

relatively modest, when sufficient carryover funds are readily available, or when the borrowed amounts are ultimately repaid. But the borrowing has become routine. The amounts involved are massive. We no longer have large carryover amounts in other accounts, and we have habitually not repaid the full amount that was borrowed.

It is a terrible, inefficient way to run a program.

In the past, both the Congress and the administration have been guilty of playing budgetary games with fire suppression funding, but the current situation is only a faint reflection of that fact. Congress included in the fiscal year 2003 appropriations bill essentially the same amounts that were requested by the administration for wildlife fire management. That amount, in turn, was determined by using the 10-year average cost of fire suppression. But that 10-year average no longer is reasonable or a reasonable benchmark for a number of reasons.

Look at our forests. Fuel loads on the floors of our forests are increasing. Increasing costs of personnel and equipment are fully reflected in the 10-year average, and the wildland-urban interface is expanding, which increases the cost of fire suppression.

I think Congress and the administration need to deal with these issues, particularly hazardous fuel loads. But that will not happen overnight, and it does not change the situation we are in today.

To be clear, I have no interest in giving the Forest Service or the Department of the Interior a blank check to fight fires. We must continue to seek ways to reduce costs, and that is why the Appropriations Committee has asked the National Academy of Public Administration to study recent trends in firefighting costs. But while that academy did find some areas for improvement, it found no smoking gun, and there is no silver bullet.

The system is broken, Mr. President, and the administration must work with us to fix it. It cannot rationally expect to produce cost containment in one program by starving the life out of others.

In the short term, we must enact a supplemental that fully repays the amounts they borrowed during fiscal year 2003. I call on the administration to send us another supplemental request for these amounts.

For the longer term, we have to have annual budget requests that more adequately reflect the current reality of suppression costs. We also need to take another look at borrowing authority we traditionally have provided these agencies.

Unless adequate action has already been taken on the impending supplemental, I expect to offer amendments on this subject when the Interior appropriations bill comes to the floor. I hope these amendments will be widely supported by my colleagues.

I appreciate this opportunity to give a little forecast of what is ahead on an-

other appropriations bill because these are tremendous challenges.

I thank the Chair, and I yield the floor.

APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I rise to express my strong support for the Appalachian Regional Commission, ARC, and to thank Chairman DOMENICI for his leadership and his support to ensure that the Appalachian Regional Commission's fiscal year 2004 funding needs are adequately met.

The ARC was established in 1965 to support economic development in the Appalachian Region. Today, the region includes 410 counties in 13 States, representing a population of more than 23 million. There are 50 counties in Tennessee currently participating in the ARC. Funding provided by Congress is used by the commission to fund locally sponsored projects such as education and workforce training programs, highway construction, water and sewer system construction, leadership development programs, and small business start-ups and expansions.

I am proud that a Tennessean, Anne B. Pope, is currently serving as the Federal Co-Chair of the Commission. In this position, she is working to further the ARC's five primary goals, which include improving education and workforce training, physical infrastructure, civic capacity and leadership, business development, and health care. Each year ARC provides competitive grant funding for several hundred projects to further these goals. In 1965, one in three Appalachian residents lived in poverty. However, by 1990, the poverty rate had been cut in half. ARC programs are helping to shape a brighter future for the Appalachian region by working with local communities to foster economic growth and development.

Last year, Congress reauthorized the ARC's non-highway programs through 2006, and authorized new programs in telecommunications, entrepreneurship, and job-skills training. Moreover, the legislation signed by President Bush reinforced the ARC's commitment to economically distressed counties by mandating that at least half of the Commission's project funding be made available to support activities that benefit distressed areas. These changes will help to create more opportunities for areas still struggling to join the Nation's mainstream economy.

I am proud of the work that the ARC is doing in Tennessee, and I applaud Chairman DOMENICI for his continued support of the ARC's programs. It is my hope that, as we move to conference, we can work together to ensure that the ARC's funding needs continue to be met.

THE FIRST ANNUAL CONGRESSIONAL CONFERENCE ON CIVIC EDUCATION

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, "A government of the people, by the people and for the people." In his immor-

tal description of American democracy, President Lincoln made self-government sound almost easy.

The truth is, democracy is challenging, continuous work. No war, no sacrifice made by one generation—no matter how enormous—can sustain our democracy forever. Ultimately, each generation of Americans must do the work of democracy itself or our democracy atrophies.

