

federal leadership in establishing effective drug abuse prevention and education programs... and for other purposes.” Reagan promptly turned to the task of enlisting Mexican President de La Madrid as an ally in the drug war while blandly recommending "more entrepreneurship" to help Mexico's serious economic problems. The President kept up the pressure all through September. He had a drug crusade meeting with congressional leaders, and Nancy Reagan fielded questions about drugs on "Meet the Press" in preparation for the big event.

On September 15th, 1986, President Reagan signed Executive Order 12564, establishing the goal of a Drug-Free Federal Workplace and providing for its enforcement. The Order was effective “immediately,” and provided that “sixty days prior to the implementation of a drug testing program pursuant to this Order, agencies shall notify employees that testing for use of illegal drugs is to be conducted.” The order also made it clear that anyone testing positive would be fired. The President read off a list of reasons--many of them reminiscent of Prohibition pamphlets circulated by the Women's Christian Temperance Union and the Anti-Saloon League fifty years earlier. “Federal employees who use illegal drugs, on or off duty, tend to be less productive, less reliable, and prone to greater absenteeism than their fellow employees who do not use illegal drugs,” recited the President. This was a variation on the Blue Monday argument memorized and recited by prohibitionists -- as though it were a prayer -- throughout the 1920s. The order itself was couched in legal jargon: "defined by section 802(6) of Title 21 of the United States Code, the possession

of which is unlawful under Chapter 13 of that Title" was a little dry for broadcast media, and nothing the average citizen was likely to read. On the following day, the sun shone down on crops in the field, dogs and children played on front lawns. Few understood that large wheels had been set in motion just four days earlier.

Chapter 2--The original 9/11

On September 11, 1986, Congress had passed Representative Wright's drug bill. Its more peculiar features called for eradicating illicit drug crops *in other countries* and weakening the Freedom of Information Act to withhold prohibition-related information from the public. It also contained sentencing provisions, later referred to as "mandatory minimums," plus a whole slate of asset forfeiture requirements resembling those included in the Tariff act of 1930. That was the import tariff and customs enforcement law Congress and the Hoover Administration had rewritten—in 1929 and 1930—to bolster the enforcement requirements of the prohibition laws passed at the close of the First World War.

By 1986 politicians had acquired considerable sophistication in disguising the relationship between cause and effect when it came to crashes and panics. Within its 2300 words, Reagan's Executive Order told armies of bureaucrats to develop "a plan" and establish "a program" for every fiefdom within the nation's largest employer. The President made it clear that the head of each federal agency was to test any applicant for illegal drug use -- clear, that is, to people who actually read the Executive Order. All heads of