

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

LET US NOT SEND TROOPS TO KOSOVO

HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 1999

Mr. HORN. Mr. Chairman, earlier today I expressed my views on why the American military should not be sent to Kosovo.

The conflict in Kosovo is taking place within a sovereign nation. If we are going to go to war with a sovereign nation, we ought to provide a declaration of war. That is what the Constitution of the United States would have us do. I think all of us in this chamber know that Serbian leader Milosevic is a war criminal that should be tried by an international tribunal. The issue here today is, by what criteria should Congress and the President of the United States judge whether American troops should go there?

When is the success known by American troops sent to Kosovo? The President repeatedly broke promises regarding the length of service in Bosnia before admitting our troops will be there indefinitely. Are they going to spend 50 years in the Balkans around Kosovo to bring peace as we have in Korea? Korea was where another Nation invaded South Korea.

This is the time to ask the President to face up to the tough questions and give us the answers to the questions that have been submitted to him. I would keep American troops out of Kosovo. I am opposed to any bombing of civilians. Any targets should be military in nature.

The President has failed to explain the urgent national interest which requires the introduction of U.S. forces into Kosovo. He has failed to even attempt a full explanation of this policy to Congress. The Constitution has given Congress a clear role to play which the President has ignored.

The Administration argues that if the House votes against authorizing its experiments in peacebuilding today, it will undercut ongoing negotiations and perhaps even lead to more bloodshed. This is insulting. It is the Administration's refusal to consult with Congress and its inability to form a strong policy against Serbian aggression that has led to the debate today. The Administration has rejected all attempts by Congress to assert its Constitutional role on every occasion it has put our forces in harm's way without a clear explanation of its mission or on what our forces were supposed to accomplish. The current objections by the White House are more of the same rhetoric from an Executive Branch derisive of consultation with Congress.

The conflict in Kosovo is taking place within a sovereign nation. Intervention in Kosovo, even following an agreement forced upon both sides, is the intervention in a civil war to medi-

ate between two sides which we are trying to force into an agreement that will require our forces to uphold.

By what criteria would the President judge success in this mission whereby American troops could be recalled from Kosovo? The President repeatedly broke promises regarding the length of service in Bosnia before admitting that our troops will be there indefinitely. Once a peacekeeping force enters Kosovo to uphold a forced agreement, that force will serve indefinitely unless Congress acts responsibly to restrict yet another open-ended commitment to achieve nebulous goals.

While the House debates the commitment of forces to Kosovo, we are also wrestling with the question of funding our armed forces, forces stretched thin by multiple commitments around the world. We are debating how to protect our nation from missile attack, perhaps from missiles improved with stolen American technology. How, then, will another open-ended commitment of American forces help American security. I have heard the arguments on why American forces must be present to make a peacekeeping force work, and while these arguments have merit, they also point out the failure of Europe to deal with issues in its own backyard.

Under the agreement being negotiated now, the peacekeeping force would attack Serbia if its forces or sympathizers violate the agreement, but what would happen if elements of the Kosovo Liberation Army violates the agreement? How would the United States with NATO punish Kosovar violations?

The United States presumably has a responsibility to end the bloodshed in Kosovo because it is the only nation left with the resources to do so. So why, then, is the Administration not seeking to put peacekeepers on the ground in Turkey, where thousands of innocent Kurds have been killed in Turkey's attempt to destroy the terrorists of the PKK? Why have American peacekeepers not been dispatched to Sierra Leone, where the killing continues? Why were international peacekeepers not part of the Irish or Basque peace agreement? What makes Kosovo different?

Let us keep American Troops out of Kosovo. If lives are to be in harm's way, let the European members of NATO handle regional conflicts in their own backyard.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
IN HONOR OF THE 35TH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE BARTON
SENIOR CENTER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Barton Senior Center for its 35-year

record of enriching the quality of life for seniors in Lakewood, Ohio.

The Barton Center has been the inspiration for countless noteworthy projects and activities designed to benefit the Lakewood community. This non-profit, self-supporting organization offers a variety of social, educational, recreational and health related activities, classes, programs and services to the seniors of Lakewood. It is truly a multi-purpose senior center.