"Civic education" is the term we use to describe the process by which we transmit the knowledge, skills and attitudes that people need in order to be responsible citizens. It is at least as important to the future of our democracy as our economic might or our military power. For that reason, I am very pleased to announce today that the Joint Leadership of the Congress of the United States will host a 3-day Congressional Conference on Civic Education later this month—September 20, 21, and 22.

This Congressional Conference on Civic Education will bring together educators and other experts from every State to focus national attention on the state of civic education in America. I am honored to serve as an honorary host for the conference, along with the majority leader, Senator FRIST, and our counterparts in the House, Speaker HASTERT and Democratic Leader PELOSI.

It is our hope and our expectation that the conference will help launch a nationwide movement, and produce strategic plans to strengthen civic education and civic participation at every level of government—local, State, and national. It is the first of five annual civic education conferences planned by the Joint Leadership.

The goals of this first conference include: increasing public understanding of America's representative democracies and the need for Americans to play a responsible role in their Government; underscoring for policymakers that America's schools play a critical role in preparing students for effective citizenship, and expanding the opportunities for policymakers to participate in carrying out this civic mission; and encouraging the formation of State delegation working groups that will take the lead in improving civic education in their respective States.

The Congressional Conference on Civic Education is a fitting and appropriate way for Congress to join the Nation in commemorating Citizenship Week.

The conference is a project of the Alliance for Representative Democracy, a national project designed to reinvigorate and educate Americans on the critical relationship between Government and the people it serves. The Alliance's members are the National Conference of State Legislatures, the Center on Congress at Indiana University, and the Center for Civic Education. The Alliance for Representative Democracy project is funded by the U.S. Department of Education by act of Congress.

There is no more important or urgent task facing our Nation than making sure that this and future generations of Americans have the skills, knowledge and attitudes required to maintain this Government "of the people, by the people and for the people."

Every State delegation attending this first annual Congressional Conference on Civic Education will identify its own specific goals for improving civic engagement in our society and citizenship education in our schools.

I am sure my colleagues join me in applauding the dedicated educators and others who will be traveling to Washington from all over the country for this important conference. We thank them for their time and their commitment to this worthy endeavor. We look forward to hearing their ideas—and hearing about their progress at the second annual Congressional Conference on Civic Education in September 2004.

Among those who are volunteering their time and energy to make this conference possible, and who deserve special thanks are the following, whose names I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

FIRST CONGRESSIONAL CONFERENCE ON CIVIC EDUCATION: CONFIRMED DELEGATION LIST

Alabama: Ms. Janice A. Cowin, State Facilitator; Representative Sue Schmitz, Alabama House; Dr. Ethel Hall, Alabama State Board of Education; Mr. Tom Walker, Executive Director, The American Village Citizenship Trust.

Alaska: Ms. Mary Bristol, State Facilitator; Senator Bettye Davis, Alaska State Senate; Representative John Coghill, House Majority Leader, Alaska House of Representatives; Ms. Esther Cox, First Vice Chair, Alaska Board of Education; Mr. Macon Roberts, Treasurer Anchorage School Board.

Arizona: Ms. Lynda Rasndo, State Facilitator; Senator Tim Bee, Arizona Senate; Representative Linda Gray, Arizona House of Representatives; Ms. Kathy Kay, Arizona Department of Education; Mr. David Garcia, Arizona Center for Public Policy.

Arkansas: Ms. Barbara Patty, State Facilitator; Dr. Daryl Rice, Associate Dean, University of Arkansas; Mr. Frank Smith, Social Studies Supervisor, Pulaski County Schools; Ms. Suzanne McPherson, Fort Smith Schools.

California: Mr. Roy Erickson, State Facilitator; Honorable Frank Damrell, Judge, US District Court, Northern District of California; Senator Jack Scott, California Senate; Ms. Kerry Mazzoni Secretary of Education, Office of Governor; Mr. David Gordon, Superintendent, Elk Grove Unified School District; Ms. Michelle Herczog, Social Studies Coordinator Los Angeles County Schools.

Colorado: Ms. Barbara Miller, State Facilitator; Senator Peter Groff, Colorado State Senate; Representative Shawn Mitchell, Colorado House of Representatives; Mrs. Maria Garcia-Berry, President, CRL Associates; Dr. Jane W. Urschel, Associate Executive Director, Colorado Association of School Boards.

