

The situation, I think, is a lot like it was in those days in 1950 before that June invasion. To set the stage, Mr. Speaker, we have come down, we have slashed defense and cut down on our forces dramatically since Desert Storm. We have cut from 18 Army divisions that we had in 1991 to only 10 today. That is, incidentally and coincidentally, the same number of Army divisions we had when Korea was invaded.

We have gone from 24 to only 13 fighter air wings, so we have cut our air power almost in half under the Clinton Administration. And we have cut our naval vessels from 546 to 333, about a 40 percent cut in naval vessels.

Now, the theme in 1950 and the reason that so many defense leaders from then Lewis Johnson, then Secretary of Defense, right on down, the theme that they propounded as they presented this declining defense budget to the U.S. Congress, and said that it was adequate, was that somehow we were the dominating Nation of the world with respect to high-tech, and nobody would mess with us. Of course, we had at that time the nuclear weapon. Nobody else presumably had that until a few years later.

Yet we were shocked in June when the North Koreans invaded South Korea and almost pushed the South Korean forces and the Americans that tried to stem the tide into the sea. We tried to hold them up at the Osan Pass, the 25th Infantry Division that we flew in, MacArthur flew in from Japan, was cut to ribbons. The commander, General Dean was, in fact, captured by North Korean forces.

We held the Pusan Peninsula by our toenails and finally started to push it up to the northern part of the peninsula. Then, interestingly, the theme that the leaders had that nobody would mess with us because we had the high technology and the nuclear weapon was further devastated when the Communist Chinese invaded South Korea.

The point isn't that we are any dumber than we were in 1950 and/or maybe we were dumber than we are now, and maybe we have leaders today that know something those people didn't know. My point is that the events of the world are unpredictable and that we today are taking a high level of risk by dramatically cutting our defenses.

The American people need to know that. They need to know that the massive savings, so-called savings that President Clinton is showing the world proudly and showing the American people proudly, the millions of dollars that he has pulled out of programs, have primarily been pulled out of national security.

We have dramatically cut back our national security. And we do not know what this world is going to bring us. I am reminded of the fact that when we had our assembled intelligence apparatus and our intelligence leaders in front of us, and we asked them a few

simple questions, such as which of you predicted the Falklands war, none of them could raise their hands. When we asked which of you predicted the downfall of the Soviet Union, that was in all the papers. None of them could raise their hands.

And when we asked them which of you predicted the invasion of Kuwait, one of them actually said before or after the armored columns started moving? We said, no; before the armored columns started moving. None of them had predicted the invasion of Kuwait. It is not that they are not smart, it is not that they don't have a lot of resources at their disposal. The facts are that unexpected things happen in this world.

We are still living in a very unstable world, and we have a declining military to face that unstable world with. One reason we were able to bring home to the American people so many of the soldiers and sailors and marines who went over to Desert Storm, and the reason we didn't have to fill up those 40,000 body bags we took with us in fighting the fourth largest army in the world, was because we were so strong we won the war decisively in a very short period of time with very limited American casualties.

Mr. Speaker, we are taking a big chance today, because under the Clinton Administration's leadership, we have cut our military almost in half. If the balloon goes up today, we cannot win a Desert Storm war as decisively as we did just a few years ago.

SECURITY POSTURE IN AMERICA THREATENED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise as we complete legislative work this week, in anticipation of next week when we will begin the markup process for one of the largest bills we do each year, and that is the defense authorization bill. As my colleague just discussed, we are in a massive downsizing mode that I think is heading us right for a train wreck at the turn of the century in terms of our security posture.

You are going to be hearing significant amounts of comments and speeches and activities over the next four weeks as members of our committee, all 57 members, get involved in educating Members of this body, and the American people about where we are in terms of our state of readiness. I want to call attention to my colleagues two events that will take place next week.

First of all, Mr. Speaker, the largest loss of military life that we have had in this decade was back 7 years ago when 28 young Americans were killed by a scud missile, a low complexity scud missile shot from Iraq into a barracks in Saudi Arabia. That missile devastated the lives of 28 young Americans.

