

than all the military force that we can provide. That same argument can be made for our dealings with Vietnam today. We did not win with weapons of war in the 1960s, yet we are now much more engaged in a peaceful trade with the people of Vietnam. Our willingness over the past hundred years to resort to weapons to impose our will on others has generally caused a resentment of America rather than respect.

It is now time to reassess our entire foreign policy of military worldwide intervention. Staying neutral in world conflicts while showing a willingness to trade with all nations anxious to trade with us will do more to serve the cause of world peace than all the unnecessary and provocative spy missions we pursue around the globe.

I recommend the following article by Orlando Sentinel columnist Charley Reese for its sober analysis of the recent events of China.

[From the Orlando Sentinel, April 22, 2001]

SO YOU WANT TO GO TO WAR WITH CHINA?

(By Charley Reese)

I've been intrigued by the responses to a column I wrote suggesting that our China policy ought to be spelled out and submitted to the American people for approval.

First, some people irately took issue with my calling the airplane a "spy plane." It is not, they stoutly contend, because it is overtly intercepting electronic signals.

Let's suppose a clearly marked police van parked on the public street in front of your house. Let's suppose the officers began to intercept your telephone calls, whatever information appeared on your computer screen and even your verbal conversations. Now, would you feel spied upon or would you say, "Hey, that's only electronic intercepts, and they are operating openly on a public street."

Then there is the more logical argument that we need to spy on the Chinese in case we have to fight them. My point exactly. Why do we have to fight them?

We certainly should not fight them over Taiwan. Our own beloved Jimmy Carter unilaterally abrogated the mutual-defense treaty. Our own tough anti-Communist Richard Nixon publicly agreed that Taiwan is part of China and, therefore, falls under the category of China's internal affairs. What's to fight about?

If Taiwan declares its independence, I would expect Chinese leaders would emulate Abraham Lincoln and use force to prevent it. For all my little old Southern life, I've heard Yankees say Lincoln was right. What's good for Honest Abe is good for Honest Jiang, right?

Then there is the argument that we must not lose our position as a "Pacific power." Geographically, since we granted independence to the Philippines, we are not a Pacific power.

I see no reason why we should wish to be a Pacific power in a military sense. What's to be gained?

The two natural Pacific powers are Japan and China.

The funniest response has been alarm about China's "military buildup." I would say that if China did not engage in a military buildup after watching the United States go bomb and missile crazy during the past 20 years that it would be derelict in its duty. But let's keep this in perspective. The Chinese have about 20 ICBMs; we have hundreds. Their defense expenditures are somewhere around \$50 billion; ours, in excess of \$268 billion.

Furthermore, Chinese strategy, as discussed in their own military journals, is to

develop the ability to defeat us in their immediate vicinity. That means clearly that if we keep our nose out of their affairs, no military clashes are likely to occur.

Civilians, too, need to be reminded that military forces are about making war. We should never have changed from the honest name, War Department, to the Newspeak name, Defense Department. Armed forces are either fighting wars, training to fight wars or planning to fight wars. That's what they do.

It's also what the military forces of every other country do. Just because a country's military makes contingency plans to fight some other country doesn't mean that they intend to initiate a war.

Unfortunately America is full of jingoists, usually pot-bellied gray-hairs or 4-F journalists and policy wonks. They are always eager for the teens and twentysomethings to go somewhere and get killed or maimed. In most cases, within five years of their youthful deaths, nobody can remember why they had to get killed.

Korea ended up divided exactly the same way after the war as before the war. Vietnam became communist, which it could have become without 57,000 Americans dying in it. We went to war presumably to preserve the oil contracts with Kuwait Inc., and now Americans are driving around with gasoline refined from Iraqi oil.

As for you "love-it-or-leave-it" blockheads, you leave it and go fight instead of sending someone else if you are such grand warriors. What I love are the people and the land, not the government.

