 1998

The President. Thank you very much, General. Thank you, Mr. Holder and Mr. Vice President. Ladies and gentlemen, this country's eternal quest for a more perfect Union has always succeeded when we're able to apply our enduring values to a new set of challenges. That is what we try to do around here every year. Over the past 5 years, we've done our best to bring the values of personal responsibility, community, and respect for the law to bear on the fight against crime. We've sought to be tough and smart, to punish criminals, and to prevent crime. We've put more police on the streets and taken criminals, guns, and drugs off the streets. Crime rates have dropped steadily for the last 5 years. Drug use has fallen by half since its peak 15 years ago. Teen drug use is leveling off and, indeed, may well be decreasing again. But we're a long way from my vision of a drug-free America.

Fighting drugs in our prisons and among prisoners is absolutely critical, ultimately, to keeping drugs off the streets and away from our children. Of all the consequences of drug use and abuse, none is more destructive and apparent than its impact on crime. Too many drug users are committing crimes to feed their habit. More than half of the cocaine that is sold in our country is consumed by someone on parole or probation. Four out of five inmates in State and Federal prisons were either high at the time they committed their crimes, stole property to buy drugs, violated drug or alcohol laws, or have a long history of drug or alcohol abuse. Parolees who stay on drugs are much more likely to commit crimes that will send them back to jail.

We have to break this vicious cycle. Common sense tells us that the best way to break the cycle between drugs and criminal activity is to break the drug habits of the prisoners. That's why we have made coerced abstinence, requiring inmates to be tested and treated for drugs, a vital part of our anti-crime efforts. We've doubled the number of Federal arrestees who've been tested for drugs, expanded testing among inmates and parolees, and tripled the number of inmates receiving drug treatment. To inmates we say, if you stay on drugs, then you'll have to stay in jail. To parolees we say, if you want to keep your freedom, you have to stay free of drugs.

Last year, I worked for and signed a bill that requires States to test all prisoners and parolees for drugs before they can receive Federal prison funds.

Today I'm directing the Attorney General to strengthen this effort by taking necessary steps to achieve three goals. First, we have to help the States expand drug detection, offender testing, and drug treatment in their prisons by making it possible for them to use Federal funds for these purposes. Second, we have to help States get even tougher on drug trafficking in prisons by enacting stiffer penalties for anyone who smuggles drugs into prison. Finally, we have to insist that all States find out how many of their prisoners are actually using drugs so that every year they can chart their progress in keeping drugs out of prisons and away from prisoners.

The balanced budget I'm sending to Congress later this month will continue to strengthen our testing and treatment efforts. We can balance