

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR DEBATE AND CONSIDERATION OF THREE MEASURES RELATING TO UNITED STATES TROOP DEPLOYMENTS IN BOSNIA

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM LIGHTFOOT

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 1995

Mr. LIGHTFOOT. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to address the deployment of United States troops to Bosnia. I would first like to try to put the situation in a more personal context.

It is early evening. The sun set about an hour ago, it is dark, and you are looking forward to a short rest stop as you make your way from western to eastern Iowa to spend Christmas with family and friends.

The roadside sign says you are entering the city of Ottumwa, population 24,488.

Something is wrong. The city appears to be in nearly total darkness. The only illumination visible is from a few scattered street lights. Not a single home has a light showing. How can this be? It's only 7 p.m. on Christmas Eve and the town should be a hive of activity preparing for the Christmas celebration.

A strange, eerie feeling grips your chest. You cannot believe your eyes. No one is in Ottumwa. No policemen are on the streets, the fire station is closed, stores are dark. You search in vain for just one house with a light on.

Even the all-night convenience store is dark. Its Christmas lights are unlit. No one is in sight. No Christmas lights are showing in the downtown area or out at the mall. Deserted. Everyone has disappeared.

Is this something out a science fiction movie? Where have all the people gone?

This fictional scenario is the equivalent of the 24,000 American homes that will have an empty chair at the Christmas dinner table. The missing sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, and husbands and wives are in Bosnia.

Why?

In my opinion, for no good reason.

The decision has been made by the President to send our troops into harm's way on an alleged peacekeeping mission. Perhaps in some other countries of the world this might be a possibility, but in Bosnia the hatred runs centuries deep.

Ask any policeman on the beat, in a civil disturbance, regardless of how much the combatants hate each other, they resent an outsider even more. It is human nature.

Unfortunately, the Balkans teach hatred from childhood. The sniper rifle bullet to the head is to avenge great, great, grandpa. Once that score is settled we still have all the rest of the family carrying a grudge. And thus the carnage goes on.

Our American troops are the cop going into this senseless civil feud that has raged for centuries.

Senator DOLE and former Presidents Bush and Ford say we must support the troops. I agree. The way we do that is by bringing them home.

This Christmas I would ask each of you to set an empty chair at your Christmas dinner table as a reminder of the young men and

women who will follow their orders to the letter. Brave young people who didn't join the military to be used as policemen in a civil dispute in which we have no national interest. Young Americans who take their duty to country very seriously and did not run away when called to action. Tremendous people who will not be home for Christmas.

One additional request: Each in your own words and your own way, please offer a prayer for these young folks.

CRITICAL CARE FOR HIGH-RISK YOUTH

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 18, 1995

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, many of us understand that our children are our most precious resource. The young people of today certainly are the leaders of tomorrow. We want them to grow to adulthood with a stable support system so that they in turn can understand the value of help to those in need of it, even when they will not admit it.

AuSable Valley Community Mental Health Services, under the direction of Peggy Hendrickson, has established the AuSable Valley High Risk Youth Diversion-Middle School Success Program to help children in area middle schools who are at high risk for substance abuse, delinquency, and school dropout. Efforts are targeted toward helping children at a formative age when they can recover from a momentary misdirection in their personal outlook. Those students with high incidence of school absenteeism and other high-risk indicators, such as several disciplinary referrals, school failure, peer conflict, or a history of family problems, are selected for the care that this program can provide.

The program helps build personal values and offers a support system. Certainly direct contact with the students is offered. But group enrichment activities, home visits with parents or guardians, and providing liaison between parents and school personnel are vital to the success of this program.

The Middle School Success Program started in West Branch 5 years ago, with funding from the Federal Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Program, and discretionary funding from the Governor of Michigan. The program was expanded earlier this year to the Hale and Oscoda Area Schools. It has been such a success that it was recognized last month by the U.S. Center for Substance Abuse Prevention as a national Exemplary Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Prevention Program, having been nominated by Northern Michigan Substance Abuse Services and the Michigan Center for Substance Abuse Services, Michigan Department of Public Health.

I want to offer my personal congratulations to Peggy Hendrickson, the program director, and the members of the Direct Service Staff, Joe Fika, Kathy Eno, Sandra Van Wormer, Belva Iseler, Darla McKelvey, and Lisa Hawkins-Jack. Supervisor Kerry Boyd deserves our appreciation, as does Dr. Floyd Smith, the executive director, and the members of the AuSable Valley Community Mental Health Services Board. Their record of achievement—most notably having 100 percent of

participants either remaining or becoming drug free, 90 percent decreasing or eliminating classroom evictions for behavior, 80 percent reducing or eliminating school detentions, and a number of other accomplishments all deserve our praise.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and all of our colleagues to join me in congratulating these wonderful people for a record of accomplishment, offering a future of hope.

MANDATORY TESTING FOR THOSE CONVICTED OF ASSAULT THAT MAY HAVE EXPOSED VICTIM TO AIDS VIRUS

HON. THOMAS J. MANTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 18, 1995

Mr. MANTON. Mr. Speaker, you have probably heard about the 6-year-old girl from Queens, Collete Lopez, who was stabbed with a hypodermic needle by a mentally disturbed vagrant. Collete and her family received some good news recently when Collete's initial test for HIV virus came back negative. But Collete will have to continue to be tested for the next 6 months before she and her family know for certain that she was not infected with the AIDS virus.

Mr. Speaker, I was shocked to learn that the perpetrator of this assault has no legal obligation to take an AIDS test himself. Under current law, a percentage of Federal funds are withheld from those States that fail to enact laws requiring convicted sexual offenders be tested for AIDS. However, there is no provision that addresses cases like this, where the victim is potentially exposed to the AIDS virus through a non-sexual, yet violent, assault. Until the perpetrator in this case is tested, the Lopez family will continue to be victimized by fear and uncertainty.

I have introduced legislation that would remedy this unthinkable situation. My legislation would force States to enact laws to require, at the victims request, that those who perpetrate crimes such as this one, undergo an AIDS test and report the results to the victim.

Mr. Speaker, for victims of violence, it is difficult enough dealing with a traumatic event, and its aftermath, without the specter of AIDS. When violent crime potentially causes a transfer of blood, the perpetrator should be required to take a blood test to determine whether they exposed their victim to the AIDS virus. My sincere hope is that this legislation will enable victims, such as Collete Lopez, and their families to get past the vicious crime, and on with their lives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LAMAR S. SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 18, 1995

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, December 13, I was recorded as voting "no" on the motion offered by Mr. CALAHAN disposing of Senate amendment 115 to H.R. 1868, the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations