EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

WAIVING THE CONDITIONALITY PERTAINING TO FOREIGN MILITARY FINANCING FOR INDONESIA

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 29, 2005

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend the House of Representatives voted to congratulate the Government of Indonesia and the Free Aceh Movement for their willingness to compromise to end the conflict in Aceh. Indeed, I join with my colleagues in marking this important milestone towards peace.

However, at the same time, I must rise to express my grave concerns about the recent Administration decision to waive conditionality pertaining to Foreign Military Financing for Indonesia (FMF). While Indonesia has made great strides in democratization in recent years, it is unfortunate that the Indonesia military (TNI) continues to tarnish that progress.

As my colleagues know, the Fiscal Year 2006 Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act that was signed into law on November 14 included certain restrictions upon FMF for Indonesia. The legislation required that the Indonesian Government hold members of their military accountable for gross violations of human rights. Congress held FMF contingent upon the Indonesian military's cooperation with civilian judicial activities and international efforts aimed at bringing perpetrators to justice. Furthermore, Congress demonstrated its support for strengthening democratic governance in Indonesia, and required that improved civilian control of the military be demonstrated before FMF could be provided.

Those conditions have not yet been met. However, only two days after the Foreign Operations Appropriation bill was signed into law, and despite the clearly expressed will of Congress on this issue, the Administration unilaterally decided to exercise waiver authority that it was granted in good faith.

The evidence does not support this waiver. At least 15 human rights defenders, including Indonesia's foremost human rights advocate Munir, have been murdered since 2000. No perpetrator has been brought to justice for these crimes. No senior Indonesian officer has been held accountable for crimes against humanity in East Timor in 1999 or before. Today, in West Papua, reports continue to come in of the TNI terrorizing the people of West Papua, even as the military restricts access to the area.

I am deeply disappointed by this action taken by the Administration. It removes the U.S.'s leverage to press for human rights improvement. It undermines our credibility with those who have suffered and seek justice. And it threatens the democratic advances that have been made by the Indonesian people.

I strongly urge the Administration to retract this decision.

TRIBUTE TO RETIRING CLERK OF THE HOUSE JEFF TRANDAHL

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 29, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, before we conclude this first session of the 109th Congress, we need to acknowledge the exemplary service of our retiring Clerk of the House, Jeff Trandahl. Before retiring last month, Jeff diligently served this Congress for over 20 years. He began his career in the other body working for Senator James Abdnor from South Dakota, Jeff's home state. Thankfully for those of us who serve in the House, he soon chose to join us on this side of the Capitol, taking a job with Congresswoman Virginia Smith from Nebraska and working on Appropriations Committee matters.

Jeff got his first real experience with House operations working for Congressman Pat Roberts from Kansas who served on the Committee on House Administration.

When the Republicans won the House in 1994, Jeff was promoted to Assistant to the Clerk, and in that capacity was responsible for legislative operations, personnel, and budget. In November 1996, he was appointed Acting Chief Administrative Officer of the House and led a drastic reorganization of that office.

In December 1998 he was made the 32nd Clerk of the House and was elected to four consecutive 2-year terms by the House membership.

For the past 8 years his responsibilities as Clerk have included management of the House Floor operations, legal support for the institution, management of public information and required legal filings, and numerous other duties. Simply put, Jeff was responsible for seeing that the essential tasks that allow this House to operate get carried out.

In addition to his regular duties, he played a pivotal role in numerous historic events including the annual State of the Union address, presidential inaugurations, the response to September 11th, the anthrax attacks, and the national funeral for President Reagan.

Members will always be grateful to him for his extensive efforts to use technology to improve the efficiency of House operations. It truly has made our jobs easier and made the business of the House more accessible and open to the public.

One of the accomplishments of which he is the most proud was the establishment of an office to handle the House's historical, curatorial, and archival needs. Jeff has always had an immense amount of respect for the Institution and he will be remembered for his outstanding service.

While this is a loss to the United States Congress, it is certainly a gain for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation where Jeff will be Executive Director. I am sure he will approach that job with the same determination and perseverance he has shown in his service here. Jeff has always been the consummate professional, and the House is a better place because of his great record of service here.

We thank him and we will miss him, but we wish him the best of luck in his new endeavors.

