

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 31, 2012

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, I regret that this bill, like so many of its predecessors over the past several years, does nothing to address some the urgent need for real reform in our intelligence community.

I am particularly troubled by the failure of this bill to address the deepening militarization of the Central Intelligence Agency, a process that began long ago but that has accelerated dramatically in the post-9/11 era.

Throughout most of its history, the CIA has—at the direction of successive presidents—veered between two organizational paths. The first, and the proper one, is for the CIA to do what President Truman intended when he created it: to collect information about the world around us, synthesize and analyze that data, and provide it to the executive and the legislature for their information and action, as appropriate. The other path—the one that has caused the CIA and our Nation so much grief—is the path of militarized covert, and not-so-covert, action.

Today, it is manifested in a quasi-publicly acknowledged CIA assassination-by-drone campaign on which the Administration has refused to provide information, despite my own request and the request of many other House and Senate members for the information. In the previous decade, we saw what happened when lines of responsibility and accountability for secret programs were fuzzy or not observed. The result was a detainee and interrogation program that was a national embarrassment morally, and an albatross politically with our allies around the world. The not-so-covert “drone wars” are on a similar glide path, and this bill does nothing to provide a much-needed course correction for the policy.

This state of affairs is all the more regrettable because there are many dedicated professionals working in the CIA and elsewhere in our intelligence community who are forced to implement these questionable programs and policies. Some would agree with me that the entire enterprise is out of control and would benefit from much more focused and effective Congressional oversight. If this bill contained whistleblower protections for intelligence community employees, some of those individuals might well step forward to report what they know, and what they believe needs to be changed. But this bill contains no such protections, ensuring that the chilling threat of job retaliation remains in place. We will not restore true accountability and oversight over the intelligence community until such reforms are enacted, and which are absent from this bill. Accordingly, I cannot support it.

H.R. 1464, THE NORTH KOREA REFUGEE ADOPTION ACT

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 1, 2013

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise as a cosponsor of H.R. 1464, the North Korea Refugee Adoption Act, and to thank Mr. ROYCE and Ranking Member BERMAN for their efforts on this important bi-partisan bill.

This measure was introduced to assist North Korean children living “stateless” outside of that country who face starvation and neglect because they are neither North Korean citizens nor citizens of the country where they currently reside. Many of these children have Chinese fathers and North Korean mothers but are not claimed by either parent, and being stateless, don’t have access to the resources of either country.

The bill encourages the Homeland and State Departments to develop strategies to help reunite North Korean refugee children with their families or to facilitate the adoption of the children by citizens of South Korea, China or other countries. In the Senate, the bill was amended to require the Secretary of State to designate a representative to regularly brief the Congress on U.S. efforts to advocate for the best interests of North Korean children.

There are many American families who would love to give a home to these orphans and refugee children if they could. This bill will help to facilitate that process. I encourage my colleagues to join me in support of the bill.

ON THE PASSING OF RABBI IRWIN GRONER

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 1, 2013

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, today funeral services are being held at the Congregation Shaarey Zedek in Southfield, Michigan for its beloved, esteemed Rabbi, Irwin Groner.

Rabbi Groner served the congregation for over 50 years. He became a continuing source of wisdom and warmth of personality for numerous thousands as he served in various positions in the Jewish community in metropolitan Detroit and beyond. He was active in promoting good will among all faiths in metropolitan Detroit.

His written works will continue to spread his words of wisdom in books of his sermons and his publications on Torah. Also persevering will be the feelings of the deepest affection among all of us blessed by his friendship.

In his words: “Our congregation has prayed together, wept together, rejoiced together, failed together and achieved together.”

Today his congregation and all privileged to know him join in tears for his passing and in prayers of gratitude for his life.

Our heartfelt condolences go to his wife Leypsa and the entire Groner family.

MY FAREWELL SPEECH

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 1, 2013

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, as I close my 24 years in Congress I wanted to take an opportunity to express my sentiments in two areas; one) the continued bailouts that have occurred and the continued Keynesian resolution to all our economic problems and two) what should be done to get our budget and subsequent deficits under control.