Connecticut: Mr. James Schmidt, State Facilitator; Representative Demetrios Giannaros, Connecticut House of Representa-

tives; Ms. Mary Skelly, Social Studies Coordinator, Middletown, CT; Ms. Martha Press, Social Studies Supervisor, Stratford CT Schools; Mr. Randall Collins, Superintendent, Waterford Schools, Pres. Elect ECS.

Delaware: Mr. Lewis Huffman, State Facilitator; Hon. M. Jane Brady, Attorney General of Delaware; Ms. Valerie Woodruff, Secretary of Education, Delaware Department of Education.

District of Columbia: Ms. Deborah Foster, State Facilitator; Ms. Vanessa (Connie) Spinner, Acting State Education Officer; Dr. Roccoal Duke, Social Studies Content Specialist, DC Public Schools.

Florida: Ms. Annette Boyd Pitts, State Facilitator; Representative Curtis Richardson, Florida House of Representatives; Representative Renee Garcia, Florida House of Representatives; Mr. Jack Bovee, Florida Department of Education; Dr. Robert Guterrez, Professor of Education, Florida State University; Mr. John Doyle, Miami—Dade County Public Schools.

Georgia: Dr. Eddie Bennett, State Facilitator; Senator Joey Brush, Georgia Senate; Representative Bob Holmes, Georgia House of Representatives; Ms. Janet Wiley, President, Georgia Association of Curriculum and Instructional Supervisor; Ms. Robynn Holland, Social Studies Coordinator, State Department of Education; Ms. Stephanie Caywood, Office of the Secretary of State.

Hawaii: Dr. Lyla Berg, State Facilitator; Senator Ron Menor, Hawaii Senate; Representative Roy Takumi, Hawaii House of Representatives; Mr. Sherwood Hara, State Board of Education; Mr. Roger Takabayashi, President Hawaii State Teachers's Association.

Idaho: Dr. Dan Prinzing, State Facilitator; Dr. Marilyn Howard, Superintendent of Public Instruction; Senator Denton Darrington, Idaho Senate; Mr. Tim Hurst, Chief Deputy, Secretary of State; Mr. Doug Oppenheimer, Oppenheimer Development Company.

Illinois: Dr. Frederick D. Drake, State Facilitator; Senator Steven Rauschenberg, Illinois Senate, Vice President, NCSL; Representative Suzanne Bassi, Illinois House of Representatives; Dr. Darlene Ruscitti, Regional Superintendent, DuPage County Schools; Ms. Maggie Oleson, Legislative Consultant, State Farm Insurance Co.; Dr. John Craig, Social Science Assessment, Illinois Board of Education; Mr. Jon Schmidt, Service Learning Manager, Chicago Public Schools.

Indiana: Dr. John J. Patrick, State Facilitator; Mr. Peter Bomberger, Attorney at Law, Chair Citizenship Education Committee, IN Bar; Mr. Lynn R. Nelson, Ackerman Center for Democratic Citizenship, Purdue University; Dr. Sharon Brehm, Chancellor, Indiana University.

Iowa: Mr. Jason Follett, State Facilitator; Honorable Chet Culver, Secretary of State of Iowa; Senator Nancy Boettger, Iowa State Senate; Dr. Jeffrey Cornett, Dean College of Education, University of Northern Iowa.

Kansas: Mr. Dave Dubois, State Facilitator; Senator Dwayne Umbarger, Kansas State Senate; Dr. Alexa Pochowski, Assistant Commissioner of Education.

Kentucky: Ms. Deborah Williamson, State Facilitator; Senator Jack Westwood, Kentucky Senate; Representative Tanya Pullin, Kentucky House of Representatives; Ms. Cicely Jaracz Lambert, Director, Kentucky Administrative Office of the Courts; Ms. Natalie Stiglitz, Social Studies Consultant, Kentucky Department of Education.

Louisiana: Ms. Maria Yiannopoulos, State Facilitator; Mr. William Miller, Special Assistant to the Superintendent of Education; Mr. R. Edward Hunt, Louisiana Center for

Law and Civic Education; Ms. C. Kevin Hayes, Attorney At Law, Roedel, Parsons, Koch, Frost, Balhoff & McCollister; Mr. Jimmy Fahrenholtz, Member Orleans Parish School Board & Attorney At Law.

