The world's population has reached approximately five billion and is growing at all peoples on Earth. Recognition of "World Population Awareness Week" is part of the effort that will assure increased prosperity for young men and women and encouraging them to continue their hard work to make this country a better place to live.

**World Population Awareness Week**

**HON. SAM GEJDENSON**

**OF CONNECTICUT**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Thursday, May 19, 1988**

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask that the attached proclamation, signed by Connecticut's Governor, be included in today's Congressional Record.

In today's rapidly changing world, steps must be taken to stimulate a global awareness of rising population and its effects. As a leader among nations, the United States should strive to promote a worldwide effort that will increase prosperity for all peoples on Earth. Recognition of "World Population Awareness Week" is part of the process necessary to acquaint the public with the demands encountered by increasing population.

**State of Connecticut**

**By His Excellency William A. O'Neill, Governor: An Official Statement**

The world's population has reached approximately five billion and is growing at the unprecedented rate of 87 million a year. It is most important for the people of our state and nation to recognize that as the population of the world increases, so does the demand for the world's finite resources.

We must make a concerted effort to understand the effects of rapid population growth throughout the developing world and continually commit ourselves to improving the quality of life in all nations.

This year, the week of April 17 through 23, 1988 as World Population Awareness Week.

In coordination with this effort and to create a greater public awareness of the basic human needs of all people and our responsibility to help those less fortunate, I am pleased to designate April 17 through 23, 1988 as World Population Awareness Week in Connecticut.

**NO DEAL WITH PANAMA'S NORIEGA BEATS A BAD ONE**

**HON. DANTE B. FASCELL**

**OF FLORIDA**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Thursday, May 19, 1988**

Mr. FASCELL. Mr. Speaker, the South Dade News Leader recently published an editorial which captures well the anger and frustration generated by these acts. People by re-ports of the "pleas-bargain" offered to Panama's notorious drug baron and dictator, Gen. Manuel Noriega, by the Reagan administration, I commend this thoughtful editorial to our colleagues.

At a time when there is overwhelming sentiment on the part of the Congress and the American people to increase the effort in the war on drugs, the administration would drop pending drug charges against the Panamanian dictator, apparently without securing the removal of Noriega's cronies and ending Panama's role as a drug base. That we would offer such a bargain throws in doubt the credibility of this country's antidrug efforts at home and abroad. As the News Leader says, the administration should "Just say no" to Noriega.

(Prom the South Dade News Leader, May 7, 1988. Reprinted with permission.)

**NORIEGA SITUATION AN EMBARRASSMENT**

"Who would ever believe that the United States can or will do anything again in Latin America if in Panama we allow a drug-dealing dictator, who has been indicted, who has killed people, who is a mercenary of the worst sort, to thumb his nose at (us) and continue to keep the Panamanian people under his control? I've never heard of such a disgraceful proposal."—Sen. Alphonse D'Amato, R-N.Y.

That sums up the bewilderment and outrage of Americans now that the Reagan administration apparently is ready to capitulate to Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega.

Presidential spokesman Martin Plavsic calls it a "pleas bargain." We drop drug charges against Noriega; he agrees to leave Panama by August for at least a year, allowing for election of a new Panamanian government. In return, a billion-dollar drug empire would stay in place.

There is always something unsavory about pleas bargaining with criminals; the deals usually favor them, not society. And this is no deal—not for Panama, not for the United States. It sells out the people of Panama. It serves as a crude barometer of racism and big-statism. That we would offer such a bargain throws in doubt the credibility of this country's antidrug efforts at home and abroad. As the News Leader says, the administration should "Just say no" to Noriega.

**HATE CRIME STATISTICS ACT**

**SPEECH OF**

**HON. MAJOR R. OWENS**

**OF NEW YORK**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Tuesday, May 17, 1988**

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3193) to provide for the acquisition and publication of data about crimes that manifest prejudice based on race, religion, sexual orientation, or ethnicity.

Mr. OWENS of New York. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of the Hate Crimes Statistics Act (H.R. 3193).

The systematic collection of detailed, nationwide data concerning the extent and nature of hate crimes in this country is of great significance to the ongoing struggle against racism and other forms of bigotry in the United States. The sporadic, fleeting spotlight this problem generally now receives would be replaced with consistent, sustained attention to the issue, fostering both more long-term and more meaningful efforts to confront and combat bigoted violence in our communities. Patterns can be identified; priorities for action can be established. The pressing need to enhance and add to the arsenal of legal weapons available to prosecute the perpetrators of hate crimes will be given a vital, new sense of urgency.

Perhaps most importantly, the collection of detailed statistics about hate crimes would serve as a crude barometer of racism and bigotry pulsing through our society, forcing all of us to begin facing and responding to some unpleasant truths about life in America today. It is convenient, but less than accurate, to regard hate crimes as aberrant and unusual behavior. Certainly, we have progressed beyond the navel-gazing era of picturesque lynching parties and most Americans now respond to acts of racial violence with sincere shock and outrage. But hate crimes are not committed in a vacuum. No baby is born with "nigger" or "kike" on his lips; no baby is born afraid Noriega will team up with Castro—while turning a blind eye to the more insidious and compelling danger of drugs. This is nature of hate crimes in this country: it is in the same place for what he stands for and "Just say no!"
cheek defense of a child whose arrest for hurling stones at Chinese immigrants was widely hailed in San Francisco newspapers at the time. But not only do rural Americans face special health care needs, they also face special obstacles to the delivery of services. This lack of access is not only a threat to the health care delivery system. Our rural hospitals, reimbursed at lower DRG's and with a lower volume of patients, are closing at alarming rates. Attracting health care professionals to rural areas continues to be difficult. For example, the nursing shortage is particularly acute in rural areas, where nurses are being recruited away by city hospitals, able to offer higher salaries and more flexible working conditions.

Twisted, venal thugs like Jon Lester of Howard Beach and others who engage in incited violence must be held responsible for their actions and must be prosecuted and punished to the full extent of the law. But vigorously acting against the Jon Lester's of our communities will not be enough to protect the "persecuted" boy, be allowed to become a constitue...