With the recent bailouts in Congress Americans are wondering if Capitalism works. And when is the next bust going to happen. Having voted against the TARP for Wall Street and the huge Stimulus package, I am wondering the same thing. Do we have to deflate our money every time there is a crisis with the Federal Reserve stepping in by printing huge sums of money and transferring it to the Treasury Department, they then hand it out to businesses that they deem important and necessary? Congress has no say so in this matter once the bill is passed. There are rarely any safeguards with the legislation and complete cart blanche authority is given to these two government agencies, which is down right awful. Mr. Paulson changed his strategy from buying the toxic loans to bailout Wall Street firms and banks. Then the 15 largest banks that received this money were the same ones that made money off the sale on packaging of these financial devices that get bail out because they are considered to big to fail. Rubbish.

But what is the pretext for these bailouts? It is Keynesian economics. His mantra of “But we only owe it to ourselves!” is the password for all economic theory. We did in every major financial crisis in America and England also. The government becomes almighty. His ideas have become the basis for socialistic governments around the world. To get the economy moving again, Keynes taught, it was the responsibility of government to create full employment, even if it had to borrow money and assume huge debt to do so. Rather than get rid of the problems that created the economic depression, greed, corruption and incompetence and then allowing the markets to work and punish those folks who caused the problems; these folks get bailed out. Why? Because of Keynesian economics and political might. Those at the levers of power are generally connected to Wall Street or big financial institutions. Again contrary to basic business logic.

Although excessive government spending and mounting public debt appear to provide some good in the short term, but in the long term, Keynesian economics only make things worse and create grounds for the inevitable

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

collapse of any country again. Keynes had an answer for this when he said, "In the long term, we are all dead." In all my 20 years in Congress we have never seriously tried to reduce debt or reduce the deficit even under Republican control. Yet this colossal public debt is hurting our sovereignty and will eventually move us to a one-world government. Even with the TARP bailout we had to bailout Chinese banks including European banks. Globalism creates interdependence, which creates a crisis everywhere. Is it the responsibility of the Government to prime the economic pump? What is good for a family surely must be good for a nation. What would a family do in an economic crisis? Just the opposite to what Congress and the Administration did. They reduce spending and become more productive. They would not take on more debt. And they would look for other ways to not just save money but also increase the revenue to the family. Take another job or become more efficient and if there was incompetence or corruption involved. Put those individuals in jail and allow their businesses to go bankrupt. Do not reward bad business decisions. But we have done just the opposite with these bailouts. Giving money to financial institutions that created the problem with no supervision or controls. As the Inspector General for the Treasury Dept. recent report has indicated. Half of the money given out is unaccounted for and there again are incidents of corruption. The Government spends taxpayer's money to do what they think is in the best interest of those in power. A sad commentary.

So what is Keynesian economics? Simply said it is that the government has all the answers! It can create something out of nothing, that is, prosperity. Or said another way, the government is the almighty. That is Keynesian economics. And how do we solve the mounting debt we build up to cover the deficit stimulus spending? They tell us by rising population and controlled inflation. But, abortion is legal in America and therefore we cannot count on the rise of population. On inflation, few management systems, including dictatorships, have been able to control inflation. So where will the money come from to pay this debt? To make the borrowing possible, all nations will be tied together to create a world bank to set up an international economic construct. Keynesian economics has put this construct together so that in the very near future we will have international control of our banking system.

So what is the alternative solution? Yes there is a predictive business cycle but built into the economy there are factors that could pull an economy upward from depression and recessions. During these times, savings would rise and therefore interest rates would fall, making money available for industry to expand thereby helping to create jobs. The economy would slowly rise and with it interest rates, which would cause the economy to eventually weaken. So the cycle would continue. Keynes did not believe this would work and that a nation would remain in a depression. He said that at the bottom of the business cycle there would not be enough savings to reduce interest rates and cause the cycle to move up again. The static values of savings and investment would not work. The business investment and enterprise could not be depended to

work. There was no constant guarantee of an upward movement of the economy. He believe there needed to be a tonic, a catalyst, to get the economy moving again. That tonic was planned government investment.

Did a family need that to pull themselves up? No. So why would a nation. Keynes created a permanent condition of government borrowing and deficit spending. In fact that became the recommended course of action for all nations. People must abandon the insane idea that they can borrow their way out of bankruptcy.

My second reason for speaking tonight is on what is the solution to our continuing budget deficits.

After twenty-four years I have seen it all. The fake budgets and the competing fake budgets. The President in every administration in which I served has not offered a real balanced budget, which included Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid.

I think again we should go back to what Thomas Jefferson said in 1798:

I wish it were possible to obtain a single amendment to our Constitution. I would be willing to depend on that alone for the reduction of the administration of our government to the genuine principles of Constitution. I mean an additional article, taking from the federal government the power of borrowing.

We have had a war in Iraq and President Bush did not put the war effort on budget but instead just offered supplemental spending amendments to cover the cost. This could only be financed by borrowing because the taxpayers would not make the sacrifice to pay for the war so the cost had to be hidden. There were no checks and balances here because the Republicans including myself voted for this spending. But debt will destroy our country. Going back to Jefferson, he reiterated several times that one generation cannot—either morally or in fact—bind another. He stipulated, "No generation can contract debts greater than may be paid during the course of its own existence." And further he said, "... the earth belongs in usufruct (trust) to the living ... the dead have neither powers nor rights over it." If one generation can charge another for its debts, "then the earth would belong to the dead and not to the living generation." Jefferson continued, "The conclusion then is, that neither the representatives of a nation, nor the whole nation itself assembled, can validly engage debts beyond what they may pay in their own time." Madison did not agree and used the example of a large bridge. But Jefferson argued that there could be no exception. Because the power to borrow was too dangerous to allow exceptions—any exceptions would expand to destroy the amendment.

I would strongly argue that the Jefferson amendment is necessary and with the exception of total war, must be paid for by the present generation and even with war the present generation must make sacrifices to pay for the effort.

Another lesson is to limit the power of the federal government through federalism, which I mentioned earlier. This balance between the states, the federal government is the balance that was required to keep the country safe from plutocracy in all its forms and in all its locations—banks, the military, and governments.

The destruction of states' rights and the centralization of power unchecked in the federal government have contributed to what is today called the imperial presidency. It was never intended the President could force through his own legislation without Congress's intervening and reaction. Today Congress pretty much follows the President's desires almost as leadership worship. Isn't his job mainly to be sure that the law of the land is enforced and enact a legal foreign policy? And nothing else.

The Framers of our Constitution realize how important the rule of law was and knew how the English monarchs issued the courts to serve their own purposes. They also understood there could be no order without law, no law without morality, and no morality without religion. They were not secular humanist, that is so prevalent in our country today. The President should spend more time in office protecting these laws.

And lastly, I firmly believe we need to sunset many if not all of the government programs and carefully evaluate the good ones and consolidate programs to protect the taxpayers from duplication and waste. Even with Republican revolution, we could not shut down any government programs. In fact when I had amendments to reduce the budget by 1% across the board, it failed. I have even tried to reduce some programs less than 1% and again Congress did not have the courage to even make this reduction. If Congress cannot do this, then a base-closure commission like we did for the military bases should be set up to eliminate and reduce obsolete and unnecessary government programs. Without this type of action, our government continues to grow and the bureaucracy will ultimately be too strong to counteract.

Time and time again I see votes on the House floor that have a wonderful name to them, such as the Habitat for Pelicans, the Protections of Wildlife Reserve, Save Our Water Restoration Act and so on. The pieces of legislation are brought up under what is called suspension, i.e., without going through regular order with no ability to amend them. They pass overwhelmingly because members just assume they are good. But they cost money and when you are operating in a deficit mode, you cannot afford them. But they pass anyway.

