

A recent editorial in the December 14, 2005 issue of USA Today expresses my views very well, and I include it at this point in the RECORD:

[From USA Today, Dec. 15, 2005]

MISGUIDED MORALITY

(By Andrew C. McCarthy and Clifford D. May)

No one favors torture. Torture is already illegal under both U.S. and international law. Nonetheless, the United States is fighting a war against ruthless enemies who obey no rules. We cannot afford to treat all of them with kid gloves all the time.

On the battlefield, we can—and do—kill our enemies. Those we don't kill but only capture should be treated humanely, despite the fact that they do not return the favor when they seize Americans. But those who have information that could save lives must be interrogated effectively. That does not imply torture. It does imply measures that the McCain amendment would ban.

Contrary to what you might have heard, "ticking time-bomb" scenarios are not uncommon. Consider the situation faced by Army Lt. Col. Allen West: Fighting near Tikrit, he captured a suspect who refused to divulge information about a planned ambush.

West fired his revolver to frighten the suspect. The trick worked. The terrorist talked. American lives were saved. And West was accused of torture, charged with assault and drummed out of the military. Next time, will an officer in the same situation decide to let Americans be killed—believing that's what Americans back home demand?

Even more common than the ticking time bomb is the scenario in which a "high-value" suspect is captured, for example a senior al-Qaeda commander who might not know about an imminent attack but who does have information on terrorist recruiting, training and communications.

In this circumstance, torture is not only unneeded but also unhelpful. But the use of "stress and duress" techniques, including rewards for cooperation and punishments for defiance, can, over time, induce a subject to reveal what he knows.

Good policy requires clarity and accountability. Though torture is to be avoided, vague terms such as "cruel" and "degrading" inevitably would be stretched to coddle terrorists unduly. Congress should instead set clear standards, consulting intelligence experts and medical professionals to flesh out which techniques should always be prohibited (for example, those likely to cause death or permanent disability), and which are permissible—and most likely to yield reliable lifesaving information.

Accountability means not leaving serious judgments to junior personnel. Harsh interrogation methods, such as covert operations under current federal law, should require approval by a high-ranking administration official.

Obviously, distinctions must be made between terrorist leaders and low-level operatives. Even so, those arguing that it is better to sacrifice the lives of U.S. troops—or even an American city—rather than cause a terrorist temporary discomfort are making a terrible mistake. They urge a self-destructive policy and a misguided morality.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the conference report.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the conference report.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO PRODUCE DUPLICATE ENGROSSMENT OF H.R. 4525

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Clerk be authorized, if necessary, to produce a duplicate engrossment of H.R. 4525.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

ROBERT T. FERGUSON POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Government Reform be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 1287) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 332 South Main Street in Flora, Illinois, as the "Robert T. Ferguson Post Office Building," and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the bill, as follows:

H.R. 1287

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

SECTION 1. ROBERT T. FERGUSON POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 332 South Main Street in Flora, Illinois, shall be known and designated as the "Robert T. Ferguson Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Robert T. Ferguson Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the committee amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. ROBERT T. FERGUSON POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 312 East North Avenue in Flora, Illinois, shall be known and designated as the "Robert T. Ferguson Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Robert T. Ferguson Post Office Building".

The amendment was agreed to.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 312 East North Avenue in Flora, Illinois, as the 'Robert T. Ferguson Post Office Building'".

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DR. ROBERT E. PRICE POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Government Reform be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 4246) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 8135 Forest Lane in Dallas, Texas, as the "Dr. Robert E. Price Post Office Building," and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the bill, as follows:

H.R. 4246

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

SECTION 1. DR. ROBERT E. PRICE POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 8135 Forest Lane in Dallas, Texas, shall be known and designated as the "Dr. Robert E. Price Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Dr. Robert E. Price Post Office Building".

