

This issue is particularly important to me for various reasons. But, more importantly, as I read through the accounts of what our men and women in uniform have endured through this century of war, I think of my husband, Dexter Lehtinen, who served in the special forces in Vietnam and was injured in combat. He was relatively fortunate, but so many of his colleagues were not.

The Geneva Convention prohibits "violence to life and person, in particular murders of all kinds, mutilation, cruel treatment and torture" and "outrages upon personal dignity, in particular humiliating and degrading treatment."

This is exactly what took place in a prison camp in North Vietnam known as "The Zoo," seen here in a declassified photo, the site where 19 of our U.S. military officers were tortured.

During the period of August 1967 to August 1968, 19 of our courageous servicemen were psychologically tortured, some brutally beaten, by interrogators assessed to be Cuban agents working under orders from Hanoi and Havana.

Described by some to be a psychological experiment, the goals of The Cuba Program, as the torture project has been labeled by our Defense Department and by our intelligence agencies, has been described in different ways as an attempt to test interrogation methods, to obtain absolute compliance and submission to captor demands, or ultimately to be used as a propaganda tool by the international Communist effort, as Mike Bengel will elaborate upon during tomorrow's congressional hearing.

Some POWs were tortured and then instructed to write a series of questions and answers given to them by their interrogators. These scripts on most occasions included statements declaring that the United States was waging an illegal, immoral, and unjust war. Prisoners were tortured, again some psychologically and others physically, to ensure cooperation in appearances they were forced to make before visiting dignitaries. Refusal to comply with the captors' commands usually meant that Fidel, Chico, and Poncho, as the torturers were called by the POWs, would be called in for intense beatings of the prisoners.

The ruthless nature of the interrogators and the severity of their actions led prisoners such as Captain Raymond Vohden, Colonel Jack Bomar, and Lieutenant Carpenter to question how human beings could so brutally batter another human being.

Captain Vohden and Colonel Bomar will offer compelling and detailed testimony to us tomorrow, describing the heinous acts committed against them by Cuban agents at The Zoo, acts which are in direct violation of the Geneva Convention on Prisoners of War.

Survivors of The Cuba Program have been eager to identify and trace the Cuban agents who systematically interrogated them and tortured their fel-

low Americans. Yet, despite their efforts, a successful resolution of this matter has not been achieved. We hope that tomorrow's hearing will be the first of many steps aimed at changing that outcome.

The first is to get leads that could take us closer to an identification of the Cuban torturers.

Our second goal is to provide the basis for an ensuing interagency investigation of the new evidence that has been uncovered, including a search for pertinent data and sources previously unavailable under the Cold War parameters.

We want our State Department, the CIA, the FBI, INS, and the Defense Intelligence Agency to coordinate a comprehensive approach to this case.

Lastly, this hearing will begin to establish the foundation for future action against the torturers. On a broader scale, this investigation will serve to highlight the brutal nature of the Castro regime and the historic and ongoing threat that it poses to the American people.

Ultimately, our hope is that tomorrow's hearing will serve to honor those POWs, and I will show my colleagues a poster that has their picture, 9 of the 19 who were involved in The Cuba Program. We hope that tomorrow's hearing will serve to honor these POWs, who were willing to give life and limb so that we may all be free. We will honor them by finding out the truth about Castro's participation in Vietnam known as The Cuba Program.

CURRENT EVENTS IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, today in a hearing before the full Committee on Resources we discussed the President's proposal to lock up some 40 million acres of our national forests.

I am sure this sounds good to some. But what it mainly will do is drive up prices on houses and everything else that is made from wood, and it will destroy jobs.

So if my colleagues want to hurt poor and working people by driving up prices and destroying jobs, then they should support this proposal to lock up our national forests.

In the 1980s, the Congress passed what was then thought to be a very strong environmental statement that we should not cut more than 80 percent of the new growth in our national forests.

Today we have reduced logging down to less than one-seventh, less than 14 percent of the new growth. Today we are not even cutting half the number of dead and dying trees each year.

This is causing so much fuel buildup that the Forest Service tells us now that 39 million acres are in great risk of burning. Actually, we need to cut some trees to have healthy forests. And

we are not even coming close to doing that.

Today, in my part of the country, the Forest Service says that only .02 percent of the trees in the Cherokee National Forest is being harvested annually, two-tenths of one percent. Yet, the July-August issue of the Sierra Club magazine said that the Cherokee is being logged at a "furious pace."

Much of the environmental movement has been taken over by extremists. Some are putting out very false or very distorted or very exaggerated information because they know they have to scare people to keep their big contributions coming in. Many of these environmental extremists are wealthy or upper-income people who simply do not realize how much some of what they advocate hurts the poor and working people.

Also, some of this environmental extremism is financed by extremely big business because they know the stringent rules and regulations and red tape about the environment drives the small farmers and small businesses out. Thus, the big guys have less bother-some competition to deal with.

Which brings me to my second topic, the Kyoto agreement.

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I read in one of the nonpartisan congressional publications this week that the administration knows it cannot get the Senate to ratify the Kyoto Agreement, so it is trying to get it enacted through the back door. This report said that Federal agencies hope to build big business support for Kyoto by giving favorable treatment on regulations, contracts and so forth to businesses that will voluntarily comply in advance. Then they believe these big businesses would then lobby the Senate for the agreement in order to force everyone else to comply.

