

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

NO BILLIONS IN APPROPRIATIONS
CAN MAKE OUR PRESENT FOR-
EIGN POLICY EFFECTIVE

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 1999

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I have come forward in the past to suggest that the history of this century has shown us that the foreign policy of so-called "pragmatic interventionists" has created a disastrous situation. Specifically, I have pointed to the unintended consequences of our government's interventions. Namely, I have identified how World War One helped create the environment for the holocaust and how it thus helped create World War Two and thermonuclear war. And, I've mentioned how the Second World War resulted in the enslavement of much of Europe behind an iron curtain setting off the cold war, and spread the international communism and then our own disastrous foray into Vietnam. Yes, all of these wars and tragedies, wars hot and cold, were in part caused by the so-called "war to end all wars."

Today I do not wish to investigate yet again the details of this history but rather to examine, at a deeper level, why this sort of policy is doomed to fail.

The base reason is that pragmatism is illogical and interventionism does not work. The notion that we can have successes without regard to the ends to be sought is absurd.

It should be obvious to practical people that you cannot have "progress," for example, without progressing toward some end. Equally as apparent ought to be the fact that human effectiveness cannot occur without considering the ends of human beings. Peace, freedom and virtue are ends toward which we ought to progress, but all reference to ends is rejected by the so-called pragmatists.

Because of this lack of clarity of purpose we come to accept an equally unclear contortion of our language. Our military is "too thin," it has been "hollowed out" and it is "unprepared." But for what are we unprepared? And what policy is our army "too hollow" to carry out?

If we remain unprepared to conduct total warfare across the globe, we should be thankful of this fact. If we are unprepared to police the world or to project power into every civil war, or "to win two different regional conflicts," this is good.

We are distracted by these dilemmas which result from unclear thought and unclear language. We convince ourselves that we need to be effective without having a goal in mind. Certainly we have no just end in mind because our pragmatic interventionists deny that ends exist.

"Preparedness" is a word that has been thrown around a lot recently, but it begs the question "prepared for what?" No nation attacked ours, no nation has threatened ours, no sane leader would do so as it would be the

death warrant of his own nation, his own people, and likely his own self. We are prepared to repel an attack and meet force with force but not necessarily to protect our nation and the populace. We are still vulnerable to a missile attack and have done little to protect against such a possibility.

Thus or contortions and distortions that have led to dilemmas in our thoughts and dilemmas in our policy have led also to real paradoxes. Because our policy of globaloney is so bad, so unprincipled and so bound up with the notions of interventionism, we now face this strange truth: we ought to spend less on our military but we should spend more on defense. Our troops are underpaid, untrained and poorly outfitted for the tasks we have given them. We are vulnerable to missile attack, and how do we spend our constituents money? What priorities have we set in this body? We vote to purchase a few more bombs to drop over Serbia or Iraq.

Our policy is flawed. Our nation is at risk. Our defenses are weakened by those people who say they are "hawks" and those who claim they "support the troops." Our policy is the end to which we must make ourselves effective, and currently our policy is all wrong. Our constitution grants us the obligation to defend this nation, and the right to defend only this nation. I should hope that we will never be prepared to police the world. We should not be militarily prepared nor philosophically prepared for such a policy. We need to refocus our military force policy and the way to do that is clear. It is to return it to the constitutionally authorized role of defending our country. Again, this is not simply a question of policy, and not merely a political question. No Mr. Speaker, the source of our quandary is the minds and hearts of human beings. Bad philosophy will always lead to bad policy precisely because ideas do have consequences.

Here the bad idea to be found at the source of our malady is absurd pragmatism, a desire to be "effective" without having any idea what the end is that we trying to affect. It becomes evident in our policy and in our language.

"Now we are in it we must win it." But we know not what "win" means, other than "be effective." But we are "unprepared," but unprepared for what? Unprepared to be effective! But what is it, we are ineffective at achieving? "Well, winning," is the reply. Without ends our policies become tautological. And with the wrong policy, our execution becomes disastrous. We must reject this absurd pragmatism and reestablish a military policy based on the defense of our nation. Only then we will be able to take the steps necessary for effectiveness, and preparedness. No billions in appropriations can make our present policy effective.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN BENNETT

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 1999

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor an individual who, for the last eight years as Mayor of Aspen, has provided a strong voice and dynamic leadership in Colorado. Former Mayor of Aspen, John Bennett, served with great distinction for four terms. It is this service, Mr. Speaker, that I would now like to pay tribute to.

Elected as mayor in Aspen, Colorado, John Bennett is completing his fourth term and has chosen to retire. During his time in office, Mayor Bennett focused his concerns on preservation of the culture and values of the small community that is under economic pressure to change and grow to meet its demands. Through his leadership, Bennett has made the city of Aspen more livable to the local citizens. Mayor Bennett also worked to control growth of the city, as well as protect the environment, build affordable housing and still protect Aspen's historic heritage. He has also put great effort into creating a transportation system that would reduce the number of single person automobiles.

An intelligent man and graduate of Yale University, Mayor Bennett ran his office along the principle which he terms the New Governance. This principle involves the solving of community problems by direct citizen involvement in their own governance.

1999 marks the end to Mayor John Bennett's tenure in elected office and the state of Colorado has benefited from his leadership. There are few people who have served as selflessly and distinguishedly as Mayor Bennett. His career epitomized that of the citizen-legislator with such distinction that every official in elected office should seek to emulate. The citizens of Aspen owe Mayor John Bennett a debt of gratitude and I wish him well during the next phase of his life.

CELEBRATION OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CREATIVE GROWTH ART CENTER, OAKLAND, CA

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 1999

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in celebration of the 25th Anniversary of Creative Growth Art Center in Oakland, California. This milestone was commemorated on May 7th with friends, distinguished guests, collectors and partners from many communities of the arts, business, educational, therapeutic and political, who joined in tribute to the organization's 25 years of community service.

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