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

STATE SENATOR VERDA WELCOME AND DR. HENRY WELCOME POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Government Reform be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 4108) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3000 Homewood Avenue in Baltimore, Maryland, as the "State Senator Verda Welcome and Dr. Henry Welcome Post Office Building," and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the bill, as follows:

H.R. 4108

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

SECTION 1. STATE SENATOR VERDA WELCOME AND DR. HENRY WELCOME POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3000 Homewood Avenue in Baltimore, Maryland, shall be known and designated as the “State Senator Verda Welcome and Dr. Henry Welcome Post Office Building”.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the “State Senator Verda Welcome and Dr. Henry Welcome Post Office Building”.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE PARREN J. MITCHELL POST OFFICE

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Government Reform be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 4109) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6101 Liberty Road in Baltimore, Maryland, as the “United States Representative Parren J. Mitchell Post Office,” and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the bill, as follows:

H.R. 4109

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

SECTION 1. UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE PARREN J. MITCHELL POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6101 Liberty Road in Baltimore, Maryland, shall be known and designated as the “United States Representative Parren J. Mitchell Post Office”.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the “United States Representative Parren J. Mitchell Post Office”.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CORPORAL JASON L. DUNHAM POST OFFICE

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Government Reform be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 4515) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4422 West Sciota Street in Scio, New York, as the “Corporal Jason L. Dunham Post Office,” and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the bill, as follows:

H.R. 4515

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

SECTION 1. CORPORAL JASON L. DUNHAM POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4422 West Sciota Street in Scio, New York, shall be known and designated as the “Corporal Jason L. Dunham Post Office”.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the “Corporal Jason L. Dunham Post Office”.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION WEEK

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Government Reform be discharged from further consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 483) supporting the goals and ideals of National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. Res. 483

Whereas 1 in 3 female high school students reports being physically abused or sexually abused by a dating partner;

Whereas over 40 percent of male and female high school students surveyed had been victims of dating violence at least once;

Whereas violent relationships in adolescence can have serious ramifications for victims, who are at higher risk for substance abuse, eating disorders, risky sexual behavior, suicide, and adult re-victimization;

Whereas the severity of violence among intimate partners has been shown to increase if the pattern was established in adolescence;

Whereas 81 percent of parents surveyed either believed dating violence is not a problem or admitted they did not know it is a problem;

Whereas the week of February 6, 2006, has been recognized as an appropriate week for activities furthering awareness of teen dating violence; and

Whereas recognizing a “National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week” would benefit schools, communities, and families regardless of socioeconomic status, race, or gender: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives should raise awareness of teen dating violence in the Nation by supporting the goals and ideals of National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. ISSA

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I offer an amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Strike all after the resolved clause and insert the following:

Resolved, That the House of Representatives supports an increased awareness among parents, schools, and communities that dating violence is a criminal act and the ideals of the National Teen Dating Violence and Prevention Week.

Ms. MILLENDER McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I offer heartfelt thanks to you for bringing this important resolution to the floor. Thanks to the Ranking Member as well. I join with my friend and co-sponsor, the gentlewoman from Connecticut, NANCY JOHNSON in bringing this very important legislation to the floor.

I am delighted to be able to say that my colleagues in this great Congress understand that protecting our children from violence is of utmost importance and that we as a body support the ideals of National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Protection Week through H. Res. 483.

Teen Dating Violence is the proverbial elephant in the room. Too many girls are the victims of abuse perpetrated by an intimate partner and yet too many parents are unaware that their daughters live with this tragic reality. The facts are horrifying:

Girls and young women between the ages of 16 and 24 experience the highest per capita rates of non-fatal intimate partner violence of all women.

Many of our teens report experiencing some kind of abuse in their romantic relationships, including verbal and emotional abuse.

Over half of a national survey of parents either believe teen dating violence is not an issue or admit they don't know to what extent it is an issue.

It is time to end this gap between what we believe about teen dating violence and what is actually happening to our sisters, daughters, and granddaughters in their relationships.

The only way we will be able to combat this epidemic is if we are educated about it. Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week is a crucial step towards acquiring this knowledge.

I am a mother of daughters and a grandmother of granddaughters. I hate to think of them engaged in a relationship where they may be at risk, emotionally, physically or mentally. But just because I do not want to think about this, does not mean I should not think about it.

Through communication and further education we will take away the stigma of coming forward to report abuse by a partner. We learn to recognize the signs that our girls are in trouble. We will help victims leave their relationships and get the help they need to embark on relationships that are worthy of their greatness.

I am passionate about this program because of its message of understanding and prevention, but also because teenager took it upon themselves to start this campaign towards consciousness on this issue.

I have deep admiration for the young women and men who attended the national awareness and education summit last year and were motivated enough to develop toolkits for schools and propose National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week. I will be proud to stand with them during that week in February. These young people will be the future leaders of our country, and we should all applaud them!