Let me close with what we need in all cases is wisdom, which is not specially directed toward Americans but to all countries and to individuals. There are seven demonstrations of these wisdoms, which we should remind ourselves.

This is from Isaiah 11:1–3 and are the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

1. Fear of the Lord
2. Understanding
3. Knowledge
4. Counsel
5. Strength of purpose
6. Piety
7. Humility

These correct actions by an individual are as important as they are for a country. Without these gifts, no country will last or endure.

As I close my career in Congress, I want to thank my family, especially my lovely wife, Joan, for her constant and continued support and all my loyal supporters for their encouragement and good cheer. God Bless America.

URGING EUROPEAN UNION TO
DESIGNATE HEZBOLLAH AS A
TERRORIST ORGANIZATION

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 31, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I challenge the wisdom of House Resolution (H. Res. 834) which urges the governments of Europe and the European Union to designate Hezbollah a terrorist organization and imposes sanctions.

This resolution could have an effect opposite to that which was intended—to strengthen Israel. The UN Security Council Resolution 1701, which called for the end of hostilities between Hezbollah and Israel, is now being enforced by the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) with the participation of European governments. There are reports that Hezbollah has been cooperating with UNIFIL in stabilizing south Lebanon and that the relationships developed are channels for peaceful dialogue in the future.

Asking Europe to designate Hezbollah a terrorist organization could be counter-productive, increase dangers and lessen the effectiveness of European troops in UNIFIL. There will be adverse consequences of the resolution on the situation in south Lebanon.

I have visited the region and have worked to end the conflict between Israel and Lebanon, even as it was starting. I offered a peace plan to try to end the war. I further visited Lebanon and Israel on after the war. I visited an apartment house in Qana, south Lebanon, which had been destroyed by a bomb which killed fifty women and children.

I brought the bomb fragment back from the site and kept it on display in my office, together with three dog tags of kidnapped Israeli soldiers to remind of the great human tragedy of the conflict, and the suffering on all sides.

The passage of this bill means that Congress must take up the responsibility of making sure that the Lebanese army is sufficiently equipped to protect the country.

At this very moment America is roaming the world strenuously involved in promoting the Art of Governing. In Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Serbia, Yemen, Pakistan, Somalia and all points north and south, east and west, it is our State Department with its large plans, it is our Central Intelligence Agency with its drone strikes, our military by its active presence, our Defense Intelligence Agency, and our military contractors all of whom are the instructors involved in a show of unparalleled force to display not only American power but to make the case for American exceptionalism.

If the machinations concerning the so-called fiscal cliff mean anything, they illustrate the conceit that somehow we have a right to tell others how to govern their affairs, and use our military to enforce our worldview. What is our case for democracy and cooperation elsewhere, if we have such difficulty practicing it or demonstrating it here at home? Where, with our unemployment, mortgage foreclosures, school closings, pension fund collapses, neighborhood violence, oh where is our showcase of democracy?

For all of our foreign entanglements, our military occupations and preoccupations, our spy-in-the-sky-surveillance, death dealing from

drones on high to those who we see as a threat, for all of this—we are not safer.

We may in fact be less safe. There is plenty of evidence to suggest that Al Qaeda has been strengthened by the US support for military action in Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Syria, Yemen and by extrajudicial killings through the use of drones which are exacting a high toll on innocent civilians.

John Quincy Adams once said America “goes not abroad in search of monsters to destroy”. How far we have journeyed from that wise aspiration of a Founding Father?

To paraphrase Shakespeare’s Cassius in Julius Caesar: ‘We act as a Colossus bestride the narrow world . . . and petty men walk under (our) huge legs.’ It is an illusion.

Through our endless interventions, we have lost our way in the wide world, by trying to conquer it. We cannot conquer the world. We cannot rule the world. We cannot be the policeman of the world. We cannot afford it militarily, financially or spiritually. American control of the fate of others in faraway land is an expensive fantasy and can no longer be indulged.

