EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

GEORGE TIMES By Robert Scheer. It answers the
call of those countless generations of Ameri-
cans who conceived, sung in unison the
hymn, "All We Are Saying Is Give Peace a
Chance." As John Lennon might say, "Imag-
ine . . ."

[From the Los Angeles Times, June 20, 2000]

‘GIVE PEACE A CHANCE’—WHILE THE FAULTS

(By Robert Scheer)

When it comes to world politics, the best
Beatles was ringside. The news first came in from Pyongyang, I couldn't get the
image out of my mind of him at some long ago peace rally singing; "All we are saying is
give peace a chance." Not that it didn't seem at times corny and futile trying to keep
those little candles from blowing out, but the world peace he was pushing now does, at
least, seem to be the happening thing.

What further evidence do we need than that picture of the two Kims from Korea,
North and South, holding hands and singing a song of peace. You know, Yoko One
could've written the script. Mark the mo-
moment; it represents the triumph of
Lennonism. John that is, not Vladimir.

The threat and the apathy that we are facing today the threat of violent
worldwide revolution died with that
Kim to Kim photo, and along with it the Cold War obsessions that have made the
world an unsafe place. In the two years the two Koreas, divided by the most heavily fortified
military barrier left in the world, can come to terms, what warring parties can't? The
message is clear. The threat from this and other "rogue nations" can be met far more
cheaply with talk, trade and aid than with a $60-billion missile defense systems and other
warrior fantasies.

It is time to pay homage to that much mal-
ligned arm of pacifists like Dorothy Day,
A.J. Muste, David Delinger, Bertrand Rus-
sell, Benjamin Spock, Linus Pauling and
Martin Luther King, Jr. Merely for insisting
that we have a common humanity that can
redeem our enemies, they were scorned as
dupes and even viewed as traitors.

Some hard-liners thought that as well of
Richard M. Nixon when he journeyed to Red
China to make peace with the devil that he
had done so much to make. Even then came
Gorbachev and Reagan burying the hatchet
that their military advisors preferred be
honored. Today, Pete Peterson, a former
prisoner of war, sits as the U.S. ambassador
in Hanoi, where the prison in which he was held
has been turned into a tourist hotel. Soon,
we may even have the courage to recognize
that the "threat" from Cuba has never been
more than a cruel joke.

But the lesson that peace is practical has
been extended to conflicts beyond the Cold
War. The mayhem inspired by those drunk
on the potency of their purifying religious,
ethnic and nationalist visions continues, but
they can smell the odor of their own defeat.
The fools fight on in places like Sierra
Leone, but the smartest among the world's
militant revolutionaries have already aban-
donned violence for peace.

The PLO and IRA are now partners in
peace with their sworn enemies, for which
another president—Bill Clinton—deserves
much credit. Iran has elected a majority of
moderates to its parliamentary chambers; Syria
will have a modern new leader who may at last
respond positively to the risks that Israel
has taken for peace in withdrawing from southern
Lebanon, but the smartest among the world's
militant revolutionaries have already aban-
donned violence for peace.

PEACE works because deep down, it's what
people of all stripes want—to make love, not
war.

DEATH PENALTY

MISINFORMATION

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE
OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2000

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I submit a Wall
Street Journal opinion piece titled "We're Not
Executing the Innocent" for insertion into the
RECORD.

There is a lot of misinformation being cir-
culated about the death penalty and Professor
Cassell does a good job of setting the record
straight.

WE'RE NOT EXECUTING THE INNOCENT

(By Paul G. Cassell)

On Monday avowed opponents of the death
penalty caught the attention of Al Gore
among others when they released a report
reporting that demonstrate that the nation's
capital punishment system is "collapsing under
the weight of its own mistakes." Con-
trary to the headlines written by some gul-
ible editors, however, the report proves
nothing of the sort.

At one level, the report is a dog-bites-man
story. It is well known that the Supreme
Court has mandated a system of super due
due process for the death penalty. The phony
consequence of this extraordinary caution is
that capital sentences are more likely to be
reversed than lesser sentences are. The wide-
ly trumpeted statistic in the report—the 88%
"error rate" in capital cases—might accord-
ingly be viewed as a reassuring sign of the