

CONGRESS MAINTAINS POWER TO DECLARE WAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. SKAGGS) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. SKAGGS. Mr. Speaker, as the country and this body battles to find some clarity in the back and forth between the salacious and the fallacious, there are actually some significant and important things going on in Washington and in Congress.

One of those has to do with the fact that we may be on the verge of launching a NATO attack under United States leadership against the country of Yugoslavia because of the awful, awful conduct of the security forces of Yugoslavia under the direction of President Milosevic in going after innocent civilians in Kosovo.

One of the important aspects of this unfolding story and policy has to do with the question of whether, as the United States undertakes this effort, whether we do so in compliance with the requirements of our own Constitution.

Article I Section 8 of the Constitution provides very clearly that it is Congress that has the power to make war, whether it is a limited war or a more general war. The power to initiate offensive military action against another country with which we are at least nominally at peace is not a question that resides in the Executive Branch of government but here in the Legislative Branch.

Unfortunately, the history of the post World War II era in the United States is a history of the disuse and the disregard of this very important responsibility provided for in the Constitution and assigned to the Congress. Basically we have had a succession of Presidents who have asserted an ever broader definition of their exclusive authority to initiate military action.

We encounter now, in the face of the pending Kosovo matter the argument of, "Well, everyone else has done it, why can President Clinton not assert this very broad reach of presidential authority?"

The Secretary of State in testimony to Congress earlier this year basically said that it is the Administration's view that the President as commander in chief has the inherent power under the Constitution to take military action in defense of United States interests abroad as the President sees and defines them.

In the face of this post World War II history, we have a parallel and unfortunate history of congressional acquiescence. There are lots of reasons for that. Suffice it to say that, if it is in fact our responsibility that is at stake here, it is up to Congress to assert it and to protect it.

The situation in Kosovo presents a pretty stark set of facts to which this provision of our Constitution ought to apply. We recognize Yugoslavia as a

sovereign independent nation. The United States recognizes Kosovo as an integral part of Yugoslavia. It does not recognize a right to an independent Kosovo. There has been no attack by Yugoslav forces against the United States or our allies. And yet, we nonetheless propose as U.S. policy with our NATO allies to initiate an attack against Yugoslavia.

Let me say it may very well be that the behavior of Yugoslav security forces and President Milosevic is an adequate cause for war. But, again, if there were ever a case in which the war power responsibility of the Congress is clear and ought to be invoked, it is under these facts and circumstances. It is not that Congress has "a" role, is supposed to be consulted or whatever: we have "the" role in making this decision.

Remember the inherent wisdom that the framers of the Constitution had in drafting this provision as they did. They realized it would be unwise to leave with any single individual, the President of the United States, the power to take the country into war. They realized it was essential to involve the people's Representatives in Congress in such a momentous decision and to have them examine thoroughly the implications and consequences of initiating warfare. They realized that it would be important for the American people, through their representatives, to be involved from the beginning in such an undertaking because it is the people's wealth and lives that will be put at stake in any military undertaking.

We have learned since then that our own military leadership recognizes the importance of Congress taking this step at the beginning, because it means that there will be a full debate and a full effort to make sure that there is national support for such a military undertaking.

So this is the right thing for us to do. It is the right way for us to do it. It would be wrong for Congress to stand by again and permit President Clinton to take the country into war without prior authorization.

CONGRESS MUST PROVIDE LEADERSHIP ON FOREIGN POLICY MATTERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRBACHER) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, as the Congress moves forward via the Committee on the Judiciary's impeachment hearings, it is useful to understand that this administration's shortcomings are not confined to extramarital affairs. Six years into this administration, our country is in jeopardy. With little awareness by the public, we are facing a multitude of critical national security threats and foreign policy debacles.

My fellow Americans, mistakes being made today imperil our children and future generations. The sad fact is that this administration has no credible foreign policy. Our weakness and vacillation emboldens tyrants throughout the world from China to Afghanistan to North Korea to Serbia to Cambodia to Iraq. It encourages these regimes to, not only brutalize their own people, but to create regional instability, to threaten Americans, and to threaten others as well with terrorism, and, for the first time, to develop and deploy technologies that directly threaten the continental United States.

How many Americans know that Communist North Korea is the largest recipient of U.S. foreign aid in Asia? In fact, Communist North Korea, this brutal regime that starves its own people to develop weapons of mass destruction, this Stalinist regime that threatens the stability of Asia is perhaps one of the top five recipients of foreign aid in the world.

How many Americans know this? How many Americans know that we have given into that regime into blackmail from that very same regime, and that is why they are receiving that foreign aid?

How many Americans know that, on the day that President Clinton visited Communist China, that that dictatorship tested a new rocket engine for a missile that can hit the United States? There was no response from President Clinton or his entourage, yet they knew that that engine was being tested.

This is the same brutal regime that represses religious believers and democratic reformers, the same regime that gets a preferential trade status enabling it to flood our markets to the tune of a \$60 billion trade surplus a year, which they then use to build weapons that may someday attack Americans.

As I speak, the select committee of the gentleman from California (Mr. COX) is finding more and more evidence that the Clinton administration has permitted the transfer of American technology to upgrade Communist Chinese missiles and other weapons systems.

How many Americans know that, due to this administration's determined opposition, that our country has no missile defense system to stop a missile whether it is from China or elsewhere from hitting the United States?

How many Americans know that the Taliban extremists in Afghanistan, who are like the Nazi's were to Jews, the Taliban are to women throughout the world, how many people know that this group, the Taliban, who are the largest exporters and suppliers of heroin in the world and have made their country into a safe haven for anti-American terrorists, that this bad bunch has had the tacit support of the Clinton administration?