We will spend trillions of dollars in pursuit of a war on terror, which has become like a war against apparitions which shift shapes, loyalties and directions, consumes lives and money and at the end we meet in the distorted mirror of our fears the prophecy of Walt Kelly’s Pogo: “We have met the enemy and he is us.”

The cost of the wars is a threat to our freedom. The money spent for war inevitably comes from pressing domestic needs for job creation, infrastructure rebuilding, education, health care, retirement security. Since 9/11 we have let fear set our priorities and that fear has cost us mightily. It is worth recalling President Eisenhower’s full warning about the undermining of freedom which comes from out of control military spending:

“Our toil, resources and livelihood are all involved; so is the very structure of our society. In the councils of government, we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex. The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists, and will persist. We must never let the weight of this combination endanger our liberties or democratic processes. We should take nothing for granted. Only an alert and knowledgeable citizenry can compel the proper meshing of the huge industrial and military machinery of defense with our peaceful methods and goals so that security and liberty may prosper together.”

The wars have been a disaster for innocent civilians. More than one million innocent Iraqis perished in a war based on lies, a war executed by an American president and vice president who flat out lied to the Congress, lied to the American people, lied to the media and escaped responsibility and accountability because we just moved on.

We will never recover from the tragedy which we wrought upon the people of Iraq, we will never recover from the sordid legacy of torture, rendition, indefinite detention, we will never recover from the effects of 911 unless America has a deep, searching period of Truth and Reconciliation, where the principle decision-makers are required to come before a public tribunal to tell the truth or to face the consequences of their perfidy. We need such a process not only to set straight the historical

record, but to remove the dark stain upon the soul of this nation which an unjust war fixes firmly.

There must be a new role for America in the world, where we can work with the community of nations for comprehensive international law enforcement, to assure security abroad, and protection here at home with democratic governance through strengthening our community safety forces.

This is much to be preferred to the architecture of the national security state here at home which increasingly requires American citizens to give up their civil liberties to achieve a measure of security. Big Brother is hard at work in America, assembling huge databases of personal information, warrantless wiretaps, tracking phone calls, emails and internet searches, watching closely with new networks of cameras, new sophisticated drone technology, observing everything but the US Constitution.

Our right to freedom from unreasonable search and seizure has been annihilated through the legal acrobatics of high technology.

It was Benjamin Franklin who wrote “Those who give up essential liberty to purchase a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety.”

What is outermost in the conduct of our foreign affairs is a reflection of what is innermost in our domestic affairs. And what is innermost in ourselves becomes outermost in our families and our communities. This is the ironclad law of reciprocity in human affairs. It is not simply ‘do unto others as you would have them do unto you’, but as you do unto others, so you do unto yourself.

It may not be possible for the US to bring peace to anywhere except the U.S.

Peace inside the United States is possible. Peace in our communities, our neighborhoods, our homes is possible. Yet the omnipresence of violence in our society mirrors the violence which the United States visits on nations across the globe.

The fate of humanity is written not large in the sky, but in a cursive across the tablet of our heart. How bold we stand for peace and love in our daily lives informs the strength of the impulse of our hearts to radiate outward to establish new conditions of our existence and in the lives of each person we touch.

The peace we claim for ourselves is the peace we can give to others. But it requires conscious thought in every moment. Peace necessarily involves a structured approach, within our lives, intersecting with the lives of others. An awareness of the consequences of our every action, how it affects us and how it affects others.

This is not a theoretical exercise. For the past 16 years, this Congress has been my human relations workshop in which I have tested ideas of conflict resolution, of standing for truth, of fiercely engaging in debate, of moving forthrightly into partisan debates, of negotiating around partisanship, of alignment with another person on matters of personal interest, of even building friendships from the broken pieces of partisan battles.

We are locked into a cultural matrix of thinking which produces violence and we are shocked when its heartbreaking effects emerge. It’s “Us vs. them” thinking, the evocation of enemies, whoever they are.

On a global level, this type of thinking justifies war and brings the slaughter of innocents.