Maine: Ms. Julia Underwood, State Facilitator; Mr. Patrick Phillips, Maine Department of Education; Ms. Crystal Ward, Maine Education Association; Mr. Richard Lyons, Superintendent Hampden Academy, Past Pres. ME Superintendent's Assn.

Maryland: Ms. Marcie Taylor-Thoma, State Facilitator; Ms. Sharon Cox, Vice President, Montgomery County Board of Education; Delegate John Hurson, Maryland House of Delegates, President—Elect, NCSL; Delegate David D. Rudolph, Maryland House of Delegates.

Massachusetts: Ms. Diane Palmer, State Facilitator; Senator Richard T. Moore, Massachusetts State Senator; Representative Dan Bosley, Massachusetts House of Representatives; Dr. Sheldon Berman, Superintendent, Hudson Public Schools; Ms. Susan Whelple, Massachusetts Department of Education.

Michigan: Ms. Linda Start, State Facilitator; Senator Ron Jelenik, Michigan State Senate; Representative Hoon-Yung Hoppood, Michigan House of Representatives; Ms. Kathleen Strauss, President State Board of Education; Mr. John Lore, Executive Director, Connect Michigan Alliance; Mr. Eric Rader, Policy Division, Office of the Governor; Ms. Leslie Salba, DC Office of the Governor.

Minnesota: Mr. Rick Theisen, State Facilitator; Senator Steve Kelley, Majority Whip, Minnesota State Senate; Mr. Charlie Skemp, Social Studies Specialist, Minnesota Department of Education; Ms. Mary Ann Van Hooten, State Department of Education; Ms. Lisa Wilde, Minnesota Bar Association, National Mock Trial.

Mississippi: Dr. Susie Burroughs, State Facilitator; Senator Alice Harden, Mississippi State Senate; Representative Mike Lott, Mississippi House of Representatives; Dee Chambliss, Assistant Secretary of State for Education and Publications; Ms. Judith Couey, Bureau Director, Mississippi Department of Education.

Missouri: Ms. Millie Aulbur, State Facilitator; Dr. Kent King, Commissioner, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education; Representative Sharon Sanders Brooks, Missouri House of Representatives; Representative Walter Bivins, Missouri House of Representatives; Mr. Stan Johnson, Superintendent, School of the Osage.

Montana: Dr. Bruce Wendt, State Facilitator; Senator Sam Kitzenberg, Montana Senate; Representative Gary Branae, Montana House of Representatives; Ms. Stephanie Wasta, School of Education, University of Montana.

Nebraska: Mr. Mitch McCartney, State Facilitator; Honorable John Gale, Secretary of State, State of Nebraska; Senator DiAnna Schimek, Nebraska Unicameral; Mr. Joe Higgins, Member, State Board of Education; Ms. Lauren Hill, Education Assistant to the Governor.

Nevada: Ms. Judith Simpson, State Facilitator; Representative William Horne, Nevada House of Representatives; Mr. Larry Struve, Chairman, NV Advisory Committee on Participatory Democracy; Dr. Keith Rheault, Deputy Superintendent, NV Dept. of Education.

New Hampshire: Mr. Mica B. Stark, New Hampshire Institute of Politics, State Facilitator; Mr. Andrei Campeanu, President, ATE Media Services.

New Jersey: Ms. Arlene Gardner, State Facilitator; Assemblyman Craig Stanley, New Jersey House; Ms. Lucille Davey, Education Assistant to the Governor; Mr. John Dougherty, State Department of Education.

New Mexico: Ms. Dora Marroquin, State Facilitator; Representative Rick Miera, New Mexico House of Representatives; Ms. Virginia Trujillo, State of New Mexico Office of the Governor; Dr. Joseph Stewart, Professor, University of New Mexico.

New York: Professor Stephen Schechter, State Facilitator; Ms. Rita Lashway, Deputy Executive Director, New York State School Boards Association; Mr. A. Thomas Levin, President, New York State Bar Association; Ms. Gail Kelly, President, New York Council of Educational Associations.

North Carolina: Ms. Debra Henzey, State Facilitator; Senator Joe Sam Queen, North Carolina Senate; Representative Linda Johnston, North Carolina House of Representatives; Ms. Maria Theresa Unger Palmer, Member North Carolina Board of Education; Ms. Susan Giamportone, North Carolina Bar Association; Ms. Tracey Greggs, Department of Public Instruction Social Studies Section; Ms. Carol Vogler, Career Center High School, Past Pres. Carolina Council for the Social Studies.

