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Wright attended the 1964 national convention in Miami, all the while balancing these activities with the duties as a successful mother and supportive wife.

Mr. Speaker, I owe a great debt to professional political consultants whose job it is to shape a candidate's message and polish image. However, I feel deeply a debt of gratitude is due to volunteer grassroots workers who generate that elusive quality in any campaign—momentum on behalf of their candidates.

I have chosen to pay tribute to Mrs. Kathleen Wright because she has been the quintessential GOP worker whose selfless dedication has earned her not greatness and glory but self-satisfaction. Kay Wright made a difference. I think that it is fitting, Mr. Speaker, that we pay tribute to Kay's work as she is currently battling a terminal illness from which she will not likely recover. For this reason, Mr. Speaker, I am glad that I have the opportunity to dedicate to the history book of our Nation, the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, the great contribution of Mrs. Kathleen K. Wright to the Grand Old Party. Her work has been in the best tradition of American democracy.

**DRUG DECERTIFICATION FOR THE BAHAMAS**

**HON. EDWARD F. FEIGHAN**

**OHIO**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Thursday, March 23, 1989**

Mr. FEIGHAN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to disapprove of the President's certification of the Bahamas as fully cooperating with the U.S. antinarcotics efforts.

Under the law passed by Congress in 1986, the President must certify on March 1 of each year that major producing and transit countries have "fully cooperated" with the U.S. in addressing narcotics problems in their countries. The statute defines full cooperation for producer nations, asking the President to evaluate whether a country has reduced production to the maximum degree possible. The President is asked to evaluate the countries' antinarcotics laws and whether enforcement of those laws is evidenced by drug arrests and seizures. He is asked to look at banking laws to see whether steps are taken to address money laundering. Finally, the President is asked to determine whether governments have taken steps, to the maximum extent possible, to eliminate corruption by government officials.

It is in this last area that the Government of the Bahamas has fallen far from the mark. It's time that the Bush administration faced this fact and sent up a report that recognizes that failure.

Over the years, we have amassed a mountain of evidence of official corruption in the Bahamas. In 1984, a Bahaman Commission of Inquiry identified two members of the Pindling government for their involvement with drug smugglers. Although the Commission did not implicate Prime Minister Pindling, he could not account for large sums of cash, eight times the size of his salary. Finding banked nearly $2.8 million in cash and gifts that he could not explain. One judge on the panel dissented from the Commission findings, saying that he found it "impossible that the payments were not all drug related."

The State Department is well aware of the corruption problem. In 1987, the International Narcotics Control Strategy Report found that "widespread narcotics corruption still exists ... and that "[T]his corruption threatens to undermine the cooperation we now enjoy, as well as the very fabric of Bahamian society."

In 1988, the State Department called corruption in the Bahamas systemic and that corruption investigations were limited to enforcement officers and there is clearly no GAO program or policy to deal with corruption in other forms.

The latest State Department report, released 3 weeks ago, softened its language considerably. "Narcotics-related corruption continues to be a problem ... * * *" The report took note of the charges against Prime Minister Pindling raised in the trial of drug kingpin Carlos Lehder. The Department noted that Pindling denied the allegations and the Government printed a lengthy rebuttal.

The Lehder trial has led to new indictments, including charges against Everett Bannister, a close associate of Prime Minister Pindling. Bannister is alleged to have received bribes to allow the cartel to use the islands just off Florida's shores as a way station for drug shipments.

Gorman Bannister, Everett Bannister's son, testified in the Lehder trial where he described his father's activities as an influence peddler and middleman for drug payments to Pindling. Bannister testified that Lehder gave his father $100,000 to make Norman's Cay operational, for drug smuggling. Gorman Bannister also testified about his father using police contacts to tip off drug smugglers about police raids on Norman's Cay.

It's time for this administration to stop playing defense attorney for foreign leaders and start prosecuting a serious war on drugs.

The Bush administration should listen to Lotus Rocker, the former DEA official who has tried to investigate high-level corruption in the Bahamas and other countries, but have been thwarted by a State Department concerned about other foreign policy goals.

The Bush administration should listen to Gorman Bannister, the former DEA official who has tried to investigate high-level corruption in the Bahamas and other countries, and has been thwarted by a State Department concerned about other foreign policy goals.

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