NEED FOR GREATER CONGRESSIONAL CIVILITY

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 29, 2005

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, as a founding member of the House Center Aisle Caucus, which seeks to bring greater civility and moderation to the actions of the United States House of Representatives and to the interactions between its Members, I commend to all of my colleagues the recent Providence Journal column authored by Eugene G. Bernardo, II, which I have included in today's CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Mr. Bernardo's commentary regarding the increasing breakdown of civility in political campaigns is equally applicable to the legislative process at the federal level. As he concludes: ''By encouraging us to see as equals even those with whom we disagree vehemently, civility lets us hold the respectful dialogues without which democratic decision-making is impossible.''

Mr. Speaker, truer words have never been written. I hope that our colleagues will take them to heart as we face the legislative challenges of the weeks and months to come.

[From the Providence Journal, Nov. 11, 2005]

INCIVILITY BREEDS THREATS TO DEMOCRACY

(By Eugene G. Bernardo II)

In 1982, noted criminologists James Q. Wilson and George Kelling developed the ''broken windows'' theory of crime. The premise was that when a broken window in a building is left unrepaired, the rest of the windows are soon broken by vandals.

According to Wilson and Kelling, the broken window invites further vandalism by sending a signal that no one is in charge, and that breaking more windows has no undesirable consequences.

The broken window is their metaphor for numerous ways in which behavioral norms can break down in a community. If one person scrawls graffiti on a wall, others will soon be using their spray paint. If one person begins dumping garbage in a vacant lot, other dumpers will follow.

In short, once people begin disregarding the norms that maintain community order, both community and order unravel—sometimes with alarming alacrity.

The broken-windows theory is applicable to the modern-day political campaign.

The campaign for public office should be waged within the marketplace of ideas.

It should entail a wide range of debates about public policy, with the candidates each aiming to persuade the citizenry to accept their viewpoints.

However, what we are seeing within the marketplace of ideas today is a disturbing

growth of incivility that confirms the broken-windows theory. This breakdown of civil norms is not the exclusive failing of either the political left or the right. It spreads across the political spectrum. It is typically carried out, not by the candidates, but by auxiliary groups and other campaigners, who attempt to help their cause by demonizing their opponents.

For example, New Jersey's just-completed race for governor was marred by cross allegations of marital infidelity.

Such examples—unfortunately, there are many more—come from so-called leaders in the marketplace of ideas, all of whom are highly educated and must stand behind their public statements. The Internet, with its easy access and worldwide reach, is a breeding ground for even more degrading incivilities.

This illustrates the first aspect of the broken-windows theory: Once the incivility starts, people will take it as an invitation to join in, and pretty soon there's little limit to the incivility.

A second aspect of the broken-windows theory, however, is also happening.

Wilson and Kelling describe this response when the visible signs of order deteriorate in a neighborhood: ''Many residents will think that crime, especially violent crime, is on the rise, and they will modify their behavior accordingly. They will use the streets less often, and when on the streets will stay apart from their fellows, moving with averted eyes, silent lips, and hurried steps. Don't get involved.''

We see this in the political arena. Many are opting out as civility breaks down in the marketplace of ideas. In the last two presidential elections, fewer than half of eligible voters even bothered to vote; voter participation in national elections is on a 40–year decline. As the atmosphere turns hostile to anything approaching a civil exchange or a real dialogue, citizens depart from the political process and shun their civic responsibility.

This is the real danger of incivility. Our free-breathing, self-governing society requires the oxygen of an open exchange of ideas. It requires a certain level of civility rooted in mutual respect for each other's opinions. However, what we see today is an accelerating competition between the left and the right to see which side can inflict more damage to the other. Increasingly, participants in public debates appear to be exchanging ideas when in fact they are spewing invective.

When behavioral norms break down in a community, the police can restore order.

But when civility breaks down in the marketplace of ideas, the law is generally powerless. Our right to speak freely—indeed, to speak with incivility—is guaranteed by the First Amendment.

If we are to prevail as a free, self-governing people, we must restore civility to public discourse. We have to be responsible. We must govern our tongues and our pens. Whether the incivility occurs on a talk show, in a newspaper column, in political campaign ads, at the office water cooler, or in an Internet chat room, it must be met with active disapproval.

This is not to say that democracy requires consensus; it requires debate, which . presupposes that we have disagreements. But civility demands of us that we not let those disagreements—even during these times of great division between the left and the right—push us into words or acts of sharp offense or violence.

By encouraging us to see as equals even those with whom we disagree vehemently, civility lets us hold the respectful dialogues without which democratic decision-making is impossible.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1815, THE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 18, 2005

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, while I am a strong supporter of the brave men and women who serve in our armed forces, I am deeply opposed to the unnecessary and pernicious last-minute amendment added to this bill by Senators GRAHAM, LEVIN, and KYL. I am also disappointed that the conferees have made further changes to the provision that will only further damage our rule of law and compromise the efforts of our soldiers around the world.