The lives of a nation's youth are its most precious treasure, and I'm damned if I will stay silent while armchair generals propose to risk that treasure in some stupid, ignorant, corrupt or unnecessary war.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. NORTON 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 California (Mr. ROHR-ABACHER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. ROHRABACHER 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 Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois 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. SMITH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

HEALTH CARE REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Arkansas (Mr. ROSS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, there is a lot of partisan bickering that goes on in Washington these days. Unfortunately, our constituents are often caught in between us, between the Democrats and the Republicans. They are literally caught in the ropes, strangled by our inability, especially on health care.

An issue as important as quality, affordable and accessible health care is not and should not be a political game played by the Democrats or the Republicans. It ought to be about what is best for the American people, the people who have placed their trust and confidence in us.

Over these past 19 days, I have participated in more than 60 events in my district, as many of my colleagues did during the district work period. All across Arkansas' Fourth District, my constituents told me about the health care crisis they face each and every day in their lives.

A health care issue about which I care deeply is providing a voluntary, but guaranteed prescription drug benefit as a part of Medicare. I believe it is time to modernize Medicare to include medicine. Medicare is the only health insurance plan in America that I know of that does not include medicine, yet it is the plan that nearly every single senior citizen in America relies on day in and day out to stay healthy and to get well.

Mr. Speaker, I own a pharmacy in a small town in south Arkansas, and living in a small town and working with seniors there, I know firsthand how seniors end up in the hospital running up a \$10,000 Medicare bill, or how diabetics eventually lose a leg or require perhaps as much as a half a million dollars in Medicare payments for kidney dialysis. All of these instances are real-life examples that I have seen in my hometown in the small pharmacy that I own back there that I used to work at. Every one of these could have been avoided if people had simply been able to afford their medicine or if they had been able to afford to take it properly.

I did a town hall meeting this past week in Hot Springs, Arkansas, one of the more affluent counties and cities in my district. We had more than 100 seniors at that meeting that I conducted in conjunction with the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare. At that meeting, we said, raise your hand if you have medicine coverage. Less than 10 hands went up in that room.

This is America, and I believe we can do better than that by our seniors, and that is why I will continue to fight to truly modernize Medicare to include medicine, just like we include doctors' visits and hospital visits. It should be voluntary, but guaranteed, and it should be a part of Medicare.

That is why the first bill I introduced as a Member of the United States Congress was a bill that basically tells the

politicians in Washington to keep their hands off the Social Security and Medicare Trust Funds. It is the Social Security and Medicare Off-Budget Lockbox Act of 2001, H.R. 560.

Also, during the district work period, I visited a Christian charitable medical clinic in my district, again in Hot Springs, one of the more affluent cities and counties in my district. At that facility, they literally spend millions of dollars with over 500 volunteers equaling millions of dollars in providing care for those who fall through the cracks. They only see those who live below poverty. That is all they see, people who live below poverty and yet do not qualify for Medicaid or any of the other programs. By and large, we are talking about the working uninsured, people that are trying to do the right thing, people that are trying to stay off welfare, but they are working the jobs that have no benefits.

Mr. Speaker, I relish the opportunity to fight against the unfair inequities that have created an enormous uninsured population and fight against the big drug companies who continue to price Americans out of the market. It is wrong for the big drug manufacturers to invent drugs in America, oftentimes with government-subsidized research. They are invented in America, they are made in America, and then they send them to Canada and Mexico and sell them for 10 cents on the dollar. That is wrong. That is why I am proud to be cosponsoring legislation that tells the big drug manufacturers that whatever the average price that they sell to other countries is, they have to provide that price to our seniors back in America, one of many first small steps that we must take to finally have a voluntary guaranteed Medicare prescription drug package for every single senior citizen in America.

APRIL IS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

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

Mr. SHOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind my colleagues that the month of April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. I have been heartened to see so many of my colleagues in Congress and members of my community in Mississippi wear the blue ribbons. This simple act has solidified support and raised attention across the United States to our national concern of child abuse. I am proud to join this effort.

