

people of Missouri knew better how to spend their own money than Federal bureaucrats could spend it for them. He believed in a government of, by, and for the people, rather than one of, by, and for the bureaucrats. He led the fight in Missouri for the Hancock amendment to limit taxes because he knew it is not possible to ever satisfy government's appetite for money or land.

He did not win every race or every election, but Sug stood by him through thick and thin, the losses as well as the victories. He won his seat in Congress running on the slogan of "Give 'Em Mel," and he did just that in his 8 years of service here. He served from 1989 to 1997 and always won overwhelming re-elections. He could have been easily re-elected in 1996; but he had committed to an 8-year term limit, and he was a man of his word. In fact, probably about the only issue that Mel and I ever disagreed on was that of term limits. Mel started something called the Hancock Poll for those of us who had come to Congress with him, always rating us compared to his votes, and some of us always thought it was a great honor if we came out very close to Mel in the Hancock Poll.

Shortly after the first election in 1988, Mel went with other freshmen to the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard; but because he found that there is not really true academic freedom in this country on our college campuses, and particularly in a place like Harvard, Mel got fed up and walked out on Harvard after just a short time there.

In his service here in this Congress, he became a member of the Committee on Ways and Means, and he was a leader on the Committee on Ways and Means on all the major issues that that very powerful committee acts on. He was a pilot, and he was very much interested in aviation issues; and during my 6 years as Chairman of the subcommittee aviation, he always had good suggestions and comments to make in regard to the very important aviation issues facing this country.

Mr. Speaker, Mel Hancock was and is a true-blue American who believes in free enterprise, private property and individual freedom, the things that made this country great. He voted that way here in the House. Mel Hancock helped make this Nation great, and our country is a better place today because of men and women like Mel and Sug Hancock. Mel Hancock is one of the finest men I have ever known, and I know that all of my colleagues who served here with him and got to know Mel join me in wishing him and Sug a wonderful and a happy 50th wedding anniversary this coming Sunday.

VISIONS FOR A NEW AFGHANISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, last Friday I led a bipartisan delegation to Europe that met with the exiled King of Afghanistan in Rome, and I want to say up front one of the most common questions we had was, is United States policy tilted towards the King, or is it tilted towards the Northern Alliance? And one thing we continually made clear and we need to continually make clear is that many of us here in Congress supported the Northern Alliance and wanted additional funding to go to them, and many of us in Congress support the exiled King. We support both, and we believe there should be a coalition government.

In fact, today's papers, in The New York Times, Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, all are running stories suggesting that the Northern Alliance is suddenly wanting to go it alone, now that after months of not moving or actually retreating, were able to advance with American bombs, all of a sudden they want to go exclusive. Our policy needs to be balanced.

I would like to share a few comments of our exchange with the King and then some thoughts on the direction of where we may head. Clearly, the King is 87. He is of strong mind and will, but he has been in exile for years. His role would be more of a coordinator and peacemaker, not necessarily a dominant leader. After all, he is 87, not 57. His heart hurts for his people and country. He expressed sorrow because of the terrorism that brought the bombing. He stated that that bombing was a necessary evil. He stressed the need for meetings with the Northern Alliance as soon as possible. We pushed him hard in part on that point, and clearly they need to get to those meetings. Unfortunately, one of the dangers here is if one group gets in a dominant position, particularly if they are in the minority population, a dominant governing position over the others, we will not have peace in Afghanistan; we will descend into further chaos.

We stressed Afghan solutions. But that does not mean just warlords who could not have advanced without our bombs; it means a real coalition. Our goal is to hunt down terrorists and to bring them to justice and to hold those who harbor terrorists accountable; but our goal is not to be nation-building beyond a point. We want an Afghan solution, but if they want our long-term support, they need to have a balanced solution.

We also aggressively oppose the distribution of heroin and the violation of human rights, which some of our so-called new-found friends have done as well, not just the Taliban. Financial assistance and trade policies of the United States are impacted by a government's abuse of human rights and death peddling through drug dealing and drug trafficking of heroin.

There is an Afghan solution that meets these goals, but it needs to include the people of the north as well as the majority Pashtuns of the south.

Americans today only see an Afghanistan that is riven by tribal factions, funded by heroin, chaos and constant war, terrorists and terrorist sympathizers. But the former King has shown that a different Afghan did exist, a coalition government, a move from monarchy to democracy, rights for women, and an economy not dependent upon heroin. It can happen in Afghanistan, and it did for many years.

In that sense, the country is currently missing all of this for many years, and the exiled king would give them a vision of hope. It is not a question of his returning as a King, but as a symbol of a functional Afghanistan which many people in the United States and the world do not see. As our delegation told him, if we do not see, if the Afghan that he represented that did not harbor terrorists, that respected human rights and, in fact, does not distribute heroin, then the American people will help rebuild their economic devastation that the Taliban has caused. But we are not going to help rebuild if, in fact, it is replaced with another government. It does not mean that an enemy of an enemy is just that, an enemy of an enemy is a temporary ally, but to be a friend, where they get the financial assistance, the trade and help in rebuilding their country, we want to see a decent government.

Afghanistan has been subject to being a political football for centuries, particularly between Russia and England, but all the way back to Timur-i-Leng, for centuries and centuries. The book "Tournament of Champions," a book about this battle for Central Asia, reads, in many ways, like the current New York Times: "Back and forth through the passes, through the mountain hideouts, hiding out in the snow, fighting mountain wars, tribal factions dominated by the bordering nations."

What we do see in the reign of the former King is a move to democracy, that it can be different. A country torn by war with tribal and religious differences that was poor before being wrecked by the Taliban is not suddenly going to be paradise on Earth. Romanticism by Americans is not in order.

But we do know that it can be a better Afghanistan. We do know that if there is a coalition government that respects the rights of the Afghan people, that does not deal in heroin, that is committed to rebuilding their economy, that is oriented towards peace, not harboring terrorists, it can be different. But if it does not, it not only will not be a paradise, it will continue to be close to an earthly version of hell.

HONOR THE FALLEN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to take up