

against Iraq. Even now, few have ventured post mortem analyses of the momentous episode sidetracked by historic impeachment coverage.

Billions spent, lives lost and risked, measured against the efficacy of modern warfare have gone virtually unchallenged in America's press, much less the President's ulterior political benefits accumulated throughout the exchange.

His Holiness Pope John Paul II was right to seize the occasion of a St. Louis visit to chastise Bill Clinton's handling of Iraq. More than 2 months having passed since Operation Desert Fox, it remains unclear who stands the victor.

The coincident timing of impeachment-eve air strikes fueled rampant speculation about President Bill Clinton's motives, drawing indignant insistence by the White House U.S. national security was the singular interest. Today, the Pope finds himself among an ever-growing crowd of Americans unconvinced the missile attack was an absolute necessity, and with the settling dust comes clarification of the uneasy truth, Saddam Hussein remains in power.

This fact controverts the December 17, 1998, call by Congress to finish the job. On a near unanimous vote, 221 Republicans, 195 Democrats and one Independent adopted a resolution in support of our troops in Desert Fox. Congress also included in the measure a bold policy statement "to remove the regime headed by Saddam Hussein from power in Iraq and to promote the emergence of a Democratic government to replace that regime."

However, one day into Desert Fox, Defense Secretary Cohen confessed before a closed assembly of this House our plans did not include undermining Saddam's dictatorship. "The objective of the attack," he admitted, "is to go after those chemical, biological or weapons of mass destruction sites to the extent that we can."

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A Congressman followed up, "Why not go after him if that's what the problem is?"

Cohen replied, "We have set forth our specific targets, and that's what we intend to carry out." Across the Atlantic, British Defense Minister Robertson delivered the consonant line to members of parliament, "It's not our objective to remove Saddam Hussein from power."

Coupled with the historic record of Clinton's Iraq policy, his eagerness to launch missiles while neglecting chief U.S. objectives adds plausibility to the pontiff's skepticism. The President's stubborn devotion to the failing policy of containment has yielded little more than prolonged hardship for Iraq's 22 million civilians and unneeded strain on precarious international relationships.

Clearly the President's precipitous policy in Iraq obviates the need for it to be replaced by a serious one designed to legitimately achieve genuine U.S. objectives. Meanwhile, the absence of such a policy should compel even tepid curiosity among the media as to what Clinton had hoped to achieve, if not well-established U.S. objectives.

Pundits and editorial writers of virtually every country except the United States have proffered cogent opinions fairly impugning the motives of our Commander in Chief. A day into Desert Fox, one member of Britain's parliament, aligned with Clinton's parallel political party, I might add, even admonished his colleagues in formal session, "After all, we're not being led into battle by Richard the Lion-Hearted but by William the liar."

Here at home, however, it was just too troubling to contemplate another scandal, especially when TV production trucks had already secured their coveted parking spaces outside the Capitol.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). The gentleman from Colorado will suspend.

The Chair must caution all Members to abstain from addressing the President in terms or language personally offensive as by applying to him pejorative labels or attributing to him unworthy motives.

The gentleman may continue.

Mr. SCHAFFER. An odd blend of serendipity and irony, the Senate's arraignment of Clinton's folly captivated the media attention so completely as to conceal what may prove the proportionate diversionary scandal of Desert Fox. But with no sex, cigars, stained dresses or Jane Doe's, who could possibly maintain interest for that long?

John Paul II, of course, is not in the business of ratings, advertising, market share, circulation and amusement. His concern is for the truth, human dignity and peace, and that is the reason he scooped the American media on this one.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair again cautions all Members to abstain from addressing the President in terms or language personally offensive as by applying to him pejorative labels or attributing to him unworthy motives.

SPECIAL EDUCATION FUNDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, this evening we are taking a special order to talk about the number-one unfunded mandate from the Federal Government to the States and to local school districts.

Twenty-three years ago, the Congress made the historic decision to support children and families with special education needs. In passing the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the Congress not only brought Federal aid to children with disabilities but it also brought a 100 percent mandate as to how you will spend that money.

Just 2 years ago, Congress and the administration worked together in true bipartisan fashion to reauthorize the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act or better known as special ed, so children with special needs can have more options and services.

I might add at this point that we are still waiting, 2 years later, for the regulations that are supposed to go with this legislation which certainly would help local school districts to know exactly what is expected of them. Unfortunately, the administration has again backed away from the Federal commitment to adequately fund special education. This is the second year in a row that the administration has cut special education funding in the budget that they have sent up to Capitol Hill. They have a tiny increase, they indicate, but if you talk about the increase in inflation and the 123,000 extra students that come into the program each year, you discover that, as a matter of fact, 2 years in a row, the administration has cut special education.

Now, what was promised by the former majority 23 years ago was that the Federal Government, sending the 100 percent mandate, would send 40 percent of all the money that it would take for excess costs to educate a special needs youngster versus educating another youngster. Let me give my colleagues an example.

If in your district you are spending \$8,000 a year per pupil and you are spending, on the other hand, for special need youngsters \$16,000 a year, then the difference, of course, would be \$8,000. If they got 40 percent of that \$8,000 from the Federal Government, they would get \$3,200 extra for educating a special needs child. Well, when I became chairman, they were sending 6 percent. In other words, they were sending \$480, not \$3,200.

And in spite of the fact that the President has, in the budget that has come up, has decreased spending for special ed, the Republican majority in the last 3 years has been able to increase by \$2 billion the amount of money that is now going for special education. For the first time this year, local school districts will be able to decrease the amount of money they must spend from their budget in order to fund our mandate from the Federal