On Wednesday, all day in the Rayburn courtyard off of New Jersey Avenue, we will display a 40-foot-long scud missile, a missile that, in fact, was produced by the Iraqis with assistance from North Korea; that is the same missile that, in fact, killed American troops, the only major loss of life of our troops in this decade.

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That missile is now being sold around the world. Rogue nations are purchasing it. It is still a threat to this country that we cannot defend against.

Along with a display of that Scud missile, which will be available for inspection by our colleagues in the House and the other body and by the American public at that courtyard off of the Rayburn Building on New Jersey Avenue and C Street, will be a demonstration of one of our responses. The Army will, in fact, have a full, active deployment of a THAAD battery. THAAD is the Theater High Altitude Area Defense System that we are developing for our Army to deploy in theaters around the world to defeat missiles like the Iraqi Scud missile.

The THAAD battery will allow Members to see firsthand the success we have had to date in building what will become a very capable system. The unfortunate part of this is that it is going to take several years before this system will be available. But I want to encourage Members to walk over to the Rayburn courtyard and see for themselves how far we have come in terms of building a comprehensive system.

In fact, it has been this body, both Democrats and Republicans, over the past 3 years that have increased funding for these programs, at a time when the administration wanted to continually decimate and decrease funding for these very important programs.

The second event will occur the second day, on Thursday of next week, when 2,000 of America's finest American fire and domestic defenders, our emergency services personnel, will travel to Washington for our tenth annual dinner, where on Thursday night at the Washington Hilton we will pay tribute to these brave heroes.

These individuals will come from every State in the Union, they will represent every major community, large cities like New York, small towns across America, and they will come with one common purpose: that is, for us to be able to recognize their services.

But something different will happen that day, Mr. Speaker. On Thursday, at noon, there will be a massive rally and demonstration at this Capitol building, where the fire and EMS providers in every congressional district in this country will gather for a massive rally at noon, after having surrounded this Capitol building with fire and emergency services apparatus, to make a statement.

The statement is a simple one: As this Congress and this administration

has increased funding for response to terrorism acts, to the potential use of weapons of mass destruction, and for the disasters that would result from those, from increases in funding for the Defense budget, the Department of Justice budget, the Health and Human Services budget, the FEMA budget, and the Department of Energy budget, none of that money is in fact siphoning down to those people who are where the rubber meets the road, who are the Nation's first responders in each of these situations.

The demonstration on Thursday, that will be loud and vocal, to which I invite all of our colleagues from both parties, will focus on the fact that this Congress and the administration need to understand that in working to prepare this Nation to deal with disasters, especially those involving weapons of mass destruction, we need to provide the support to the 1.2 million men and women in the 32,000 departments, 85 percent of whom are volunteer, who protect this country every day.

I am also asking our colleagues, Mr. Speaker, to reach out and invite fire and EMS personnel from across the country, and especially in this region, to travel to Washington on Thursday to send a signal throughout this Capitol, with a massive rally at noon right outside the steps of this Chamber, that we will no longer tolerate the consideration of our fire and EMS personnel as second-class citizens, that they deserve the top priority in preparing this Nation to deal with disasters, both man-made and the potential use of terrorist devices.

THE INCREDIBLE THINGS HAPPENING IN THIS COMMUNITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. NEUMANN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the Majority Leader.

Mr. NEUMANN. Mr. Speaker, I thought I would dedicate tonight's special order to the incredible things that are happening here in this community. I could not get on a plane home because we got out of session too late tonight, so I am kind of like putting myself back in Wisconsin and looking at Washington and just looking at how some of the most incredible things in the world are going on right out here in this city today.

I am going to start with one of the issues that was talked about today and actually we voted on today, and that is the IMF issue.

Out in Wisconsin, if you said IMF to the average person out there, I am not sure they would even know what IMF is or what it is for or any of the rest of that. Frankly, I came out of the private sector and had no political experience, so today I had an opportunity to sit in on an educational session on what the IMF is and how it actually goes about lending money and what it is all about.

