

House for invasion carefully. Having served on the Hoover Commission investigating the intelligence activities of the United States with Gen. Mark Clark, I learned that Israel's intelligence, Mossad, is the best on the Middle East. As an island of democracy in a sea of hostility, Israel has to know what is going on in Baghdad. Israel has no time to call for a summit meeting or to go to the United Nations. Any real threat must be knocked out immediately.

This is why Israel knocked out Iraq's nuclear facility without warning in 1981. Days before we voted, President Bush said, "Facing clear evidence of peril, we cannot wait until the smoking gun is a mushroom cloud." When the commander-in-chief says this, he's got my vote.

I was sure Mossad had found nuclear weapons and we were knocking them out and eliminating Saddam.

Now we're waiting for Iraqis to do what we've never done—secure Iraq; secure the Syrian and Iranian borders immediately; and clean out the Sunni triangle. It would cause casualties but to fight a war you have to fight a war. Either get in or get out.

If we're not going to secure Iraq, then the next best thing is to get Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani to ask us to leave.

Ernest F. Hollings, a Democrat, served as a U.S. senator for South Carolina from 1966 to 2003.

CONGRESSMAN MURTHA

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, one of the reasons I love and respect my wife Teresa Heinz Kerry so very much is because she has always maintained the strength of her convictions. She speaks her mind, and she speaks the truth. I am especially proud of her passionate defense of her fellow Pennsylvanian—the decorated veteran and respected military expert, Representative JACK MURTHA. In a recent essay, Teresa's powerful words spoke of JACK MURTHA's courage and integrity rose above the disparaging and unconscionable words of those who smeared him. As I read what she wrote, I realized why this issue had struck such a chord with her—and why she was able to speak with such incredible clarity—because, as someone who grew up under a dictatorship, Teresa believes deeply in the freedom of every American to speak their mind without fear of condemnation.

The characteristics we all admire in Representative MURTHA—honesty, compassion, strength and patriotism—are the characteristics that make Teresa such an incredible citizen. I am glad she spoke out, and for that reason, I ask that her words be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From CNHI News Service]

(By Teresa Heinz Kerry)

ASSAULT ON MURTHA SHOULD ALARM US ALL

"Because we in Congress are charged with sending our sons and daughters into battle, it is our responsibility, our obligation, to speak out for them. That's why I am speaking out."

U.S. Rep. John Murtha, Nov. 17, "War In Iraq."

U.S. Rep. John Murtha completely changed the public debate in our country by calling

for an immediate redeployment of our troops in Iraq. Whether you agree or disagree with his specific proposal is not the point—but his critics' words demand a response. Murtha speaks with special authority.

His national security credentials are impeccable. His patriotism is unwavering. His influence on national defense is unsurpassed. None in Congress spends as much time as Murtha with the wounded from the Iraq war. His voice on matters of national defense deserves—indeed, commands—great respect. This is why his political opponents think him so dangerous. The orchestrated assault on Murtha should alarm us all. Just when you thought the debate could sink no lower, the politicians committed to staying the course in Iraq turned the fire hoses of smear and intimidation on this icon of national security. Listen to what they said:

They said he had given aid and comfort to the enemy. They accused him of abandoning the troops. And one rookie representative, the most junior member in the House, so lost any decency or sense of decorum that she called Murtha a coward.

I think they smeared the wrong representative. Murtha's history is one of heroism and leadership. He served in the Marine Corps from 1952 to 1955. He served as a Marine Corps drill instructor and a reservist. He re-upped so he could serve in Vietnam. He was wounded twice while serving as a Marine intelligence officer, and then went back into the reserves from 1967 to 1990. He was the first Vietnam veteran elected to the Congress, where he has served with honor and distinction as a bipartisan advocate of national defense ever since.

How bipartisan? When President Reagan wanted to build the MX missile, Murtha broke with his party to fight for what Reagan called the "peacekeeper." Reagan sent him to El Salvador and the Philippines as an election observer and, as an official representative of the United States, to Pakistan to attend President Zia's funeral. When President George H.W. Bush said of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, "this will not stand," Murtha stood with him and voted to use military force to drive Iraq out.

His credentials on national defense are unimpeachable. He has been named Minuteman of the Year by the Reserve Officers Association of the United States. He has been honored by the Blinded American Veterans Foundation. He is a winner of the Henry M. Jackson Distinguished Service Award, and an honoree of the Association of the United States Army. When Murtha received the distinguished public service award from the American Legion, he was praised by the national commander as a veteran, supporter of a strong national defense and holder of an outstanding track record on veterans' issues.

