

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

NO BILLIONS IN APPROPRIATIONS CAN MAKE OUR PRESENT FOREIGN 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 distortion 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 distinguished 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.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Creative Growth Art Center was the first program of its kind in the country for people with disabilities. It provided national leadership in innovative programming in the fields of art and disabilities. Open to any adult who is physical, mentally or emotionally disabled and interested in art, it is internationally renowned for the quality of the art work by its studio artists, and is a model for many other programs throughout the country. The mission of the organization is to provide an environment where the visual arts can flourish, where people with disabilities have opportunities for creative expression and can achieve at the highest level. The organization also serves as an advocate for the arts and artists with disabilities.

Initiated with a National Endowment for the Arts grant, more than 4,000 people a year visit the art gallery, the first gallery in the country dedicated to the art produced by people with disabilities. The organization has been a trendsetter, featuring exhibitions which paired the work of well-known Bay Area artists beside that of severely disabled artists. Create Growth presented the first exhibition in the United States of Russian Outsider artists from the Humanitarian Center Museum in Moscow. In 1994, in conjunction with the Oakland Museum, it held the first Outsider Art symposium on the West Coast. The Center's enriched environment, as well as the creative process itself, provides beneficial results to program participants. Many studio artists have developed into award-winning artists whose works are exhibited and sought after by collectors the world over. Dwight Mackintosh, Gerone Spurill, William Scott, to name a few, are classic examples of Outsider artists who crossed over from the alternative gallery scene into mainstream art. A younger group of studio artists is carving out its own success with Camille Holvoet, featured in *Truth from Darkness*, a traveling exhibition of the work of people with mental illness. Creative Growth artists Juan Aguilera and Carmen Quinones were paired with Mexican artist Maria Luisa de Mateo in *Arte Sin Fronteras*, to demonstrate the artists' unique cultural influences. Studio artists just completed a 109 square foot tile wall mural at the Palo Alto city entrance. *Adding Light* is a limited edition print portfolio by able and disabled artists, a project cosponsored by the California arts Council. In San Francisco, the Grill of the Tenderloin, of the California Culinary Academy, is decorated with imaginative art by artists from Creative Growth Art Center.

Among its artists whose works have been immortalized in books are Dwight Machintosh and Judith Scott. Scott, who is deaf and has Downs Syndrome, has been in the studio for 11 years and creates wrapped sculptures of yarn and fabric, using armatures of discarded materials.

I build on the words of my predecessor, Congressman Ron Dellums, ". . . that creativity is a human quality that not only transcends boundaries presented by mental and physical disabilities but national boundaries as well." Creative Growth Art Center provides the opportunity for us to understand that people with disabilities enrich and revitalize the community's cultural life.

MAKE THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON MINORITY VETERANS PERMANENT

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 1999

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that is vital to the interests of minority veterans in our nation. Current law mandates the termination of the Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans (ACMV) as of December 31, 1999. My bill would simply repeal the provision of law that discontinues this important committee's mandate so that its critical work on behalf of minority veterans can continue into the next century. Saving the Advisory Committee will require no additional taxpayer funding.

The Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans operates in conjunction with the VA Center for Minority Veterans. This committee consists of members appointed by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and includes minority veterans, representatives of minority veterans and individuals who are recognized authorities in fields pertinent to the needs of minority veterans. The Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans helps the VA Center for Minority Veterans primarily by advising the Secretary on the adoption and implementation of policies and programs affecting minority veterans, and by making recommendations to the VA for the establishment or improvement of programs in the Department for which minority veterans are eligible.

The unique concerns of minority veterans will become increasingly important for our nation during the next decade. The majority of African-American, Hispanic-American, Asian-American and Native American veterans served in the armed forces during Vietnam and post-Vietnam eras. The percentage of U.S. veterans who are minorities is expected to continue to increase as we enter the 21st century.

The Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans has helped to ensure that our veterans programs address the unique concerns of these men and women. Outreach to diverse veterans communities, from Native American reservations to inner-city neighborhoods, has helped inform thousands of minority veterans about opportunities for assistance at the Department of Veterans Affairs. I believe that these tasks are essential to the success of the VA in serving all veterans in our nation.

Nevertheless, many specific issues of concern to minority veterans need to be addressed further. Minority veterans confront the debilitating effects of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and substance abuse in greater numbers. Minority veterans suffer from a higher incidence of homelessness. Access to health care for Native Americans is a common problem. In addition, access to adequate job training is a difficulty for many minority veterans, a high percentage of whom qualify as low-income, category A veterans. Unfortunately, discrimination and cultural insensitivity remain problematic for minority veterans at many VA facilities.

This is the only advisory committee in the VA that is not permanent. The Department of

Veterans Affairs has a VA Center for Women Veterans and an advisory committee on women veterans. We should act now to assure that the VA Center for Minority Veterans maintains its own advisory committee.

Mr. Speaker, the specific issues of importance to minority veterans will not disappear on December 31, 1999. I ask my colleague to support this vital legislation.

H.R.—

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. REPEAL OF SUNSET PROVISION FOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON MINORITY VETERANS.

Subsection (e) of section 554 of title 38, United States Code, is repealed.

MISSING PERSONS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 1999

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation designed to declassify the records of the House Select Committee on Missing Persons in Southeast Asia. In doing so, I am joined by my colleagues: Mr. TAYLOR from Mississippi, Mr. TALENT from Missouri, and Mr. ROHRABACHER from California.

I served as a member of the Select Committee on Missing Persons in Southeast Asia during the committee's period of existence in the 1970's. At the time, the Select Committee was tasked with the responsibility of determining whether American servicemen had been left behind in Southeast Asia after the Vietnam War.

At the time the committee was dissolved, its records were subject to House classification rules, which mandated the material be kept classified for 50 years. Similar regulations covered the records of the Senate's counterpart committee.

Several years ago, the Senate agreed to reduce the period of secrecy to 20 years, and as a result, declassified all of their committee files. This legislation would simply make a change in House rules to open all of the Select Committee's files and boxes of material to the public.

Mr. Speaker, the end of the cold war has resulted in the discovery of literally hundreds of documents which had previously been out of reach behind the Iron Curtain. I see no need for the House to maintain a veil of secrecy over its Select Committee files. Therefore, I ask that my colleagues join in supporting this worthwhile legislation which would bring the House rules on this subject in line with those of our counterpart committee in the Senate.

H. RES.—

Resolved, That the Archivist of the United States is authorized and directed to make available for public use the records of the House of Representatives Select Committee on Missing Persons in Southeast Asia (94th Congress).