

problems that challenge the world community through an organization that debates the issues, or should we leave all of our debates to the battlefield? The U.N. is an institution important to America's national interests. People who care about our future economy and our security and the values that we believe in ought to support the U.N. We ought to try to make it as efficient as possible, but there is no question that America's interests lie in a United Nations that is efficient, that is strong, and that deals with the challenges we face in a multilateral manner.

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

Mr. GEJDENSON. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. PAUL. Yes, I am concerned about the same things. I want peace and security for our country. That is our number one responsibility here, not to socialize the world and run a welfare state. But a policy of neutrality has been more consistent with that of peace throughout our history and throughout the history of the world. It is when we are interventionists, when we impose our will on other people; that is how America gets a black eye.

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Chairman, reclaiming my time, there was a time we were neutral through World War II until Pearl Harbor brought us into that war. I cannot tell my colleague what would have happened if the League of Nations had survived and this country had stayed active politically in the world, whether we could have avoided the horrors of World War II. But there is no question in my mind that, if we withdraw from the United Nations, it will increase the likelihood that America's men and women will fall on battlefields and face challenges economic and military that we can avoid when we have a place to have a dialogue.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

Mr. Chairman, in listening to the debate, I think that there is something that the Paul amendment clearly misses. It misses the very pivotal roll that the United Nations plays in the concept of peace.

In listening to the distinguished gentleman from Florida [Mr. HASTINGS], a member of the Committee on International Relations, let me join him in acknowledging on a recent visit to southern Africa how vital the United Nations was in bringing about democracy to southern Africa, how vital the United Nations was in protecting life and limb and human rights, and how vital the United Nations was in bringing parties together that could not speak.

Therefore, I would simply say that, albeit well-intended, the United Nations is a body where disparate voices can be heard. It is a body where rising and growing and important African nations have a stake, along with other members of this world family.

□ 1845

The United Nations is a place where China meets India, where South America meets African nations, where the United States and Canada draw together, where the European nations come together. There is not one other body that brings all of the world's countries together. It is unlike the European Union, it is unlike the OAU. It is certainly unlike the organization that deals with South America and Latin America. It is unlike any other organization. So it would be unlike us to thwart the actions of the United Nations in bringing peace now and tomorrow.

I would ask that this amendment be defeated because I think it is important to recognize what the United Nations stands for. It stands for drawing individuals together, and it stands for an opportunity for dialogue for those who could not dialogue otherwise.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

Mr. Chairman, I must rise to oppose the amendment. In fact, I think it is preposterous to even think at this stage of the game, in 1997, that we would even consider such an amendment to pull the U.S. out of the U.N. We ought to take the U.N., after the struggle to defeat the Soviet Union and to defeat communism, and we were successful, we ought to take the United Nations and utilize the United Nations to help further United States' interests, to help further United States' foreign policy.

When I was a member of the Committee on International Relations and Madeleine Albright was the U.N. rep, she came and said that. I agreed with her 100 percent. Now, now that the fight against the Soviet Union has been won, the Cold War has been won, the U.S. has emerged as the world's last remaining superpower, are we going to just take that and throw it all away?

We claim in this body that we want the world to emulate the United States. We want other nations to have free market economies. We want other nations to practice democracy. We say we want to promote democracy all over the world. What better ways to do it than through an international body like the United Nations?

As my friend and colleague from Florida said, yes, the U.N. needs to be reformed, the U.N. needs to be changed, the U.N. needs to tighten its belt. There are lots of things the U.N. needs to do. But will the U.N. do it if the United States, the leader of the world, is not part and parcel of that driving force? I would say no.

I would say, furthermore, that it is an embarrassment that the United States owes more than \$1 billion in dues, in arrearages, to the U.N. That is an embarrassment. That undermines the United States' effectiveness and leadership in the United Nations, because it is very difficult for us to say to nations of the world what we think they ought to do when we are the big-

gest deadbeats, unfortunately, in the United Nations.

So rather than pull out of the United Nations, I think what we should do is pay our U.N. dues, pay the money we owe, and make sure that the U.N. reforms itself. Mr. Chairman, I think that the United States, as the last remaining superpower on this Earth, has an obligation not to the world but to ourselves.

Is the world not safer if democracy prevails with the United States there as a strong force in the U.N.? Is the world not safer if free market economies begin to flourish across the globe with the United States as part of the U.N., being the most influential member in the U.N.?