That is Jack Murtha's history, and the summer soldiers and the sunshine patriots who attack him cannot rewrite it. That's why they resort instead to the most reprehensible type of personal attacks. We've seen this before. I know and love another Vietnam veteran who served our country with distinction and honor—who suffered the slings and arrows of distortions, half-truths and falsehoods.

Scoundrels who would stifle debate and smear dissenters weaken our democracy and diminish our Nation's ability to make decisions and change course when circumstances demand.

This war is hard—hard to win, hard to support, and for most, hard to figure out. We all want the best for our troops, our country, the Iraqi people and what is best for the Middle East. Much is at stake.

But if we want the best outcome, the best minds we have must be free to express their strongest beliefs and best advice. Murtha has

earned our respect. His right to speak out is an intrinsic component of our democracy. It should be honored—we should hold that right sacred—even if his words deviate from the party line, the president's talking points, or public opinion.

I think Murtha did our country an enormous public service for speaking out as he did, and I support for him for exercising his right. A courageous person is always to be admired.

HUGS NOT BULLETS CAMPAIGN 2006

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I would like to commend an outstanding group of young people in Detroit, MI, for their efforts to reduce gun violence as part of the Neighborhood Service Organization's Youth Initiatives Project. Their dedication to this admirable cause is certainly worthy of our recognition and appreciation.

The Youth Initiatives Project was created in 1999 to address growing community issues including violence and substance abuse in Detroit. For 6 years, students, community organizations, and local police have been involved in a coordinated effort to accomplish the goals of the project. Many of these goals are centered on the need to reduce gun violence.

Hundreds of Detroit teenagers have been involved in the Youth Initiatives Project through activities such as afterschool programs to reduce gun violence, gun buybacks, anti-violence rallies, and gun safety workshops. As part of these activities, the Youth Initiatives Project has been responsible in the last 3 years for handing out more than 5,000 free trigger locks to Detroit gun owners.

The Youth Initiatives Project's "Hugs Not Bullets" campaign for 2005 built upon their overall theme of reducing gun violence, while also putting a specific focus on the use of firearms during the celebration of the New Year's holiday. In addition to hosting a number of public forums and rallies, the Hugs Not Bullets campaign used several 4-foot by 8-foot cards to collect signatures of those who pledge not to engage in gun violence. To date, more than 3,000 Detroiters have signed these cards. These cards serve as a powerful symbol of the community's determination to fight gun violence.

For 2006, the Youth Initiatives Project plans to expand the Hugs Not Bullets campaign into a comprehensive grass roots and media campaign against gun violence. This year, more than 200 Youth Initiatives Project participants will reach out to their peers by visiting community centers, schools, and churches, as well as social clubs and events widely attended by other teenagers. In addition, the Hugs Not Bullets campaign will amplify its antigun violence message through public service announcements and appearances on local television and radio. This is an ambitious next step, which will build upon the previous success of the campaign.

It is important to also recognize the contributions these young people are making in their communities outside of their official participation in the Youth Initiatives Project. The Youth Initiatives Project gives young people valuable knowledge and experience, thereby enabling them to push for change in their own neighborhoods and communities on a daily basis. For the rest of their lives, these teenagers will be able to draw on the communications and conflict resolution skills they have gained through the Youth Initiatives Project to make a difference in their own lives and those around them.

I know my colleagues will join me in thanking the participants, organizers, and supporters of the Youth Initiatives Project for their outstanding dedication to the worthwhile goal of reducing gun violence. This is a program which can serve as an appropriate model to be followed in many cities across the Nation. I hope my colleagues will also join me in working to pass common-sense gun safety legislation to more adequately support their efforts.

POPULATION EXPLOSION

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about developing countries around the world that are dealing with population explosions. As we near the end of the year, we are trying to wrap things up before the Senate goes out of session. But we continue to ignore this important issue.

This topic does not get very much attention here on the Senate floor, but in the developing world, there is a population explosion. Some experts believe that the population of Earth may top 9 billion by 2050. Eighty-eight percent of Americans believe that international population growth is either a major problem right now or that it will become one in the future. Almost all of the growth is occurring in countries that are the least able to govern, ensure jobs for, and care for their citizens.

But this is also about safe access to health care for women. Even though these countries are experiencing huge population growths, hundreds of thousands of women are dying each year from complications from pregnancy. These women do not have access to the health care that they need, especially reproductive health care.

In many poor countries around the world, nongovernmental organizations and medical professionals are working to make things better. They have set up clinics and reached out to the women and families in poor communities. They are doing great work. But their hands are tied because the Bush administration has imposed a political ideology on the world.

