

1998: THE YEAR OF ARMS CONTROL

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 1998

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to my colleagues' attention a recent op-ed by Senator JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr., entitled *Let 1998 Be the Year of Arms Control*. The excellent article appeared in the *Christian Science Monitor* on February 23, 1998.

I ask that this article be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

The article follows:

[From the *Christian Science Monitor*, Feb. 23, 1998]

LET 1998 BE THE YEAR OF ARMS CONTROL

(By Joseph R. Biden, Jr.)

An increasingly chaotic world demands US leadership across a wide front. From NATO enlargement to Bosnia to Iraq to the Asian economic crisis to the United Nations, the US carries a heavy load.

But those aren't the only problems we face. Arms control has become the forgotten stepchild in foreign policy. We face grave threats to the safety and well-being of the American people. To meet them, the president and Congress should give higher priority to critical arms control initiatives this year.

First, we should implement the Chemical Weapons Convention. Last April, the US ratified the Chemical Weapons Convention outlawing poison gas. Russia, China, India, Iran, and many others also joined. China and India admitted for the first time to having chemical weapons and related facilities, which must be destroyed under the treaty.

But the US is now in violation of the treaty because Congress has failed to enact legislation needed to bring us into compliance. The national security consequences are serious. Until we come into compliance, for example, the US cannot effectively demand that Iran declare and destroy all its chemical weapons facilities—which potentially threaten US forces in Saudi Arabia and the Persian Gulf.

Second, we should ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. CTBT will inhibit nuclear powers from developing new classes of nuclear weapons and make it extremely difficult for non-nuclear countries to develop sophisticated nuclear weapons at all. Limiting other countries' nuclear efforts will enhance our deterrent posture, which remains vital to world security. It is no accident that the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff and his four immediate predecessors have all endorsed ratification of this treaty.

BACKING NONPROLIFERATION

The non-nuclear states consider CTBT an act of good faith by the nuclear powers, in return for their agreeing to permanent nuclear nonproliferation. If we were to reject CTBT and resume testing, as treaty opponents have urged, the nuclear nonproliferation regime could well collapse.

Third, we should ratify the START and ABM Treaty "strategic package." After the Russian Duma ratifies START II, President Clinton will submit to the Senate a package of modifications to the START treaties and the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty. These needed modifications will pave the way for further control of strategic missiles and nuclear warheads under START III and safeguard our ABM research programs.

Some Republicans would kill the ABM treaty outright. That, in turn, would kill the START process: Russia will not give up its

dangerous multiple-warhead missiles if the US moves to build nationwide missile defenses. Scuttling START would be costly and harmful to US national security and would undermine continued adherence to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty by non-nuclear states.

Rejection of the ABM treaty succession agreement would also alienate Ukraine and Kazakhstan. These two nations view the ABM agreement as validating their sovereignty vis-a-vis Russia. If we reject the treaty, they might seek nuclear weapons for protection, thus increasing the risk of a nuclear war in Europe.

Fourth, we should ratify an Anti-Personnel Landmine Protocol. Landmines have produced carnage from Angola to Bosnia, from Afghanistan to Cambodia. The Ottawa Convention banning these mines is controversial. As an alternative, the Senate can and should approve the amended landmine protocol to the Convention on Conventional Weapons, which would limit their use, require safety features, establish an obligation to clean up minefields, and extend the law to civil wars, as well as international ones.

The protocol, which is supported by many powers that would not sign the Ottawa Convention, could save innocent lives while we work to make a worldwide ban feasible for all countries.

INCLUDE LIGHT WEAPONS

Fifth, we should seek to control light weapons. We limit weapons of mass destruction, but there are few if any restraints on the most pervasive weapons. From border wars to civil wars to drug wars, the weapons of choice are the military assault rifle, the grenade, and the mortar. American tourists, students, missionaries, and business people have already fallen victim to these weapons. It is in our national interest to control them. The US supports voluntary bans on arms sales to the warring parties in Afghanistan and should explore the potential for other embargoes. The most effective short-term approach may be embargoes on ammunition. But this will work only if other light-arms producers join in. As a first step, Congress should urge US discussions with our European allies on a joint policy.

Arms buy-back programs can also work, if we help protect people who turn in their arms and offer them a decent livelihood. The US assisted a successful buy-back program in Mali, and Congress should fund more such efforts.

This ambitious wish-list will not be completed in a single year. But these issues affect the safety and lives of our citizens, and we should start addressing them.

HONORING THE CENTRAL FAIRFAX CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PUBLIC SAFETY AWARD WINNERS

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 1998

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce Public Safety Award Winners. The Public Safety Awards honor the City of Fairfax's finest Police Officers and Fire & Rescue personnel who have gone above and beyond the call of duty on a daily basis. On Thursday, February 26, 1998, the Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce will present the Annual Public Safety Awards to these brave public servants at the Fairfax City Holiday Inn.