Today I would like to commend the Southwest Mississippi Children's Advocacy Center located in McComb, Mississippi for its fine efforts towards assisting children and families victimized by abuse. This private, nonprofit center was just opened this past January under the excellent leadership of Director Ben Hess, offers a comprehensive program of services, working in con-

junction with law enforcement, the court system, schools, hospitals and parents. This center is a model for the coordination of available community services.

One of the cruelest realities of child abuse is that children often feel victimized again in their experience with the criminal justice system. The Southwest Mississippi Children's Advocacy Center assists in minimizing the chaos of this experience by centralizing many necessary services at their center. Children may now have their initial interview, court school preparation, referral for medical services and therapy services all in the confines of this cheerfully decorated, child-friendly center.

The Southwest Mississippi Children's Advocacy Center is also proactive in implementing preventive programming in the 14 counties they serve. Its staff regularly visits elementary schools to teach children how to be better advocates for themselves through classes teaching communication skills, body safety, positive assertiveness and self-esteem. In addition, its positive parenting classes give parents the opportunity to learn effective ways to control anger and handle conflict.

The anger and sadness we all feel towards the insidious epidemic of child abuse has motivated the Southwest Mississippi Children's Advocacy Center into action. I am extremely proud to have such a fine center in our district, and I call on all of my colleagues to rise with me in recognition of its outstanding advocacy for children.

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

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

A TRIBUTE TO RICHARD AUSTIN

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a pioneer in Michigan politics, Richard Austin.

Mr. Austin passed away this weekend at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit.

The story of Richard Austin's life is a story of the American dream. It is certainly a story of many firsts and many accomplishments.

Born in 1913 in Alabama, Austin's coal miner father passed away when he was only 11 years old. His family moved to Detroit.

He had to give up a scholarship to Wayne State University in order to support his family.

But he continued to take night classes at the Detroit Institute of Technology while working full time selling and repairing shoes.

In 1941, Austin became the first African-American certified public accountant in Michigan. He made a point of hiring other African-American accountants in his business.

In 1969, he was the first African-American to run for the office of mayor of Detroit.

Although he lost that race for mayor, the next year, he ran successfully to be Michigan's first African-American secretary of state, and Michigan's first African-American statewide elected official.

As secretary of state from 1970 to 1994, Richard Austin fought to make Michigan the first state in the Union to enact a mandatory seat belt law.

He also pushed a motorcycle helmet law and simplified the process for renewing driver licenses.

One of his greatest accomplishments was the passage of Michigan's 'motor-voter' law.

Once again, Michigan was the first state to put in place this system which allows people to register to vote at the same time and place they renewed their driver licenses.

The national motor voter law was not enacted until 18 years later.

Mr. Speaker, Richard Austin was more than a pioneer in Michigan politics and a leader in national highway safety and voter registration.

Above all, Mr. Speaker, what made Richard Austin such a special and rare individual was his strong sense of decency, integrity and grace.

Our thoughts and our prayers are with his wife of 61 years, Ida, and his daughter, Hazel.

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

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

A TRIBUTE TO DOUG JAMERSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a longtime friend of mine who passed away this weekend, Mr. Doug Jamerson. He was a former Florida Education Commissioner, Secretary of Labor, and State Representative. He was 53 when he died from cancer this weekend.

Mr. Jamerson was a lively and forceful man. He was a true educator and a great leader. In 1982, Mr. Jamerson and I were both elected to the Florida House of Representatives, where we served together for 10 years. He was a wonderful family man and he is survived by his wife Leatha and his son Cedric. Jamerson was a true Democrat who championed the cause of quality education for all children. He was a close friend of mine, a friendship that we developed when he was elected to the Florida House of Representatives in 1982. For 11 years he represented District 55, which covered South Pinellas County and a small part of Manatee County.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK) who served with Mr. Jamerson along with myself.

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding to me. The gentlewoman from Florida