

clearly evident that when useless immoral wars are pursued, money is wasted, weapons are consumed, and national security is endangered, opposite to everything that is supposed to be achieved through defense spending. A foolish policy of foreign interventionism, no matter how much money is spent on the military, can never substitute for a sensible, pro-American policy of friendship and trade with all those countries willing to engage.

Number five, the ill-gotten war has shown once again that air power alone, and especially when pursued without a declaration of war and a determination to win, serves no useful purpose. Although most military experts have stated this for years, it is now readily apparent to anyone willing to study the issue. Many more Americans now agree that war not fought for the defense of one's country and for the preservation of liberty is immoral and rarely brings about victory. If we remember that in the future, that would be good.

Number six, NATO's war against Yugoslavia has made it clearly apparent that world leaders place relative value on human life. This is valuable information that should be helped to restore U.S. national sovereignty. According to NATO's policy, the lives of the Kosovars are of greater value than the Serbs, Rwandans, Kurds, Tibetans, or East Timorans. Likewise, oil and European markets command more bloodshed in support of powerful financial interests than the suffering of millions in Asia and Africa. This knowledge of NATO's hypocrisy should some day lead to a fair and more peaceful world.

Number seven, the issue of whether or not a President can initiate and wage an unconstitutional war without declaration and in violation of the War Powers Resolution has prompted a positive and beneficial debate in the Congress and throughout the Nation. This is a necessary first step to get Congress to regain its prerogatives over the issue of war.

Number eight, interventionism in the affairs of other nations when our national security is not threatened serves no benefit and causes great harm. Our involvement with NATO and Yugoslavia has once again forcefully shown this. Although our Founders knew this and advised against it, and American Presidents for over 100 years acted accordingly, this rediscovery of a vital truth can serve us well in future years.

Number nine, NATO's arrogance has once again restated another truth worth remembering: Might does not make right.

Number ten, the 19 nations' military actions against a tiny state shows that alliances to promote aggression do not work. The moral high ground is not achieved because despite the pronouncements of concerns for the suffering of the innocent, when survival is not at stake and when the defense

against an aggressor is not an issue, war by committee is doomed to fail. This is a lesson that needs restating.

Number 11: NATO's blundering policy ironically will leave a legacy that will allow rebuilding after the new world order disintegrates.

To the bewilderment of their own leaders NATO has forcefully supported the notion of autonomy and independence for ethnic states. Instead of huge governments demanding ethnic diversity, the goal of establishing Kosovo's independence provides the moral foundation for an independent Kashmir Kurdistan, Palestine, Tibet, East Timor, Quebec, and North Ireland and anyone else that believes their rights as citizens would be better protected by small local government. This is in contrast to huge nation states and international governments that care only about controlling wealth, while forgetting about the needs and desires of average citizens.

12. Another lesson that will be learned from this misadventure, but unfortunately not soon enough, is that empires self-destruct out of their own weighty arrogance and blindness to the truth. Inevitably powerful empires—and it is said we are the only super power left and have great world-wide responsibilities—pursue a march of folly, a course upon which we inextricably find ourselves.

If these lessons are remembered, we will have a much better chance of achieving peace and prosperity throughout the world.

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

(Mr. FILNER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Indiana (Ms. CARSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. CARSON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE TRUE MEANING OF MEMORIAL DAY

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

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, Congress has just returned from the Memorial Day recess, and it allowed, I think, every Member and all Americans to reflect upon what Memorial Day really was all about. In Staten Island and Brooklyn, which I represent, we had the great fortune of honoring our veterans, many of whom died to save us and save the world for freedom, and many of the things that came up in conversations, aside from, clearly, our support and commitment to those troops in harm's way right now, whether it be in Kosovo or Iraq, was to remind us all what it was all about. For example, those World War II veterans or veterans from Korea, Vietnam, essentially what they were fighting for

was freedom, whether to bring freedom to others or to protect our own.

I think what too often we forget here in Washington is that ultimately the strengthening of personal freedom and individual liberty is really what we should be all about.

Right now, there are people back home that are paying the highest tax rates since World War II. That is just not right. There are people working two and three jobs just to put food on their table or pay for their child's education. That is not right.

What is right is that we reduce the tax burden on hard-working American people to promote economic growth and essentially allow them the freedom to spend, to save and to invest their hard-earned money as they see fit. Because there is an American spirit out there, whether it is in Staten Island or Brooklyn or anywhere across this country, that when given the right incentives, when given the right advice and guidance from the Federal Government, people will go out there and work hard, and they will produce wonders for the American economy, and they will produce wonders for businesses, both small and large.

And you know what? Congress does not have to intervene in every little decision-making. They do not need to look to raise taxes every chance they get. We should be pursuing a course of lowering the burden, really emphasizing limited government, truly articulating the need to remember what we all really should be supporting, and that is more freedom.

Frankly, the more we tax, whether it be at the Federal level, the State level or the local level, the more freedom we take away; and if we are committed to sending the right signal, not just to the people today but to future generations, that what the American spirit is all about, the notion of personal responsibility, of coming to our shores with hope and opportunity and hard work, when you do those things, the Federal Government will not penalize you or take away the fruits of your labor, that is when we will be sending a signal that America will remain strong and free forever; and the sacrifices of those veterans, too many of whom died to preserve freedom, too many of whom died to bring freedom to others, we will remind them that they did not die in vain.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

REPORT ON CONFERENCE ON MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.