1997 Officer of the Year: Detective Albert L. Leightley, III. On October 10, 1997, Detective Leightley successfully apprehended two credit card fraud suspects. From his interview with these suspects and from further investigations, Detective Leightley was led to other accomplices. By the time Detective Leightley closed this case, he had eight criminal arrests and had assisted the surrounding jurisdictions in closing numerous criminal cases of their own. Detective Leightley is known for solving the "impossible" larceny cases, often given few facts, leads or physical evidence. He has an outstanding record of closing forty-nine percent of his cases with a sixty-four percent arrest rate for 1997.

1997 Dispatcher of the Year: Betty I. Powers. On September 21, 1997, Dispatcher Powers was working alone in communications when two serious incidents occurred almost simultaneously. She remained calm under pressure as she dispatched police and fire department support to a felony traffic stop and to a hostile fight situation. This is just one of many examples of the professionalism and dedication to duty routinely displayed by Dispatcher Powers.

1997 Firefighter/Paramedic of the Year: Fire Medic Bruce Suslowitz. During the seven years Fire Medic Suslowitz has been with the Fairfax City Fire Department, he has consistently performed outstanding service to those in need. He has gained the trust and faith of his patients with his compassionate, caring and professional manner. He has not only been an invaluable asset to the community but to the Fire & Rescue Department as well. He has participated on numerous department committees, created several public service programs, and has served as a mentor to Paramedic interns.

1997 Lifesaving Award: Officer Eduardo J. Azcarate. In the early morning hours of September 21, 1997, Officer Azcarate was dispatched to George Mason University to provide assistance in ending a large fight. When he arrived on the scene, he rushed to the aid of a stabbing victim. While his fellow officers controlled the crowd, Officer Azcarate performed rescue breathing on the victim until Fire & Rescue units arrived. Officer Azcarate helped saved the victim's life by stepping into a hostile situation and without hesitation, performing emergency medical intervention.

1997 Lifesaving Award: Battalion Chief Kenneth Hahn. On July 17, 1997, Battalion Chief Hahn responded to the home of a man who was having chest pains, but did not want fire department aid. The man insisted on waiting for his friend to take him to the hospital. Battalion Chief Hahn was concerned for the man's well-being and insisted on staying with the man until his friend got there. Ten minutes later, the man went into cardiac arrest. Battalion Chief Hahn quickly called to help, and initiated Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation until more fire department assistance arrived. Battalion Chief Hahn then addressed the concerns of the man's family and friends. Battalion Chief Hahn's conscientious actions were vital in saving this man's life.

1997 Lifesaving Award: Captain John Ahrens and Fire Medic William Schwarz. On September 29, 1997, Medic 33 was dispatched for an obstetrical emergency. When Captain Ahrens and Fire Medic Schwarz arrived, they found a woman lying on her back with a 2 month premature infant on her chest.

Captain Ahrens and Fire Medic Schwarz worked feverishly to resuscitate the little boy. They were continually challenged to improvise and reassess all treatment efforts due to the extremely small size of their patient. Due to their professional, capable, and highly competent performance under difficult circumstances, the infant was delivered to the emergency room with the best possible chances for survival.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to send my sincere gratitude and heartfelt appreciation to those distinguished public servants who are truly deserving of the title "hero." Their professionalism and initiatives have earned them the well deserved Public Safety Awards from the Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce. It is because of these outstanding public servants and their peers that Fairfax City continues to be one of the finest cities in the world.

RECOMMENDING AN ARTICLE BY
R.C. SPROUL, JR.

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 1998

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recommend to my colleagues the following article by a young writher, R.C. Sproul, Jr., the son of the remarkable theologian and author. While this article is indeed instructive and important in regards to the recent situation with Iraq, I believe that the author does a fine job addressing the much broader topic of following the Constitution in all matters, including those of inciting war and promoting peace. His article was written for *CovSyn*, which is a publication of the Kuyper Institute, in Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

Our founding fathers formed our government to ensure that no single person could have complete power or authority over any aspect of government; to give anyone that kind of power is to invite tyranny.

I urge my colleagues to read and consider Mr. Sproul's article. We all took an oath to uphold the Constitution: an oath which we must take seriously if we are to promote liberty, peace and civil society.

BOMBING THE CONSTITUTION

By R.C. Sproul, Jr.

When was the last time the United States went to war? That's not exactly an easy question to answer. If, however, the Constitution is in fact the law of the land, the answer is December 8, 1941. You see, the Constitution says that only the Congress has the power to declare war on another nation. That would seem to mean that without such a declaration, there is no war. Some kept this pretense the first time the United States went to war after World War II. Some called the Korean War a "police action." Vietnam, though there was again no declaration of war, was known as a war.