Their amendment, which is now Section 1405 of this bill, may severely curtail the federal court's review of detainees operations in ways that do irreparable damage to our rule of law. The provision also fails unequivocally to condemn torture and abuse, or the erratic and unreliable information that practice yields. These flaws are contrary to the fundamental principles of our legal traditions.

Let me first focus on the torture issue. Never before in America's proud history have we countenanced a system in which there is even a possibility that human liberty might be taken away based on evidence extracted by torture. And it is this refusal to debase ourselves, by resorting to immoral and illegal techniques, that lies at the core of our best and most noble traditions.

We should have made clear beyond doubt in this provision that we do not approve of and we are not willing to tolerate a system that rests on torture today. Even if it were true that there may be some extreme case—say, the infamous ''ticking time-bomb'' scenario—that could vindicate the use of abhorrent physical coercion, that exceptional case would not warrant the use of that evidence—evidence that our intelligence services have told us is very often unreliable—in subsequent judicial proceedings. There is simply no excuse or justification for this omission.

As we try to establish new democracies and the rule of law for Iraq and Afghanistan in place of sanctuaries for terrorists, Congress's failure to condemn and bar abuse is shameful, intolerable, and deeply hypocritical: How can we refuse to practice what we preach to other countries?

Congress must return to this issue as soon as possible and make good the promise of Senator MCCAIN's wise anti-abuse provision; after all standards are important but, as we have learned time and time again, we also need accountability and enforcement.

Time is of the essence because continued torture and abuse hurts our efforts in Iraq and beyond against al Qaeda. The persistent wave of stories about prisoners detained for the wrong reasons, or subjected to inappropriate treatment or abuse while in U.S. custody has inflicted terrible harm on our reputation, and on the efforts by our brave men and women in Iraq to win the hearts and minds campaign. Establishing a meaningful system of accountability for detainee operations is not only a matter of restoring America's honor in the eyes in the world, it is a vital part of our counterterrorism strategy.

Accountability, moreover, cannot be achieved without independent monitoring mechanisms. The rule of law, as events of the past four years have made clear, dies behind closed doors and barbed-wire. Cutting off meaningful judicial supervision of the Guantánamo Naval Base will not restore the military's honor. And turning the federal courts into rubber stamps for decisions generated through the rack and the screw would stain our legal traditions.

As Senator SPECTER powerfully urged, these difficult issues must be assigned to the House and Senate Judiciary Committees for their careful and expert consideration. Senator SPECTER's wise counsel has been repeated in letters from senior members of our armed forces, who have already retired; a bipartisan group of respected former federal judges; the American Bar Association; and a broad cross-section of professors from the legal academy. This wide-ranging opposition indicates how thorny these issues are, and how unwise it is to move so quickly on them.

I am heartened, however, that we have been able to preserve much that is not harmful in this provision. There are some sound ideas embedded in these provisions that we should use when we reconsider these issues.

Central to Congress's aim in this provision is a distinction between those detainees who have already been subject to a Combatant Status Review Tribunal (CSRT) and new detainees who will be subject to a future CSRT procedure that Congress will certify more than six months from now. For those who have already been subject to a CSRT and now challenge either that procedure or the lawfulness of the military commission system, the provision does not affect access to the federal courts.

Through section(h)(2), Congress has crafted a new system of judicial review for cases that will be brought under a new system of CSRTs, to be designed by the Secretary of Defense and reviewed with care by Congress. These appeals from new CSRTs will be heard in the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. And even in these new cases, the provision does not alter the now-established ability of attorneys to visit clients at Guantánamo. Attorneys litigating their cases in a circuit court need access to and communication with their client, as recent filings in the Hamdan v. Rumsfeld case show.

But section (h)(2) also circumscribes the new system of review to new cases, which will of necessity arise more than six months from now, when the new CSRT procedures have been promulgated. We have preserved the existing, expansive review role of the federal courts for the habeas petitions filed by those who have already been through a CSRT. So detainees who have already had a CSRT hearing, including those who have pending habeas petitions, will continue to have traditional habeas review.

We also chose in paragraph 3 of subsection (e) not to legislate an abstention rule. For those who have filed challenges to their military commissions, we did not take the extraordinary step of requiring convictions or other exhaustion before they come into federal court. As in Ex Parte Quirin, we have permitted pre-conviction challenge to be brought up to the U.S. Supreme Court. Paragraph 3