

In fact, Mr. Speaker, to get their support, before the markup of the National Security Revitalization Act we reached out and made 32 specific changes in the bill. This was not some piece of legislation jammed down the throats of committee members. In fact, Mr. Speaker, we reached out, and over the weekend before the markup, made changes that Democrats offered to us to enhance the bill and to get their support for that particular piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, in total, the gentleman from South Carolina [Mr. SPENCE], the chairman, allowed 32 separate changes to be made in the chairman's mark. Mr. Speaker, this was in fact a bipartisan bill, a bill that reflects our concern with the direction this administration has been going in terms of national security. We are going to have our debate on the floor, but to somehow attempt to mislead the American people, and there were so many distortions and half-truths that were spoken by our colleagues on the House floor, is a gross injustice, both to this institution and to the American people.

Mr. Speaker, we will have a chance to get all those issues out on the table on Wednesday and Thursday of this week. I look forward to that debate, and I hope that the American people will also be watching the debate and the final vote on restoring our national security interests.

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

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

DEMOCRATIC SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL DEFENSE

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

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I also would like to speak to the issue of what the minority talked about as far as the majority not supporting national defense. I can remember being on this floor, Mr. Speaker, when the majority, or the now-minority, turned their backs on our men and women in Desert Storm, would not support them, and yet we had debate on that issue.

I can remember the first event that they brought up was homosexuals in the military, when the majority of military folks do not want homosexuals in the military.

I remember that most of that same leadership, all of the leadership, voting for Clinton's tax bill, which cut defense \$177 billion, and then also put the highest tax that they had ever had on the American people. They had increased the marginal tax rate of the middle-income taxpayer.

Mr. Speaker, I can look, and when Colin Powell and Dick Cheney and then-candidate Clinton said that anything below \$50 billion would put us into a hollow force, but yet these same Members that are now saying that they are hawks cut defense \$177 billion. Not a single Democrat at the Democratic White House fundraiser put a foot down when military men and women in uniform were serving as waiters. It would have happened at our fundraiser, I guarantee you.

I can remember at the extension of Somalia, we then in the minority voted against it, saying it would cost billions of dollars. Then I also look at how the policy was changed toward General Aided. General Aided is still there, by the way. Then we weakened our strength. Then they denied armor, and then we lost 22 Rangers and 77 wounded. Why? Because the Democratic leadership would not support our troops.

Now they say that we are weakening national security. Twenty-two killed and seventy-seven wounded, with the father of one of those killed that received the Medal of Honor chastising the President.

Mr. Hunter. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. I am happy to yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. HUNTER. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I also thank my colleague, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. WELDON], who is one of our experts on missile defense.

The gentleman is talking about H.R. 7, the Defense Revitalization Act, part of the Contract with America that is coming up in a day or 2 on the House floor. He is one of the few Members of this House, Mr. Speaker, who has had the experience of being shot down by an enemy missile in his illustrious career in serving in Hanoi.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. I don't know if it is illustrious, being shot down.

Mr. HUNTER. But he managed to get five MiG's before they got him.

I guess I would ask my friend, he has seen the language that places us square in the middle of the missile age. That is, it mandates that we develop theater defense against missiles, and we develop a national defense against missiles.

I would asked the gentleman, what is your feeling with respect to our timing? Do you think we are coming too early, too late? What is your opinion with respect to missile defense?

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. I would say to my friend, the gentleman from California, my first concern is yes, I believe looking at Desert Storm and the other, that we need to support missile defense. However, I want to tell the gentleman from California, which may not be the position that he wants, I look at the Air Force. They want the C-17, they want the B-12, they want the F-22, and they want F-15's, and the Navy wants to upgrade F-14's and the Air Force F-115's.

We need to take a balanced look and see how much money is available without taking from the other services. I support missile defense, but I think we have to be real careful with the funds available, and we are cutting down everything.

Mr. HUNTER. I thank the gentleman for his comments.

With respect to national missile defense, what is the gentleman's feeling with respect to what the former Soviet States are doing, and with respect to what China and North Korea are doing?

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Reclaiming my time, Mr. Speaker, the liberal side of the Democratic leadership would tell us that there is no threat from Russia, but yet the Soviet dropped five nuclear-class *Typhoon* submarines last year, that is five nuclear submarines, when we gave them \$1 billion to dismantle nuclear weapons.

They built a MiG 35, which is superior to the SU-27, which is superior to our F-14's and F-15's. They have an AA-10 missile which is superior to our Amram missile, so they are investing in those kinds of weapon systems, while ours are going down.

Mr. Speaker, if we look at what they are doing in pushing out the joint airplane, they are pushing out beyond the year 2010, when we have no chance of building up even to a Bottom-Up Review level.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

AMERICAN MISSILE DEFENSE

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

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. WELDON] and then to my friend, the gentleman from California [Mr. CUNNINGHAM], to ask first the gentleman from Pennsylvania about his feeling with respect to H.R. 7, the Contract With America, regarding missile defense of the Nation and missile defense of our theater forces.

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

First of all, in response to the comments of my colleague, the gentleman from California [Mr. CUNNINGHAM] the Russians also, as we know, have been selling their submarines. They recently sold at least two submarines to Iran.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Two *Kilo* class. Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. And Iran has been doing very well in the training of those submarines, which presents a whole new threat for us, with Iranians having capability in the seas.

The question of our colleague and friend on missile defense is an important one. This President changed our policy from the Reagan and Bush era with absolutely no warning to this Congress, to say that we no longer need to have a defensive system to protect