Since Vietnam U.S. soldiers have shot at soldiers from other countries, and been shot at, in Libya, Grenada, Panama, Somalia, the former Yugoslavia, and Iraq. And it appears we're going to non-war again in Iraq sometime soon. Where, to quote Mr. Dole, is the outrage? How is it that the Constitution can be so brazenly ignored?

Some argue that in an age of intercontinental ballistic missiles, that the requirement for a Congressional declaration is out-

dated. In none of the above "non-wars" however, have such missiles constituted a treat to American safety. And even if such were the case, why not change the Constitution to reflect the current situation?

Others suggest that we have no need for this old rule since we now have the "War Powers Act" which gives congressional approval for the President to use the military freely within a certain time frame. But that's not at all the same thing. The Constitution no where gives the Congress the right to shirk their role as declarers of war.

Still others try to argue that the United Nations security council now serves that role. Again though, the Constitution says nothing about giving them this role. Neither does it say that a sufficient number of handshakes with Madelaine Albright shall be a substitute for Congressional action.

And still some go on insisting that these conflicts aren't wars. With the U.S.S. Nimitz in the Suez Canal, with 3,000 ground troops being sent to join the 1,500 already in Kuwait, with Stealth bombers lined up and ready to go, this is nonsense. When soldiers shoot at each other, whether they're in a foxhole, or in a room full of computers, or 35,000 feet in the air, that's war.

The only explanation I can think of is that no one really knows what the Constitution says. And while I'm not surprised that government school products would be ignorant (how can they know the Constitution when they can't read it?), what frightens me is that each and every soldier, from the buck private loading the cargo planes, to the lieutenants fresh out of ROTC, to the Commander-in-Chief, all of them have take a solemn oath to uphold and protect the Constitution.

These United States are no longer operating under the Constitution. We, like those great nations which have come and gone before us, have sunk to the level of empire. And you, friend, are no free man or woman, but just another subject. Remember that as you wave that flag in honor of the bombing heroes.

1998 CONGRESSIONAL OBSERVANCE
OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. GLENN POSHARD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to join my colleagues today in a celebration of Black History Month. We have come together today to remember the struggle of African-Americans, to commemorate their accomplishments and to honor their contributions. While it is my sincere hope that my fellow citizens do this every day of the year, it is nonetheless appropriate that we set aside the month of February to pay special attention to both the history and future of African-Americans in this country.

As a former history teacher and a longtime scholar of American history, I am very familiar with and deeply grateful for the countless contributions that African-Americans have made to American identity, culture, science, literature, arts and so much more. I am continually fascinated by the depth and intricacy of the American experience throughout history, and I recognize the critical role that the African-American community has played in its development.

I represent the great state of Illinois, and in particular a congressional district rich in history. Illinois is fittingly known as the Land of Lincoln, a state which boasts the childhood home of Abraham Lincoln, the site of his first law practice, the venue for the Lincoln-Douglas debates, and the State Capitol in Springfield, where Mr. Lincoln spent a portion of his venerable political career. I am enormously proud to have served in that same legislative body, working always in the shadow of the memory of the man who had the courage to declare that under a system of slavery, our nation could never be truly free.

Near Shawneetown, Illinois, there is a unique historical landmark known as the Old Slave House, which was built in 1834. During the pre-Civil War era, the Old Slave House served as a holding place for escaped slaves who had been captured and were awaiting return to their owners. The Slave House is the only known remaining structure to have been used by kidnappers operating a sort of "reverse" Underground Railroad and is considered a key site by researchers and historians seeking to preserve relics of this critical time in American history. I am committed to ensuring that the Old Slave House and other sites receive the recognition and protection necessary for their preservation, so that future generations may benefit from the important lessons they have to teach.

Mr. Speaker, let me close by urging my colleagues and all Americans to embrace the opportunities provided by the celebration of Black History Month. This is a chance to educate a new generation about the experiences and contributions of African-Americans. This is an opportunity to pay tribute to the prominent African-Americans who have given so much to this country throughout its history. And perhaps most importantly, this month should serve as a somber reminder of a grim history of hundreds of years of slavery. Let us never forget what came before and let us never cease our efforts to rid this great nation of the racial discrimination that has for so long been used to justify it.

TRIBUTE TO SELMA LARSON

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 1998

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say a few words about one of my constituents, whose tireless efforts on behalf of senior citizens deserves respect and recognition.

Selma Larson is a columnist for the *Adrian Daily Telegram* in Adrian, Michigan. Her focus for a number of years has been on issues impacting senior citizens. Along with her column, she hosts forums to give voice to the concerns of seniors.

Selma doesn't expect you to agree with her on every issue. And, as it should be, she does not hesitate to take public servants to task when she holds a different view. But her commitment to improving the quality of life of our senior citizens is unquestionable. I always take note of her opinions and value her insights very much. In a very unique and important way, Selma Larson ably conveys to me the views of like-minded seniors in Lenawee