The inspiration for the Barton Center happened in 1963 when the first residents of the newly built Westerly senior apartment building realized their need for a common social area. With help from government loans, foundation gifts and individual donations, a full service senior center was built, complete with a spacious lounge and dining room, a fully equipped kitchen, a room for arts and crafts, a library, a pool and game room, a workshop and hobby room, and office space. A full-time director and activities coordinator was also hired.

Since its beginning, the Barton Center has continued to grow and expand. The center publishes a regular newsletter that has a circulation of over 1,500 people. Current programs and services such as the Driver Evaluation Program, Home Town Band Concerts, the Holiday Fair, the Dinner Theater, health and exercise programs and neighborhood transportation service are also immensely popular with the hundreds of members of the center.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in recognizing the 35th anniversary of the Barton Senior Center.

CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENTS OF WOMEN OF COLOR DURING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Harriet Tubman and her lifelong dedication to social justice. We remember Harriet Tubman for her role in winning freedom for African-Americans. We remember her work on behalf of the Underground Railroad. We remember her courage in risking her life and freedom to help others to escape the tyranny of enslavement.

Harriet Tubman was born a slave in the early 1820s in Bucktown, Maryland, near Cambridge. At birth, she was named Araminta, but later adopted her mother's first name. In 1884, she married John Tubman, a freed slave. Starting life on a plantation, she grew up doing hard labor in the fields and suffering repeated beatings. Once, at age 13, an overseer struck her with a heavy weight and, for the rest of her life, she struggled with the serious effects of a fractured skull.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

In 1849, after her owner died, she fled alone to Philadelphia on the underground railroad. Congress then passed the 1850 Fugitive Slave Act, a law that criminalized providing help to runaway slaves. Nevertheless, Harriet immediately dared to make her first return trip. Over the next decade, Tubman used the Underground Railroad to make 18 separate trips to free slaves. In total, she helped more than 3,000 slaves escape and earned the nickname "Moses" for having led so many of her people to freedom.

It is said that she planned carefully, never repeated her route, and became an inspirational role model. Her success is measured by the reactions of slave owners, who placed a \$40,000 bounty on her head, a fortune in today's dollars.

During the Civil War, she worked as a Union spy, scout, and nurse. In these roles, she helped even more slaves to escape. After the Civil War, she campaigned to raise funds for black schools. Later, she established the Harriet Tubman Home for Indigent Aged Negroes in her own home. Like many others who have dedicated their lives to social justice, Harriet lived her later years in poverty. A few years before her death, Congress finally awarded her a monthly pension. Today, I urge my colleagues to refresh our recognition of her life and good works.

The date of Harriet Ross Tubman's birth is uncertain, but experts believe it is March 10, 1820. She died on March 10, 1913. It is, therefore, highly appropriate to honor this American hero during March's Women's History Month. At her death, Tubman was impoverished in economic terms, but her life was rich with great accomplishments, great works, and the knowledge that she had brought freedom to thousands of slaves. She is an inspiration to all of us.

"PROJECT 2000"—A NATIONAL MODEL FOR HUMANITARIAN SUPPORT

HON. HAROLD E. FORD, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a constituent, friend and esteemed member of the clergy from Tennessee's Ninth District, Reverend Bill Adkins.

On Wednesday, March 15, Reverend Adkins announced an ambitious project in Memphis that will bring together people of faith from across the city, from all dominations, to address our community's most pressing needs. Entitled "Project 2000," the initiative would begin on Easter Sunday and continue throughout the year. Participating churches would set aside the receipt from one Sunday's collection for a special community project.

Reverend Adkins described this initiative best when he urged his fellow clergy to join him in his cause:

"We pray about poverty, housing, incarceration, illnesses and the lack of jobs, and we should. But what are the churches doing? Why can't we take one Sunday out of 52 and do something together for the betterment of

the community? One hundred churches alone in Memphis could generate several million dollars." (Source: The Commercial Appeal, March 16, 1999)

"Project 2000" exemplifies the American ideals of community and mutual responsibility. As Americans, we should not live as individuals in isolation, but as members of a community, working together to solve our common problems. In our labors, we should draw on the spiritual, moral, intellectual and financial strength of our church community. There is no limit to what we can accomplish when we marshal the good will and resources of the more than 150 million people of faith who attend weekly services in over 300,000 congregations in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me today in honoring Reverend Adkins and "Project 2000." But more than that, Mr. Speaker, I believe the best tribute to Reverend Adkins and "Project 2000" would be for all of my colleagues in the House of Representatives to introduce this unique initiative to their constituents. I have included a copy of a recent news article describing this initiative and ask that it be included in the RECORD.

