

our vital interests. Unless we want to carry this burden alone, my distinguished colleague, and I do not think we can or should, we must be prepared to shift some of the responsibilities, as well as the costs, to other nations.

Do I favor a reformed United Nations? You bet. And have I told all persons with whom I have come in contact, including the Secretary of State of this great country, that? Yes, I have. I believe this means we must help to strengthen institutions such as the United Nations so that it can take the lead in peacekeeping operations and the United States can benefit from burden sharing. I hear that term used often.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to note that other United Nations programs also serve the United States interests. The World Health Organization, for example, led in the successful fight to eradicate smallpox from the face of the Earth and are busying themselves now working throughout the world in a variety of disease containment circumstances.

The International Atomic Energy Agency helps enforce crucial safeguards on nuclear materials. The International Civil Action Organization helps maintain safe air travel. Our payments to these agencies help to build a better and safer world.

Should we, as I say, work for major reforms in the United Nations? Yes. This amendment prejudices that question by saying we should just get out, wash our hands and turn our backs on the world.

I urge all Members to vote against the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas [Mr. PAUL].

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Chairman, the gentleman points out that every President since the inception of the UN has supported the UN, but I might suggest that every President prior to that supported a foreign policy which was considered non-interventionist, pro-American, and that should be taken into consideration as well.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment, and again with all deference and respect for my good friend, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. PAUL] I do rise against his amendment. I think it would deny us an opportunity to promote world peace and do some of the things that we have been doing so well and not so well at times through the United Nations.

Let me just say that if his amendment were passed, we would no longer be participating in the UN Children's Fund, and there is \$100 million in this bill targeted to UNICEF. UNICEF has been part of the global effort to eradicate preventable diseases that affect children, like pertussis, polio, tetanus, diphtheria and other menacing diseases,

measles, and it seems to me that if we were to take that money away, we would see more children die from these preventable diseases. The UN is not perfect, the UN Children's Fund is not perfect, but at least it gives us an opportunity to protect children and to tangibly stop mortality and morbidity among these victims of these diseases.

Refugees. The UN High Commission of Refugees tells us that they have some 26 million people of interest to the UNHCR. We would no longer and much of our money again that is in this bill, we have \$704 million for refugee assistance goes to the UNHCR that provides the camps and the safe havens, if my colleagues will, for those who are escaping tyranny or other devastating situations in their countries.

The UNHCR again is not perfect, it has many flaws. I am one of its chief critics. But it does provide a very valuable humanitarian assistance that will be lost.

The ILO is another UN sponsored agency, the International Labor Organization. We have \$20 million that is earmarked or put a designation for that money. When we marked up, it was part of my original draft bill to eradicate the exploitation of children around the world. We had 2 hearings in the subcommittee last year on this issue of the exploitation of kids, child labor.

We even heard from some of those who were in the news regarding it. We heard from a girl from Honduras who had been through the mill and exploited by her employer. The ILO has action plans in countries that work, that help to eradicate and sensitize government officials. To get us out of the ILO, I think, would be a mistake.

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Peacekeeping; again, if we look at UNPROFOR, if we look at some of the peacekeeping missions that have gone awry, including Somalia, it gives a black mark to what the Blue Helmets do, but they have had many successful interventions. Had it not been for the U.N. peacekeepers, many, many people, civilians, would have been dead, and those long-term missions continue. We have combatants and people who would be at each other had it not been for the fact that these people interposed themselves to separate these warring factions.

The U.N. Security Council continues to provide us a way of mobilizing world support as we did in operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm to mobilize the world against the tyranny of Saddam Hussein. That became an international action because we had the capability to use the U.N. to make it a unified effort.

There are consensus-breakers. And my subcommittee oversees, I say to my friend, the U.N., and nobody criticizes them more than I do. They have had recent conferences like the recent conference in Cairo and Beijing where some very egregious policies were

being promoted and foisted on the developing world. These are consensus-breakers. The gay agenda, the abortion rights agenda, the developing world does not want it. And there will be amendments later on today that I will offer that will say specific agencies, like U.N. Population Fund, get out of China where we have co-managed and been part of the coercion of women to have forced abortions and forced sterilizations, that is where the U.N. goes awry. We ought to target our opposition to those that commit these very serious crimes.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Chairman, the gentleman mentioned the UNICEF program, \$100 million. It is well motivated and I think the intentions are very good, and my colleague does admit that sometimes the consequences are not exactly what we want. But the question is, do we have this authority to take money from poor people in this country and make these attempts to do these social programs overseas. I do not see the authority, and I do not think the programs work that well.

The gentleman mentioned fighting the Persian Gulf war. We were serving oil interests there. I mean we went in there for that, oil interests. They said it was our oil, it was not our oil. But now, who is paying the cost? Thousands, 34,000, 40,000, 50,000 Americans now suffer from gulf war syndrome. So I would say there is a much higher cost than anybody realizes and we cannot ignore that.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the gentleman making those points.

On UNICEF, I myself on a number of occasions have talked to leadership people, including Carol Bellamy, who is director of UNICEF.

The CHAIRMAN. The time of the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. SMITH] has expired.

(By unanimous consent, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey was allowed to proceed for 3 additional minutes.)

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Chairman, I have asked her and relayed a message that there is a growing concern in Congress, among the American people that, if they move in or evolve into some kind of abortion promotion, which some of their people would like to see, it is over. We will find other ways of using our money to advance the child survival revolution. We need to continue, I think, to give those messages in a very real way, and I will offer the amendment on the floor, if anything, to curtail that funding and make sure that it is given to other child survival programs throughout the world.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I yield to the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I offer a segue off of what the