North Dakota: Mr. Phil Harmeson, Co-State Facilitator; Senator Ray Holmberg, Co-State Facilitator; Representative Dennis Johnson, North Dakota House of Representatives; Honorable Wayne Stenehjem, Attorney General, State of North Dakota; Honorable Mary Maring, Justice North Dakota Supreme Court.

Ohio: Mr. Jared Reitz, State Facilitator; Representative Dixie Allen, Ohio House of Representatives; Dr. Donald Stenta, Associate Director, the John Glenn Institute; Mrs. Patricia Allen Day, Roosevelt Center, Dayton Public Schools; Ms. Linda Petz, Stark Educational Service Center; Mr. Frank Underwood, Assistant Director, Ohio Community Service Council.

Oklahoma: Mr. Michael Reggio, State Facilitator; Representative Bill Nations, Oklahoma House; Ms. Lisa Pryor, Learn & Serve Coordinator State Dept. of Education; Ms. Gina Wekke, Sr. Coordinator, Oklahoma Regents for Higher Education; Ms. Denise Rhodes, Oklahoma Council for the Social Studies; Ms. Lyndal Caddell, Noble Middle School.

Oregon: Ms. Barbara Rost, State Facilitator; Senator Ryan Deckert, Oregon State Senate; Representative Pat Farr, Oregon House of Representatives; Mr. James Sager, Educational Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor; Mr. Pat Burk, Associate Superintendent Federal Programs, Department of Education.

Pennsylvania: Ms. Frances J. Warren, State Facilitator; Representative Jess Stairs, Pennsylvania House of Representatives; Mr. Albert Cunningham, Superintendent, Montoursville Area School District; Mr. James Wetzler, Social Studies Coordinator, Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Rhode Island: Mr. Michael Trofi, State Facilitator; Honorable Matt Brown, Secretary of State of Rhode Island; Senator Hanna Gallo, Rhode Island State Senate; Representative Susan Story, Rhode Island House of Representatives; Ms. Maria Escudero, Office of the Secretary of State; Mr. James Parisi, Field Representative, RI Federation of Teachers & Health Professionals.

South Carolina: Mr. Paul Horne, State Facilitator, Invited; Senator Warren Giese, South Carolina State Senate; Representative Robert Walker, South Carolina House; Dr. Harriett L. Rucker, State School Board; Mr. James Bryan, Education Associate, Department of Education.

South Dakota: Dr. Jack Lyons, State Facilitator; Senator Drue Vitter Lange, South Dakota House of Representatives; Ms. Glenna Fouberg, President South Dakota School Board.

Tennessee: Ms. Janis Kyser, State Facilitator; Senator Randy McNally, Tennessee State Senate; Representative Beth Harwell, Tennessee House of Representatives; Representative Joe Towns, Jr., Tennessee House of Representatives; Mr. Richard Ray, Chairman State School Board; Mr. Bruce Opie, Legislative Liaison, Department of Education; Dr. Ashley Smith Jr., President Tennessee Middle School Association.

Texas: Mrs. Jan Miller, State Facilitator; Judge Royal Furgeson, U.S. District Court Judge, Western District of Texas; Mr. George Rislov, Director of Social Studies, Texas Education Agency; Mr. Hugh Akin, Executive Director, Hatton W. Sumner Foundation; Ms. Carlen Floyd, State Board for Teacher Certification; Ms. Patricia Ann Hardy, Member State Board of Education.

Utah: Ms. Kathy Dryer, State Facilitator; Chief Justice Christine M. Durham, Utah Supreme Court; Senator Howard A. Stephenson, Utah State Senate; Representative LaVar Christensen, Utah House of Representatives; Ms. Janet Canon, Vice President, State Board of Education.

Vermont: Vee Gordon State Facilitator, Senator Matt Dunne, Vermont State Senate; Representative Malcolm Severance, Vermont House; Mr. Patrick Burke, Principal South Burlington High School.

Virginia: Mr. Andrew Washburn, State Facilitator, Delegate James Dillard, Virginia House of Delegates; Ms. Susan Genovese, Vice President, Virginia Board of Education; Dr. Patricia Wright, Assistant State Superintendent of Education.

