

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 31, 2012

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, I regret that this bill, like so many of its predecessors over the past several years, does nothing to address some the urgent need for real reform in our intelligence community.

I am particularly troubled by the failure of this bill to address the deepening militarization of the Central Intelligence Agency, a process that began long ago but that has accelerated dramatically in the post-9/11 era.

Throughout most of its history, the CIA has—at the direction of successive presidents—veered between two organizational paths. The first, and the proper one, is for the CIA to do what President Truman intended when he created it: to collect information about the world around us, synthesize and analyze that data, and provide it to the executive and the legislature for their information and action, as appropriate. The other path—the one that has caused the CIA and our Nation so much grief—is the path of militarized covert, and not-so-covert, action.

Today, it is manifested in a quasi-publicly acknowledged CIA assassination-by-drone campaign on which the Administration has refused to provide information, despite my own request and the request of many other House and Senate members for the information. In the previous decade, we saw what happened when lines of responsibility and accountability for secret programs were fuzzy or not observed. The result was a detainee and interrogation program that was a national embarrassment morally, and an albatross politically with our allies around the world. The not-so-covert “drone wars” are on a similar glide path, and this bill does nothing to provide a much-needed course correction for the policy.

This state of affairs is all the more regrettable because there are many dedicated professionals working in the CIA and elsewhere in our intelligence community who are forced to implement these questionable programs and policies. Some would agree with me that the entire enterprise is out of control and would benefit from much more focused and effective Congressional oversight. If this bill contained whistleblower protections for intelligence community employees, some of those individuals might well step forward to report what they know, and what they believe needs to be changed. But this bill contains no such protections, ensuring that the chilling threat of job retaliation remains in place. We will not restore true accountability and oversight over the intelligence community until such reforms are enacted, and which are absent from this bill. Accordingly, I cannot support it.

H.R. 1464, THE NORTH KOREA REFUGEE ADOPTION ACT

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 1, 2013

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise as a cosponsor of H.R. 1464, the North Korea Refugee Adoption Act, and to thank Mr. ROYCE and Ranking Member BERMAN for their efforts on this important bi-partisan bill.

This measure was introduced to assist North Korean children living “stateless” outside of that country who face starvation and neglect because they are neither North Korean citizens nor citizens of the country where they currently reside. Many of these children have Chinese fathers and North Korean mothers but are not claimed by either parent, and being stateless, don’t have access to the resources of either country.

The bill encourages the Homeland and State Departments to develop strategies to help reunite North Korean refugee children with their families or to facilitate the adoption of the children by citizens of South Korea, China or other countries. In the Senate, the bill was amended to require the Secretary of State to designate a representative to regularly brief the Congress on U.S. efforts to advocate for the best interests of North Korean children.

There are many American families who would love to give a home to these orphans and refugee children if they could. This bill will help to facilitate that process. I encourage my colleagues to join me in support of the bill.

ON THE PASSING OF RABBI IRWIN GRONER

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 1, 2013

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, today funeral services are being held at the Congregation Shaarey Zedek in Southfield, Michigan for its beloved, esteemed Rabbi, Irwin Groner.

Rabbi Groner served the congregation for over 50 years. He became a continuing source of wisdom and warmth of personality for numerous thousands as he served in various positions in the Jewish community in metropolitan Detroit and beyond. He was active in promoting good will among all faiths in metropolitan Detroit.

His written works will continue to spread his words of wisdom in books of his sermons and his publications on Torah. Also persevering will be the feelings of the deepest affection among all of us blessed by his friendship.

In his words: “Our congregation has prayed together, wept together, rejoiced together, failed together and achieved together.”

Today his congregation and all privileged to know him join in tears for his passing and in prayers of gratitude for his life.

Our heartfelt condolences go to his wife Leypsa and the entire Groner family.

MY FAREWELL SPEECH

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 1, 2013

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, as I close my 24 years in Congress I wanted to take an opportunity to express my sentiments in two areas; one) the continued bailouts that have occurred and the continued Keynesian resolution to all our economic problems and two) what should be done to get our budget and subsequent deficits under control.

With the recent bailouts in Congress Americans are wondering if Capitalism works. And when is the next bust going to happen. Having voted against the TARP for Wall Street and the huge Stimulus package, I am wondering the same thing. Do we have to deflate our money every time there is a crisis with the Federal Reserve stepping in by printing huge sums of money and transferring it to the Treasury Department, they then hand it out to businesses that they deem important and necessary? Congress has no say so in this matter once the bill is passed. There are rarely any safeguards with the legislation and complete cart blanche authority is given to these two government agencies, which is down right awful. Mr. Paulson changed his strategy from buying the toxic loans to bailout Wall Street firms and banks. Then the 15 largest banks that received this money were the same ones that made money off the sale on packaging of these financial devices that get bail out because they are considered to big to fail. Rubbish.

But what is the pretext for these bailouts? It is Keynesian economics. His mantra of “But we only owe it to ourselves!” is the password for all economic theory. We did in every major financial crisis in America and England also. The government becomes almighty. His ideas have become the basis for socialistic governments around the world. To get the economy moving again, Keynes taught, it was the responsibility of government to create full employment, even if it had to borrow money and assume huge debt to do so. Rather than get rid of the problems that created the economic depression, greed, corruption and incompetence and then allowing the markets to work and punish those folks who caused the problems; these folks get bailed out. Why? Because of Keynesian economics and political might. Those at the levers of power are generally connected to Wall Street or big financial institutions. Again contrary to basic business logic.

Although excessive government spending and mounting public debt appear to provide some good in the short term, but in the long term, Keynesian economics only make things worse and create grounds for the inevitable

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