Many people around the world and some rich socialists in this country think it is unfair that with just 5 percent of the world's population, the U.S. consumes about 25 percent of the world's goods. This is really what was behind the Kyoto Agreement. The administration was apparently so eager to say that an agreement had been reached that it approved a very bad deal. The Senate passed a resolution 95-0 saying that if an agreement was reached in Kyoto, it should apply to all countries and should not harm the U.S. economy. This agreement exempts 129 of 173 countries including China and Mexico. The Global Climate Information Project says: "So while the U.S. cuts energy use by more than 30 percent, most U.N. countries get a free ride. Because U.S. energy prices will rise, American products could be more expensive at home and less competitive overseas. That will slow down our economic growth and cost American jobs. All for a treaty that will produce little or no environmental benefit."

One thing it would do for sure is speed up the transfer of wealth and

jobs from this Nation to underdeveloped countries. Unless we want to make our constituents' jobs even less secure and force them to cut their energy use by 30 percent or more, we had better oppose the Kyoto Agreement.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, in talking about big business and big money in politics and government today, let me briefly mention campaign finance reform. This administration has done more to get around or flout or violate our campaign finance laws than any in history. Over 90 people pled the fifth or even fled the country to avoid testifying in the various campaign finance investigations. It is ironic that some of the leaders who are the loudest in support of campaign finance reform are some of the biggest violators of our present campaign finance laws.

What people should think about, Mr. Speaker, is that when the Federal Government was small, we did not have all this trouble with big money influencing politics and political decisions. If we really want to remove the influence of big money and big business in government today, then the best way to do so is to downsize the Federal Government and decrease its costs. Big government liberals who always say they are for the little guy have done more to help extremely big business than any conservative ever dreamed of doing. It is no accident that the bigger our Federal Government has become, the harder it has become for small businesses and small farmers to survive, and the more the gap between the rich and the poor has grown.

SALUTE TO WBSL DJ DR. BOB LEE: MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF YOUNG PEOPLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COOKSEY). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to talk about Dr. Bob Lee of WBSL, a man that is really making a difference. When young people hear his name and when they come in contact with him, they get excited. He has been with WBSL for 20 years doing this. I think that the board of education and people that are in education should really take note of the fact that this man has the way to motivate young people, to get them to get up in the morning and go to school and, of course, he has been doing this and doing it so well.

So being as he is doing it so well, it seems to me that educators some way or another should sit down with him, have a summit and talk about how he is able to get the young people involved in a positive kind of way. When I think about the things that he is doing, it bothers me that we do not highlight it enough, because when something negative is going on, we readily will talk about it. When something bad is going on, we will get it throughout the city,

get it throughout the town in no time flat. But when something positive is going on, we have difficulty getting that message around.

Dr. Bob Lee is doing something positive. Of course, when you have a high dropout rate, he is able to go into those areas, talk to the kids, motivate them and get them to return to school. When they are not doing well in school, he is able to sort of talk to them and sort of get them involved in a very positive kind of way, get them to know how important it is to do their homework. So if he is able to do this on such a small scale, it seems to me that we should be able to capitalize on his skills throughout this Nation.

I am hoping that those that are in education are listening tonight, that will be able to go and to sit down with him and to find out how he is doing it and, of course, encourage him to do more. I think that one way to do that would be to expand it by funding the program of some sort and to be able to get the word out to people.

I would like to say tonight, I salute Dr. Bob Lee for the outstanding work that he is doing. I have watched him on various talk shows when he has been on to talk about how he feels about working with young people and how important he thinks it is. Just recently, we had a toy gun turn-in drive and Dr. Bob Lee got involved in that. Of course, we were having trouble on getting the media, but when he got involved in it, of course, people began to respond, because they recognized the fact that it is a very serious issue. And toy guns, as you know, is something that we need to deal with, because many of our young people are getting killed because of toy guns.

In my own district, we have had several youngsters to be killed because they had a toy gun. We have had youngsters to be shot. But Dr. Bob Lee has been working with us in terms of getting this message out to adults, letting them know that toy guns is something that you should not buy for your son or your daughter. I think that this is the kind of message that we have to send, because even the police department, they are saying that toy guns are very dangerous because they are saying that if it looks like a gun, as far as they are concerned, it is a gun. And I think that we do not expect them to stop and interview somebody as to whether or not the gun is real. If it looks like a gun, as far as the police department is concerned, it is a gun.

I want to thank Dr. Bob Lee and all those people out there helping to make certain that we get the message across to people that toy guns are not something that our young people should have and that people should not purchase them for them. It is not the kind of toy that you want to give. Give an educational toy, give something that is going to bring about life, give something that is going to encourage people to be able to grow and to develop, not to give them something that they will

probably get killed because they have it.

I would like to salute him tonight and to say, Dr. Bob Lee, we applaud you for the outstanding job that you are doing on behalf of the young people in this Nation and we hope that you will be able to continue to expand it as well.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. BIGGERT addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. METCALF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. METCALF addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. EHLERS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

DEMOCRATIC LEGISLATIVE AGEN- DA HELD HOSTAGE BY DO-NOTH- ING/DO-WRONG REPUBLICAN CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues are joining me tonight because we really want to make the point before this Congress adjourns for the recess over the next couple of weeks that it really has been a very unproductive session because of the Republican leadership's lack of an agenda, or perhaps because they have the wrong agenda. Many of us know that at some point over the next week or perhaps 2 weeks when the appropriations bills are finally completed that the Congress will adjourn, probably until sometime in January. But this has been a terribly unproductive session.

The Democrats want Congress to get to work on the real priorities for middle-class families, priorities the Republican leadership has once again ignored in favor of the needs of special interests. Democrats want to get the job done this year. We do not want to wait until the next year, the next session of Congress, and have another year of unfinished business, because that is simply unacceptable. Democrats still believe that we can get action on an agenda that matters. I wanted to talk briefly if I could, to mention some of the major priorities that the Democrats have put forward in this Congress