At the end of the session, Jack Kemp was leading the session, but there were other experts there on the IMF, and at the end of the session I started asking questions that I think most people in Wisconsin, if they had sat in on this thing, would have logically started asking.

The first one I asked is, how much have we given the IMF already of the taxpayers' money? Thirty-six billion dollars, is the answer.

What do they want now? What are they asking for? They are asking for \$18 billion more of the taxpayers' money.

The most incredible thing, and this is what this is dedicated to tonight, the incredible part of this is, as we heard on the floor during this debate, do not worry about it, the IMF does not cost any money. If the IMF does not cost any money and we do not have to raise any taxes to put this money over there, then why are we talking about \$18 billion that we are somehow going to give them? Again, only in Washington could we have this kind of discussion.

But I did not stop there. I started asking some more Wisconsin commonsense kinds of questions. The next one I asked is, they had gone through this whole thing about how wherever the IMF was, America was viewed as an enemy, not as a friend. So I said, now, wait a second, if the IMF is not working today, why would we want to put more money into the system?

I asked another what I consider commonsense question: Does the IMF have enough money in the system today to keep going and doing what it is doing? And the amazing thing to me is they answered that question, yes, they do.

So I asked what I considered another commonsense question: How much money do they have? They have \$40 billion of liquid assets today, \$40 billion in the IMF of liquid assets today. But that is not the end. They have \$35 billion in gold, beyond that. On top of that, they have borrowing power of \$25 billion.

So this agency that is asking us to go to the American taxpayers and get the \$18 billion that is not going to cost our government anything, even though we are going to put it in the IMF, the amazing thing is they already have all of this liquid cash on hand.

So I started asking what I thought was a logical question. I said, they have got \$100 billion available already. What are they going to do with the \$18 billion they are now asking us to collect from the American taxpayers that is not going to cost the government any money?

It turns out that this program, on which they spent 45 minutes describing why it was not working and what was wrong with it, the \$18 billion is not to fund the program as it exists today, the \$18 billion is to look at this program that they all say is not working and expand the program.

The \$18 billion is not for the ag industry and the concerns that I hear

from our ag folks, it is not to continue funding the programs to allow countries to buy grain and some of our agriculture products, the \$18 billion is to expand this program that we heard from the leading experts is not working.

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

Mr. NEUMANN. I yield to the gentleman from Minnesota.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I appreciate this special order tonight.

I was at that briefing, as well. I must tell the Members, it was eye-opening. When we look at what they are asking for, I was reminded that somebody once observed that the definition of insanity is doing more of what you have always done and expecting a different result.

If we look at what has happened in Asia, where they have gone in and forced some of the Asian economies to raise taxes, to devalue their currency, then they are surprised when, ultimately, that has a devastating impact on the economy, and it just seems to me this is wrongheadedness elevated to an absolute art form.

When we heard some of the examples today of what has happened in Asia and what happened in Indonesia, what has happened in other parts, what happened in Hungary, for example, and then they are coming in and saying, by the way, what we need is another \$18 billion from the American taxpayers, and, incidentally, we want no debate on this, we want you to do this as part of a supplemental emergency bill so that there is no debate here in Congress, no debate here on the floor of the House, so people do not have any chance to ask some serious questions, it really illustrated what is wrong with things here in Washington.

We have a lot of things here in Washington that are wrong, a lot of things that need to be questioned, and this certainly is one of them. We have our friend here, the gentleman from Colorado, and I would like to hear from him as well.

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

Mr. NEUMANN. I yield to the gentleman from Colorado.

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my colleague yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, we all grew up with the same thing, and my father and mother told me many times when I saw a great bargain, my father would always say, as yours did, just remember, nothing is free. Nothing is free. You always pay something.

But under this IMF request for \$18 billion, Secretary Rubin and members of the administration say, it is not going to cost the taxpayer one dime. We heard it today. We have made a new discovery. The American people should be thrilled. They have discovered money that is free. Why send the IMF \$18 billion, since it is free? We might as well send them several trillion dollars.