Washington: Mrs. Kathy Hand, State Facilitator, Dr. Terry Bergeson, State Superintendent of Public Instruction; Senator Steve Johnson, Washington State Senate; Representative Dave Quall, Washington House of Representatives, Representative David Upthegrove, Washington House of Representatives; Mr. Steve Mullin, Vice President, Washington State Roundtable.

West Virginia: Mrs. Priscilla Haden, State Facilitator, Member, State Board of Education; Delegate Ray Canterbury, West Virginia House of Delegates; Dr. David Stewart, State Superintendent, West Virginia Department of Education; Mr. William Raglin, President, West Virginia School Boards Association; Ms. Sharon Flack, Social Studies Supervisor, State Department of Education.

Wisconsin: Ms. Dee Runaas, State Facilitator; Honorable Elizabeth A. Burmaster, Superintendent of Public Instruction; Senator Robert Jauch, Wisconsin State Senate; Representative Luther S. Olsen, Wisconsin House of Representatives; Mr. Richard Grobschmidt, Assistant State Superintendent of Education; Ms. Kori Oberle, Wisconsin Educational Communications Board.

Wyoming: Mr. Matt Strannigan, State Facilitator; Senator Mike Massie, Wyoming State Senate; Representative Rosie Berger, Wyoming House of Representatives; Ms. Sheri Tavegie, State Department of Education.

U.S. POLICY IN IRAQ

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I would like to share with my colleagues the recent remarks of our former colleague Senator Max Cleland concerning U.S. policy in Iraq.

This is a passionate, powerful speech by a true American hero whose tremendous service to, and personal sacrifice for, this country should make of all of us mindful of his cautions and warnings. I ask unanimous consent that former Senator Cleland's speech be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[DSCC Iraq Policy Forum, Washington, DC, Sept. 15, 2003]

DISASTER IN THE DESERT

(Former Senator Max Cleland, D-Georgia)

"The public had been led into a trap from which it will be hard to escape with dignity and honor. They have been tricked into it by a steady withholding of information," he said. "The Baghdad communique are belated, insincere, incomplete. Things have been far worse than we have been told, our administration more bloody and inefficient than the public knows. He added: "We are today not far from a disaster"—T.E. Lawrence The Sunday Times of London August 22, 1920.

Let me see if I can get this straight.

The President of the United States decides to go to war against a nation led by a brutal dictator supported by one party rule. That dictator has made war on his neighbors. The President decides this is a threat to the United States. In his campaign for President he gives no indication of wanting to go to war. In fact, he decries the over-extension of American military might and says other nations must do more. However, unannounced to the American public, the President's own Pentagon advisors have already cooked up a plan to go to war. All they are looking for is an excuse.

An element of the U.S. military is under attack. The President, his Secretary of Defense and his advisors sell the idea to Congress and the American people that it is time to go to war. Based on faulty intelligence, cherry-picked information is fed to Congress and the American people. The President goes on national television to explain the case for war, using as part of the rationale for the war an incident that never happened. The Congress buys the bait hook, line and sinker and passes a resolution giving the President the authority to use "all necessary means" to prosecute the war.

The war is started with an air and ground attack. Initially there is optimism. The President says we are winning. The cocky, self-assured Secretary of Defense says we are winning. As a matter of fact, the Secretary of Defense promises the troops will be home soon.

However, the truth on the ground that the soldiers face in the war is different than the political policy that sent them there. They face increased opposition from a determined enemy. They are surprised by terrorist attacks, suicide bombers, village assassinations, increasing casualties and growing anti-American sentiment. They find themselves bogged down in a guerrilla land war, unable to move forward and unable to disengage because there are no allies in the war to turn the war over to. There is no plan B. There is no exit strategy. Military morale declines. The President's popularity sinks and the American people are increasingly frustrated by the cost of blood and treasure poured into a never-ending war.

Sound familiar? It does to me!

The President was Lyndon Johnson.

Got Ya!

The cocky, self-assured Secretary of Defense was Robert McNamara.

Got ya again!

The Congressional resolution was the Gulf of Tonkin resolution.

You are catching on!

The war was the war that me, John Kerry, Chuck Hagel, John McCain and three and-a-half million other Americans of our generation were caught up in. It was the scene of America's longest war. It was also the locale