

“Right now, I hope the governor and his administration open their eyes—as well as their hearts—to the life-sustaining needs of the citizens of this state.

“And I hope the General Assembly is open to my legislation to bring tax fairness to Pennsylvania by taxing one of the only items of commerce that currently is not taxed.

“Everyone is paying at least a 6% sales tax in Pennsylvania. Why not impose a tax on the million-dollar deals done so casually by the rich?

“Since the resources are clearly available to avert all such forms of harm to those in need, I believe it is morally incumbent upon us as responsible public officials to act now!

“We hope Governor Ridge might change his mean-spirited health policies, because at some point, the people will demand that responsible public officials be held accountable for the deadly consequences of their actions.”

## National implications

It is no exaggeration to say that legislators, political activists, and governors all over the United States are vitally interested in the outcome of this fight in Pennsylvania. Taxation on speculation has become a major discussion point, as far away as Germany.

The upcoming battle in Pennsylvania, which will spread far beyond the legislature itself, is a key one to watch.

# NBCSL: Investigate Bush drug running

*In late January, the official text of a resolution unanimously endorsed by the National Black Caucus of State Legislators (NBCSL) on Dec. 7, 1996, was made public, which called for a Congressional investigation of allegations concerning the 1980s role of the government in aiding the flow of drugs, including crack cocaine, into the United States, as part of covert support for the Nicaraguan Contras. The NBCSL is the most significant political body so far to pass a resolution which specifically names George Bush and Oliver North. The resolution was introduced by Pennsylvania Black Caucus chairman Harold James before the Law and Justice Committee, and was passed in the plenary session on Dec. 7.*

*The NBCSL, which represents close to 600 African-American legislators from 44 states, was formed in 1977 as a way to bring together African-American lawmakers to discuss policy issues.*

*Schiller Institute organizers circulated to all conference participants copies of the September 1996 EIR Special Report on “Would a President Bob Dole Prosecute Drug Super-Kingpin George Bush?”*

*The full title of the resolution was, “Support for an Investi-*

*gation of the Role of U.S. Government Agencies Regarding the Flow of Drugs into the United States.”*

**Whereas**, a series of investigative reports published in the *San Jose Mercury News*, Aug. 18-20, 1996, contained highly credible allegations concerning the role of U.S. government agencies, including the CIA and the Department of Justice, through covert operations, in aiding and abetting the flow of drugs into the United States, including crack cocaine into the African-American communities of Los Angeles, as part of covert support for the Nicaraguan Contras in the 1980s; and

**Whereas**, these reports reaffirmed the conclusions of the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Narcotics, Terrorism and International Operations, also known as the “Kerry Committee,” whose final report of December 1988 stated: “On the basis of this evidence, it is clear that individuals who provided support for the Contras were involved in drug trafficking, the supply network of the Contras was used by drug trafficking organizations, and elements of the Contras themselves knowingly received financial and material assistance from drug traffickers”; and

**Whereas**, during the period in which drugs were allegedly brought into the country with the connivance of U.S. government agencies, then-Vice President George Bush was appointed by President Ronald Reagan to run the National Narcotics Border Interdiction System, and a series of executive orders and “national security decision directives” were signed by President Reagan, placing most covert intelligence operations of the U.S. government, including covert support for the Contras, under the direction of a Special Situation Group also headed by Vice President Bush with Oliver North functioning as one of his key lieutenants; and

**Whereas**, California Congresswoman Maxine Waters, Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer, and the city councils of Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Jackson, St. Louis, and others have called for Congressional and other investigations into the role of the CIA and other agencies and individuals in these operations; and

**Whereas**, such investigations must go right to the highest levels of responsibility for the devastation and violence in our communities associated with drugs and guns,

**Therefore be it resolved** by the 20th Annual Legislative Conference of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators (NBCSL), assembled in Biloxi, Mississippi, Dec. 1-7, 1996, that the National Black Caucus of State Legislators, endorses the call by Congressional Black Caucus chairwoman Waters, Senators Feinstein and Boxer, the city councils of Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Jackson, and St. Louis, and others, for a Congressional investigation, and the appointment of an independent special prosecutor, for a complete, thorough, and independent investigation of these allegations, and for vigorous prosecution of individuals, where justified by probable cause, irrespective of their current or former official status.