

Herald, entitled "No to a World Court" into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

[From the Omaha World-Herald, Dec. 20, 2000]

NO TO A WORLD COURT

America's political leaders are being wooed with a siren song they would do well to resist. Foreign governments, political activists and academics are sounding that song with the aim of enticing the United States into ratifying a treaty to create an International Criminal Court. The song goes something like this:

Turn away from old notions. Turn away from your antiquated allegiance to national sovereignty. Embrace a higher moral order. Recognize that if nations are to promote true justice, they must swallow their pride and bow to a higher authority, a court, that will decide questions of war crimes and genocide and see that wrongdoers receive the punishment they deserve.

If a treaty establishing the court is approved by 60 nations, the world would finally have a permanent international forum with the authority to prosecute masterminds of genocide and war crimes.

It is superficially appealing. But behind the high-minded sentiments lies an agenda hostile to U.S. interests.

Foreign governments and activists organizations have sent strong indications that they envision the court largely as a tool for reining in the assertion of U.S. power. Through its ability to prosecute American officials and military people, the court would give anti-American critics a powerful new instrument for undermining U.S. military operations and intimidating U.S. leaders from launching future ones.

Creation of the court would also aid its boosters in their efforts to create a new standard for military operations, an "enlightened" standard that would, in effect, severely restrict U.S. military options under threat of international prosecution.

The eagerness of international activists to promote such extravagant legal claims was demonstrated this year when human rights groups tried unsuccessfully to haul NATO officials before an international tribunal investigating war crimes from the Yugoslav civil war. The activists claimed, without foundation, that NATO's 1999 bombing campaign violated international law in reckless disregard for civilians.

That air campaign, ironically, was marked not be callousness on the part of NATO officials but by the extraordinary lengths to which they sought to minimize casualties, civilian as well as military. Regrettable losses of civilian life occurred nonetheless, fanning the criticism of such interventions.

As if all this weren't enough, the proposed procedures for the International Criminal Court would place it in direct opposition to civil liberties guaranteed under the U.S. Constitution. Proceedings before the court would allow no trial by jury, no right to a trial without long delays, no right of the defendant to confront witnesses, no prohibition against extensive hearsay evidence and no appeals.

David Rivkin and Lee Casey, two American attorneys with extensive experience in international law, note that the court would serve as "police, prosecutor, judge, jury and jailer," with no countervailing authority to check its power.

Rivkin and Casey also point out that trying Americans under such conditions was precisely the sort of injustice that Thomas Jefferson warned against in the Declaration of Independence more than 200 years ago.

In listing the injustices committed by the British government, the Declaration heaped

particular scorn on the way Americans had been abused by British vice-admiralty courts. Such courts, the Declaration said, had subjected American defendants "to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws." The courts denied people "the benefits of Trial by Jury" and involved transporting them "beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offenses."

When the U.S. Constitution was drafted in the late 1780s, it specifically required that criminal trials be by jury and held in the state and district where the crime was committed.

The appropriate course for the United States would be to continue supporting international courts on an ad hoc basis, such as the Yugoslav tribunal, to meet the needs of particular situations. Such bodies have powers far more modest than that of the proposed court.

A chorus of foreign governments, advocacy groups and commentators has a far different agenda, however. They are urging the United States to sign and ratify the treaty creating the International Criminal Court. To hinder the court's creation, they say, would be the opposite of progressive.

But the siren song ought to be resisted. Otherwise, by bowing to foolhardy legal restrictions, the United States would be handing its clever critics the very chains with which they would bind this country. And so we would lose some of our ability to defend not only our own interests but the freedoms of others.

RECOGNIZING MRS. ANN HEIMAN OF GREELEY, COLORADO

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 3, 2001

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to recognize one of my constituents, Mrs. Ann Heiman of Greeley, Colorado. Last autumn, Mrs. Heiman received The Daily Points of Light Award for her community action and acts of generosity.

Mrs. Heiman's story is remarkable. A cancer survivor of 47 years, she has never stopped in her service to her fellow citizens. Mrs. Heiman was a founding member of the original Eastside Health Center, served on the task force for a family assistance organization, and was a founding board member of the Weld Food Bank—which distributes 37 tons of food weekly to those in need. She was also one of the first board members of A Woman's Place, a center for abused women, and she is a member of the local board of education.

I am extremely proud of Mrs. Heiman. I am proud to recognize her as an outstanding Coloradan. Her dedication to our western community and her compassion for all have made an enduring difference in the lives of her neighbors. I ask the House to join me in extending congratulations to Mrs. Heiman of Colorado.

TRIBUTE TO MARQUETTE POLICE CHIEF SAL SARVELLO ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 3, 2001

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, as you and our House colleagues are aware, I have worked

since my first day in Congress to bring a broad awareness of the needs and concerns of law enforcement officials to the floor of this chamber. I experience the great joy of this personal mission when I can speak, as I do today, to celebrate the career and dedication of a law enforcement officer at the house of this retirement.

Police Chief Salvatore Sarvello joined the Marquette, Michigan, Police Department as a patrolman in 1971, about the same time that I was joining public safety department in the nearby community of Escanaba. Our careers took different paths—I became a Michigan State Trooper and eventually entered politics, while Sal worked his way up through his department, becoming chief in 1995. Despite our different paths, we had numerous opportunities to work together, perhaps most significantly on the issue of methcathinone, an illegal drug that plagued northern Michigan for several years. Production of this drug, commonly known as CAT, took root in our area. With the help of Sal and other investigators in the region, I was able to develop legislation—my very first piece of federal legislation signed into law—that took the claws out of this highly addictive substance.

Sal has always been a supporter of the COPS program, the wonderfully ambitious and successful plan to help cities, counties, townships and other municipalities hire additional law enforcement officers. I have worked hard in Congress to ensure this program continued to receive funding until the goal of hiring 100,000 new officers by the 2000 was reached, and the support grass-roots support of officers like Chief Salvatore was essential in accomplishing this task. I worked with Sal for the visit of Vice President Al Gore, first in 1992 as part of a campaign swing for the Clinton-Gore ticket, and again in '94. I appreciate and applaud his professionalism in dealing with the complications, uncertainties and last-minute decisions associated with a visit on short notice of a national political to a small community.

A recent article in the Marquette *Mining Journal* notes that Chief Sarvello's law enforcement career actually goes back to the mid-60s, when he served as a U.S. Air Force Security police officer in Vietnam. This lifetime of public service, the article notes won't end with the Chief's retirement, because he plans to remain active with the Marquette West Rotary Club and with his parish, St. Michael's Catholic Church.

The chief looks forward to spending more time with Joan, his wife of 34 years, and his sons, Michael and Scott. At a special gathering Friday, the community will have a chance to wish the best to its retiring chief. Mr. Speaker, I ask you and our colleagues to join me in offering our thanks to this dedicated public servant, Chief Sal Sarvello, for a job well done.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL TO AMEND CLEAR CREEK COUNTY, COLORADO, LANDS TRANSFER ACT

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 3, 2001

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I am today reintroducing a bill to provide additional