

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN REPEAL

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 1996

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, an UZI is one of the assault weapons considered a weapon of choice for drug traffickers, street gangs, and paramilitary extremist groups. The NRA and the Republican majority want to make this and other cop-killing guns readily available. To do that, they will have to repeal the assault weapons ban—a ban that over 70 percent of the American public favors because it makes the streets safer for our children.

UZIs have no purpose other than to kill people. They are not hunting weapons, they are not used for target practice, they are just used to kill people.

An UZI pistol was used on May 16, 1993, when a man who had been kicked out of a rural Fresno, CA, bar returned the next day with a friend and opened fire, killing seven people and wounding two others. This was the worst massacre in Fresno's history.

An UZI semiautomatic rifle was one of the guns used by James Oliver Huberty, an out-of-work security guard, when he walked into a San Ysidro, CA, McDonald's and killed 21 people.

If we want to avoid more massacres like these, we need to maintain the assault weapons ban.

It is America's children, not the National Rifle Association that this Congress should be protecting. But tomorrow, when many of my colleagues vote to repeal the assault weapons ban, they will be voting to give violent criminals everywhere greater access to deadly weapons that can be used to murder our children, our parents, our brothers and sisters, and our friends.

The Republican party is always claiming that it stands on principle. Now it can stand on the principle of more dead children.

WINNERS OF THE PHOENIXVILLE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESIDENT'S DAY ESSAY CONTEST

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 1996

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Michelle Lin Byrd, Rosalind Newsholme, John Davison, Jenni Kirkhoff, and David Rourke, the winners of the Phoenixville Area Chamber of Commerce President's Day Essay Contest. I am submitting for the record each of their winning essays. Each of these students has composed a remarkable essay applauding a President who had to make a necessary, but unpopular decision, such as the decision made by President

Lincoln to issue the Emancipation Proclamation. Other winning entries included Truman's decision to fire MacArthur, his decision to drop the atomic bomb on Japan, Ford's pardoning of Nixon, and Roosevelt's introduction of the New Deal. Each of these controversial decisions was, in retrospect, in the best interests of the American people despite being initially met with uncertainty and opposition.

The leaders of our time are met with the same difficult decisions, and we must continue to act in the best interest of the American people. One of the most important decisions that faces us today concerns education. However, the decision to cultivate the education of our children should not be met with controversy or skepticism. As a former teacher and the father of five, I believe the highest priority for our school system is teaching our students about the rich history of America. Learning about the history of the United States, including the mistakes of our Forefathers and their great triumphs, is the key to good citizenship and involvement in Government. George Santayana once said that "those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it." By understanding the actions and events of our ancestors, we can create a better future.

I hope that all of the entrants of the Phoenixville Area Chamber of Commerce President's Day Contest, not just the students recognized here, will gain a new appreciation for the importance of our history. Perhaps some insight gained through their research will influence some of these students to become involved in their government.

Mr. Speaker, I commend these students for their achievement and I know that my colleagues join me in honoring the success of these outstanding students. I would like to thank the Phoenixville Area Chamber of Commerce for offering this opportunity to the students of Phoenixville, and I would also like to thank The Phoenix for printing the winning essays and for promoting the contest.

HARRY S. TRUMAN

Harry S. Truman, our thirty-third president, was born on May 8, 1884 in Lamar, Missouri. He was a member of the democratic party and was in office from 1945 to 1953. Truman worked his way up in politics from judge to senator to vice president and finally to president of the United States. When Roosevelt died on April 12, 1945 Truman became president. He had a difficult task of learning to be effective in his office because Roosevelt had made no effort to train him for his future responsibilities. He learned simply by dealing with the problem that faced him.

Truman tried to carry out the politics that Roosevelt had begun to establish. This included the unconditional surrender of Germany on May 8th and the establishing of the United Nations. Truman then had to make a decision about the World War II. He had to make a decision that might end up being unpopular. Truman decided to use the atomic bomb against Japan. He believed that this would end the war quickly and save lives. He thought that it would put the United States in a position to help revolutionize Japanese life. When people look back at the situation now there seems to have been other ways to

end the war, such as negotiated settlements, but these options were not as obvious back then. Truman made the decision he thought that would be the best decision.

Presidents of the past, the present and the future have and will make choices that will be unpopular but necessary. I believe that of the choices of the past have made the United States the great country that we are privileged to live in today.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

Franklin D. Roosevelt was the 32nd President of the United States of America. As President, he had to make a lot of decisions. Some of them were popular and some were not. A very unpopular decision at the time was his New Deal. The New Deal was to have unemployment insurance, retirement programs, wage and hour laws, housing for the poor, and jobs for the needy all as the responsibility of the Federal Government. It is important to remember that this was the 1930's when nothing like this existed. However, many people didn't like this decision because it was very new and they didn't trust it. They also thought that the government was trying to interfere with their lives. Employers didn't like the minimum wage and hours because they had less power over their workers. Although the New Deal was unpopular at the time, people started getting used to it and began to accept it. It is now all a very necessary part of the American way of life. I think that in a way this decision was good because it shows how our government is for the people.

GERALD R. FORD

Gerald Ford, our 38th president, was the only president elected neither to the presidency nor to the vice presidency. He attempted during his term to restore the nation's confidence in a government tarnished by the Watergate scandal.

Ford became vice president when Richard Nixon's vice president Spiro T. Agnew resigned. Nine months later, on August 9, 1974, President Nixon resigned as president under threat of impeachment, and Gerald Ford was sworn in as our president.

One of his first and most debatable acts was to pardon Nixon for all federal crimes he might have committed in office. This made him extremely unpopular. I think this was a necessary decision, because, we couldn't let this drag on and on, like the O.J. Simpson trial. This country had a high inflation rate and the highest unemployment rate since the depression. These were more important problems to solve than Watergate. It was time for the nation to start healing and get on with the important issues facing the American people.

In his two and a half years as president Gerald Ford lowered the inflation rate from 11.2 to 5.3 percent, he also lowered the unemployment rate. Even after all this he could not win the presidential election in 1976, because, the public only remembered him as the man who pardoned Richard Nixon.

TRUMAN FIRES MACARTHUR

In 1951 this headline shook the U.S. and the world. On April 5 Harry Truman was furious at MacArthur and decided he must go. For five days he kept this secret until they could decide on a replacement. They decided on Lieut. General Matthew Ridgway.

• 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.