How many Americans know that, due to the Clinton's administrations nonsensical military deployment and other

policies, that our military is now at its lowest rate of readiness since before World War II?

All of this adds up to reckless incompetence or worse. The world economy is sinking. This administration has done everything in its power to tie our national well-being to the crooks and tyrants throughout the world who would drag us down all in the name of creating a global economy.

Going into the next Congress, we have got serious work to do. If the President and his staff are incapable of providing the leadership this country needs to keep us safe, to ensure our prosperity, then we must step forward, and Congress must stand up and take the leadership role.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NETHERCUTT). Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 59 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Reverend James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

O gracious God, from the beginning You have known us and Your grace has been our constant blessing, and so we pray on this day that Your gifts will be upon us depending on our need and our concerns. If lives need healing or recovery, grant strength and hope; if lives need forgiveness, grant mercy and pardon; if lives need vision beyond self-centered designs, grant the freedom of truth and the openness that comes when we see others as created by Your eternal hand. So we thank You, O God, that we can all share in Your blessings and in the bounty of Your free gifts. Bless us this day and everyday, we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CUMMINGS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

IN MEMORY OF FORMER MEMBER D. FRENCH SLAUGHTER, JR.

(Mr. BLILEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great sadness I announce the death of French Slaughter, Junior, our former colleague from Culpeper, Virginia. French represented the Seventh District with honor and integrity. I am proud to be one of his successors as the Representative from the Seventh District of Virginia.

First and foremost, French was devoted to his constituents. French was a native of Culpeper and represented the Seventh District for 7 years in Congress. Prior to his service in Congress, French was devoted to his country and his constituents.

French served in the U.S. Army as an infantryman and earned the Purple Heart and Bronze Star during the Battle of the Bulge. After the war, he earned both a Bachelor's Degree and a law degree from the University of Virginia.

From 1958 to 1978 he served in the Virginia House of Delegates and championed legislation creating Virginia's community college system. He served on the Board of Visitors of the University of Virginia and Germanna College.

Elected to Congress in 1985, he constantly focused on constituent services. French was a great friend whom I could trust. I always knew I could rely on French for help during our service together in the House. French was and will always be a Virginia gentleman. My prayers are with his family.

French Slaughter was a legislator devoted to his constituents. No request from his constituents was too small. It in an era when C-SPAN first projected our speeches nationwide, French preferred to stay out of the limelight and focus on constituent service.

French heard the call of his nation during the perilous days of World War II. French was a student at Virginia Military Institute when he postponed his studies and joined the United States Army as an infantryman. While serving with the Army's 84th Division, French was wounded in action at the Battle of the Bulge in 1944. French was awarded the Purple Heart and Bronze Star for his actions that day.

After the war, French returned to school and earned a bachelor degree and a law degree from the University of Virginia. During the late 50's, French won a seat in the Virginia House of Delegates. During his 20 years of service, he often ran without opposition because of his faithfulness to constituent service. In 1966, he sponsored legislation to establish Virginia's Community College system. Upon his retirement from the House of Delegates, French was a member of the Board of Visitors of his alma mater from 1978 to 1982. French contin-

ued to find ways to stay active in the community because public service was his calling.

Like a true Virginian, French had a deep appreciation for the history of his native soil, and a love for passing on that heritage. He served as a loyal board member and attorney for The Memorial Foundation of the Germanna Colonies in Virginia, Inc., a foundation that continues to convey the heritage of the first European settlement on the Rapidan River by German Calvinists and Lutherans beginning in 1714. As a Germanna Colonies board member, he was instrumental in persuading the Foundation to donate 100 acres of the original 1714 settlement to the Commonwealth in order to build Germanna Community College. French also served on the Germanna College's board from 1978 to 1985. I am proud to say the main building at Germanna College is named in his honor.

French heard one more call to duty and served his constituents in Congress from 1985 to 1991. During his tenure in Congress, French served on the Judiciary, Small Business and Science Committees in Congress. Once again, French championed constituent service for the people of Manassas, Winchester, Charlottesville, Fredericksburg, and most importantly, Culpeper during his service in Congress. French focused his legislative efforts on interests of interest to the elderly, particularly health care. French favored a balanced budget amendment while opposing tax increases. French's conservative agenda for smaller government served the people of the Virginia Seventh District well during his seven years in Congress.

French was also very kind to keep me informed of the days events on the floor of the House of Representatives. French was a great friend with whom I could trust. He will be sorely missed by many. My prayers are with his family during this sad time.

French is survived by his son, D. French Slaughter, III of Charlottesville; a daughter, Kathleen Slaughter Smith of Gilbert, Arizona; nine grandchildren; a brother, Johnson Slaughter of Houston; and a niece, Connie Slaughter Koenig, also of Houston.

TAXPAYER FUNDS SHOULD NOT BE USED FOR INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND BAILOUTS

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, Russia got \$20 billion, Asia got over \$100 billion, and now International Monetary Fund wants a \$30 billion bailout for Brazil. That is right, the same Brazil that illegally dumps millions of tons of steel in America, below the production cost, destroying American jobs and American families.

Unbelievable. Think about it. Bailout for Russia, they sell missiles to our enemy; bailout to Asia and Japan, they rip us off with illegal trade; bailout to Brazil, they destroy American jobs. What is next, a bailout for Saddam Hussein?

We are not playing monopoly down here. These are taxpayer dollars. Enough is enough. Last I heard it was Uncle Sam, not Uncle Sucker. I yield