in Tailhook, and certainly those kinds of abuses have to be rooted out. But it is despicable to abandon due process, the chain of command and any sensible approach to fairness, ruining so many careers in the process.

The Stan Arthur case is a classic example, repealed hundreds of times at lesser and less visible grades. He flew more than 300 combat missions in Vietnam and led the Navy forces in Desert Storm. An impeccable career. A leader who really inspired young kids in the service. He was asked as vice chief to review a decision denying a female helicopter pilot her designation. He came to the conclusion that she could not meet the qualifications. For that he was cashiered, because everybody was afraid—afraid of Pat Schroeder and her McCarthyite slurs, afraid of the White House commissars, afraid of the media.

A DANGEROUS CALLING

The Navy is not just another bureaucracy in the government. Naval service is a dangerous calling that requires the highest professional standards to defend the U.S. and its interests. What an outrage that we are cashiering and promoting people based on reasons that have nothing to do with their readiness to fight the conflicts of this country.

Fifteen years ago and after, I came in for my share of abuse. But as a presidential appointee I was supposed to be politically accountable. Generally my successors and I give as good as we get: I for instance can afford libel lawyers. The new and ugly phase of recent years, however, has brought career officers into the line of fire for the first time—and a viciously personal fire it is. Career professionals are not prepared or trained for it, they lack the means to defend against it, and they don't deserve it. We can only hope that Mike Boorda's tragic death will awaken some basic decency in our leadership and the crusade will end before it does irreparable damage to our nation's defense.

[From the Wall Street Journal, Tuesday, May 21, 1996]

MIKE BOORDA, RIP

We say ''nuts'' to the medals teapot; we're going to remember Admiral Boorda for what he did to the Serbs' jets.

Before he was called back to the Navy's CNO, Admiral Boorda was the commander of NATO forces in southern Europe, which is to say the top U.S. commander involved in the conflict in Bosnia. One day he found himself in authority, perhaps through some oversight at the U.N., just as Serbian jets were flouting the U.N.'s ban on their flights. So he ordered them shot down, just as they were starting bombing runs on population centers.

Similarly, when Cuban MiGs shot down American-owned planes over international waters, his first reaction, according to a good source, was: where are my Tomahawk shooters. In the end, of course, the U.S. did not launch Tomahawk cruise missiles at Cuban airfields, nor did the Boorda airstrike end the war in Bosnia. But shooting down four Serbian jets was the most vigorous action anyone at NATO or the U.N. took against a particularly disgusting aggressor.

Mike Boorda, in short, had more than the usual ration of political courage, which makes his suicide all the more perplexing and mysterious. By the weekend, the media had pretty much exhausted the tempest over the medals and got around to the main issue: Tailhook, and the pressures still radiating through the Navy under Commander in Chief Bill Clinton.

Good military officers don't shift blame for breakdowns on their watch, and Admiral Boorda bore the brunt for what the political furies of Tailhook did to the careers of Admiral Stanley Arthur, Commander Robert Stumpf and many others less prominent. The legendary Admiral Arthur's promotion to the Pacific Command fell through on Admiral Boorda's watch. In an interview after he had agreed to pull the plug on the promotion, the CNO said: ''Certainly Stan Arthur is paying a penalty. And the country's paying a penalty. He's not serving in a job where he would have been superb.''

That incident is being revisited in the suicide's aftermath. The Navy command withdrew the nomination after Senator Dave Durenberger, of all people, made Admiral Arthur the target of feminists for supporting an instructor's decision that a female pilot was below standard and should not fly. In fact, the decision to wreck Admiral Arthur's career was assented to by the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Navy, the Chairman of the Joints Chiefs and the Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

This is the same Armed Services Committee, under Sam Nunn, that held a secret session to waive through the nomination of John Dalton to be Secretary of Navy amid questions raised about Mr. Dalton's dealings during the 1980s in the Texas S&L industry. Mr. Dalton, who later worked for Stephens Inc. of Arkansas, vehemently denies any wrongdoing, and the solons of the Senate get red-faced at the suggestion that they gave Mr. Dalton special treatment. And indeed it's not a widely known story. But ask the next Naval officer you meet if he knows about it.

This year, with Tailhook's eternal bonfire still burning, Secretary Dalton withdrew the promotion of Commander Robert Stumpf, even after his own investigation had cleared the commander of any Tailhook taint. Admiral Boorda was on the bridge for that one, too. Earlier in the process, Admiral Boorda tried to help Commander Stumpf, but he couldn't. Instead he was directed to withdraw Commander Stumpf's nomination. When asked this Sunday morning about his department's handling of these personnel matters, Navy Secretary Dalton said, ''I feel good about the decisions we've made.

The attitude within the Navy is no doubt captured by former Navy Secretary John Lehman in his article nearby. James Webb, another former Secretary, delivered a searing speech at the Naval Academy last month, speaking of ''the destruction of the careers of some of the finest aviators in the Navy based on hearsay and unsubstantiated allegations.'' He wondered ''what admiral has had the courage to risk his own career by putting his stars on the table, and defending the integrity of the process and of his people?''

For some reason, this country does not have a tradition of honorable resignation on principle, as exists elsewhere. America's government is a huge and hugely powerful force, and its high officials, even as they disagree bitterly, tend to let it sweep them forward. It might be healthier for all if on occasion they said what they truthfully felt, and quit.

Admiral Boorda left behind a single-page note addressed to ''the sailors.'' The Pentagon's story is that releasing this note is a decision for the family, and sympathy for their tragedy is appropriate. The fact remains that the Navy as an institution has been rocked to its foundations, and if Mike Boorda had something to say about that, everyone serving in the Navy should be entitled to read it.

Today there will be a memorial service for Admiral Boorda, and President Bill Clinton will deliver the eulogy over his career and life.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio [Ms. KAPTUR] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. MICA] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. MICA addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. RIGGS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. RIGGS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

EDUCATION CAUCUS OF THE U.S. CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Louisiana [Mr. FIELDS] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. FIELDS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, Members of the House, tonight I rise to talk about an issue that every person in America, every person in this Congress, has a great interest in, and that is the issue of education.

We often talk about the need to provide a college education to our children across this country, and Members of this Congress, about 72 in number, decided to come together to form something called an Education Caucus. Members of the House, as well as Members of the Senate, decided that for the first time in this Congress, we needed to concentrate our efforts on a group of people who believe that we should push education forward in this country, should meet as a caucus, and organize as a caucus, and push legislation and appropriations as relates to education in both the House and the Senate.

I am very pleased that so many Members of this Congress have decided to participate in this caucus and to move it forward, and tonight, I am just making a simple plea to all Members of the Congress on both sides of the aisle to take an interest and to join a caucus that we consider to be one of the caucuses of the future of this Congress, a caucus that believes in bipartisanship because education is an issue that both Democrats and Republicans can agree on.

I would like to mention that Senator WELLSTONE will be chairing the caucus, co-chairing the caucus with myself. Senator WELLSTONE has been working very diligently in the caucus on the Senate side, and we have now organized such that we have even a whip operation in the caucus, and tonight I want to talk about some of those national organizations who are concerned about