When President Bush took office in 2001, he signed an Executive order known as the global gag rule. It denies U.S. funds to any overseas health clinic unless it agrees not to use its own private, non-U.S. funds for anything re-

lated to abortion. What that means, is that if you are a medical professional living in an impoverished country trying to help people and save their lives, you are gagged from even talking about certain reproductive health services. The gag rule places limits on women and doctors that we would never accept here in the United States.

Earlier this year, the Senate passed an amendment to the Foreign Affairs Authorization Act to reverse the President's policy and ensure that health care clinics for women and families receive this much-needed funding. Unfortunately, this legislation has not passed by the full Senate. I am pleased that the Foreign Operations appropriations bill contains \$34 million for the United Nations Populations Fund, UNPA, for this purpose. But in order to ensure that this money goes toward funding health care clinics for women and families in poor countries, we must overturn this global gag rule.

In closing, I would like to share the following article, which ran on December 3, 2005, with my colleagues because I believe that it provides some important food for thought as we continue to work on this important issue.

I ask unanimous consent that my remarks and the following article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DOES POPULATION EXPLOSION THREATEN U.S.?

(By David Horsey)

Flying in or out of Mexico City, the traveler can look down on the human sprawl metastasizing in every direction. The Mexican megalopolis is now home to 25 million people and vies for first place among the world's most gigantic cities. From a bird's eye view, it's easy to conclude that the planet has more than enough homo sapiens taking up space.

Having just flown back from a study tour in Mexico that focused on issues of overpopulation, family planning and development, I can report positive news on the population front. In the developed world, population growth has been put in check. Birth rates are roughly at replacement levels and no higher.

An even better story is Mexico. Not that long ago, the Mexican population was spiraling out of control with an average seven children per family. The population doubled between 1950 and 1970 and doubled again by the end of the 20th century. Today, though, thanks in large part to government commitment and successful family-planning measures, the fertility rate has dropped to about 2.1, putting Mexico on track to see a leveling off of population by 2015.

However, this good news is qualified by a disturbing caveat. The successes of recent years have created complacency. Some people think the population bomb has been defused while in reality only the easier part of the job has been done.

In the developing world, the numbers continue to explode. Earth's current human population of 6.5 billion may top 9 billion by 2050 and 99 percent of the growth will be in the least developed nations. If these countries fail to follow Mexico's path, calamity may be just around the corner. In the regions of the world that are the most poor and the least able to care for, employ or govern their

rapidly expanding populations, widespread famine, environmental destruction and social collapse are inevitable.

Most countries have reached agreement on what needs to be done to avert such disaster, but, in recent years, the United States has been a maverick on the population issue. The politics of abortion and religion have given current leaders reason to act as if it is not our problem.

Is this an area where self-interest and traditional values dictate that we let less fortunate countries find a way to cope on their own? Here's my Burning Question:

Is the developing world's population explosion a threat to America?

PAKISTAN EARTHQUAKE RELIEF

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I rise today to salute the outstanding ambassadors for our enduring principles of freedom, justice, and individual rights—our brave men and women in uniform who show the heart of America by their good deeds.

As the Iraqi people slowly count the ballots from their historic parliamentary election, we are reminded once again of America's far-reaching power to be a force for good in this world. Over the past 2½ years, our brave soldiers have fought courageously and nobly sacrificed to extend the sphere of liberty into what was—up until their arrival—one of the darkest, most despotic alleys on Earth. Their heroic work has helped deliver a new free and just country into the family of nations.

We here at home watch the developments in Iraq with a feeling of pride. We are proud of our troops who have borne so much to advance the cause of freedom. We are proud of the Iraqi people, who risked their own lives to cast ballots three times this year for a better future. And we are proud of the heritage of our country—from the American Revolutionary secession from the British monarchy to the Second World War against fascism to the Cold War against imperial communism to today's fight against global terrorists, America has been the shining city on a hill—an ally to all men and women—on every continent, in every country—who yearn to breathe free.

In addition to Iraq, we have extended our hand of friendship to the people of Pakistan. A little more than 2 months ago, a devastating earthquake ripped through northern Pakistan. The toll from this tragedy is almost impossible to comprehend: 79,000 men and women lost their lives, an additional 72,000 were injured, and a total of 2.9 million people are now homeless.

Last month, my wife Susan cochaired a charity event near our home in Virginia to raise money for the earthquake victims. She then joined me when I traveled to Pakistan to visit some of the victims, and the 1,200 U.S. troops who are now stationed in Pakistan to assist in the recovery.

We presented a check to the Citizens Foundations charity, which will use the money to rebuild the Bagh School for Girls and other schools. When we visited a Pakistani classroom for children needing medical treatment, we