[From The Commercial Appeal, Mar. 16, 1999]

CHURCHES ASKED TO DONATE A SUNDAY

(By David Waters)

Monday, he was on the radio rallying citizens to do something positive for the oft-maligned neighborhood of Whitehaven.

Tuesday, he was at the City Council meeting, lobbying council members to do something to fix a voting plan he thinks is unfair.

Wednesday, he held a press conference and challenged his congregation and others to do something collectively to help the community.

"We pray about poverty, housing, incarceration, illness and the lack of jobs, and we should," Rev. Bill Adkins, pastor of Greater Imani Church, said as he presented his idea for Project 2000.

"But what are the churches doing?"

Adkins suggested that, starting next year, all local churches contribute one Sunday's receipts to a special community project.

The first Project 2000 Sunday could be Jan. 30, 2000, the fifth Sunday of that month.

"Most churches consider fifth Sundays as gravy," Adkins said.

"Why can't we take one Sunday out of 52 and do something together for the betterment of the community?"

Adkins would like to get representatives from each participating congregation to form a board to choose a Project 2000 recipient.

"One hundred churches alone in Memphis could generate several million dollars," he said.

"The church, especially the traditional black church, has the might to bring resurrection power to this community."

Adkins said Project 2000 will begin on Easter Sunday.

Easter this year falls on April 4 for the first time since Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was killed on that date in Memphis in 1968.

To commemorate that date, Adkins said Greater Imani will celebrate Easter at the Mid-South Coliseum this year. The service will begin at 9 a.m.

THE IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER INCENTIVE ACT OF 1999

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, today I am joined by my Ways and Means Committee colleague Mr. NEAL in introducing the IRA Charitable Rollover Incentive Act. This bill will allow Americans who have reached age 59½ to donate their IRA assets to a charity without incurring income tax on the distribution.

Under current law, distributions from IRA's are taken in as income to the account holder and taxed. This proposal will allow the assets in the IRA to pass directly to the charity without being taken in and taxed as income. However, the donor may not also claim a charitable contribution deduction as the IRA assets represent previously untaxed income.

The IRA Charitable Rollover Incentive Act has come about thanks to the valuable input from hundreds of charitable organizations across the country. I want to specifically thank Northwestern University President Henry Bienen for bringing to my attention the problems the current laws governing IRA's have created for donors who wish to transfer their assets to charities.

This bill has the potential for unlocking significant financial resources for charitable organizations. I urge my colleagues to join us in this effort by cosponsoring the IRA Charitable Rollover Incentive Act.

IN HONOR OF TOM AND PAUL CALAMARAS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Tom and Paul Calamaras. They were honored on November 20, 1998, as "Men of the Year" by the Broadway-Astoria Merchants & Professionals Association at their 18th Annual Dinner Dance at the Crystal Palace.

Tom and Paul Calamaras, the owners of the Crystal Palace and Oyster Bay Catering Hall, have played an immensely significant role in New York City's Greek-American community.

The history of the Calamaras family is the story of the American Dream. Thomas, Paul, and their sister, Eleni, were born in Sparta to Despina and John Calamaras. When the children were still young, John came to the United States to support his family. He worked at the Oyster Bay Restaurant, first as a dishwasher and later as a chef. In 1944, John opened a small coffee shop on the Lower East Side.

John, who was not a citizen, was finally able to bring his family to the United States in the late 1940s. The Calamaras family ran the coffee shop, and when the restaurant next door became available, they expanded the restaurant into the Blue Sea Restaurant.

In 1957, Paul returned to Greece where he met and married Mary Stefanos Resiopoulou