I can tell the Members, in countries that I have visited, they are literally begging us for a little bit of assistance. A little bit of aid would go a long, long way. I think the direction that this Congress has been taking is a wrong direction. We ought to be expanding foreign aid. It helps the United States. Three quarters of the aid that we send or give to other countries is put back into the United States in the purchase of goods and services, American goods and services. So we help ourselves and we help the world, and we make sure that democracy flourishes and free market economies flourish.

Pulling us out would be just absolutely preposterous, and would be terrible not only for the world but for the United States. We need to lead. We do not need to recoil. We do not need to be isolationists. The world is shrinking, and I believe that the United States continues and should continue to play a vital role in ensuring that democracy and free market economy is spread.

Again, it is in furtherance of our own self-interest. Now that the Soviet Union is no longer around, we can grab the bull by the horns. We can shape the United Nations. We can shape the world in terms of what we would like to see. That is done with a strong U.S. presence, not with U.S. removal from the United Nations. So I believe this is just the absolute wrong direction in which we ought to move. I really think that this is, frankly, one of the silliest things I have seen since I have been in Congress.

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

Mr. ENGEL. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Chairman, the gentleman mentioned that the Soviet Union disintegration might be attributed to the United Nations, but quite frankly, it was because the U.N. did not deal with them as much as others. Think about the first episode of the U.N. troops going into Korea. We still have a dictator in North Korea, we have a government in South Korea that we protect that is not necessarily civil libertarian. Yet that is as a result of U.N. action. The Soviet system collapsed because they had a failed economic system.

I would like to just mention, and I feel very lonely here in the Congress, but take a look at this. This is a stack of petitions, thousands of petitions by the American people who disagree with our policy and would like us to at least address it, and not call it silly.

Mr. ENGLE. Mr. Chairman, reclaiming my time, I was one of the Democrats that broke with my party and supported President Bush in the Persian Gulf war. And because we had the United Nations and other people, we were very, very effective.

The CHAIRMAN. The time of the gentleman from New York [Mr. ENGEL] has expired.

(By unanimous consent, Mr. ENGEL was allowed to proceed for 30 additional seconds.)

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Chairman, I supported President Bush in Operation Desert Storm. I think that was one of the times we utilized the United Nations, and we utilized the international community to further U.S. foreign policy interests. It was good for this country and it was good for the world. I want to say that we can do that again, and we can do that again if the United States is a vital force in the United Nations, not pulling out of the United Nations. That would be the opposite thing we ought to do.

Mr. PAUL. If the gentleman will continue to yield, let me point out that authority came from the United Nations.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment. I rise in strong opposition to this amendment. With all respect for my colleague, I think we have an obligation as Members of Congress to lead. I understand that there are constituents of the gentleman's and perhaps constituents of mine who are concerned with daily life. They are worried about how they are going to pay the bills, they are worried about how they are going to send their youngsters to college, they are worried about how they are going to pay the mortgage. These occupations consume them.

But as Members of Congress, I think we have a responsibility to explain to those constituents that the United States plays a key role in this world, and we are the leaders of the free world. For those of us who have an opportunity to see the important works of the United Nations, we have to speak out loudly and clearly that by raising the economic standard, by raising the standard of living of people in countries that many of our constituents have never visited, we are helping ourselves here in the United States.

Mr. Chairman, I feel very strongly that we have to pay our U.N. dues. We have to pay our arrearages. We have been a leader in the United Nations, and the fact that we have not paid our dues and have not met our responsibility does harm to our position in the United Nations.

When we look at the programs of, for example, the United Nations development program, and we see that this program has a real impact in many of the areas of the world in health care, in education, in giving people the opportunity to work and get a job and raise their standard of living, this helps us. Ignorance breeds violence too often in distant corners of the world.

Therefore, I think we have to explain to our constituents that if we give a person in Kenya, for example, or Botswana the opportunity to create a job for themselves, sometimes \$300 to a microcredit program helps a woman stand tall, and this supports a whole family. This can support a whole community. We have an obligation, Mr. Chairman, to help educate our constituents.

Now, the United Nations is not perfect. There are many things that I would agree with my colleague on. We have to work, work with the new Secretary General, to make sure that these areas are reformed. But I would ask my colleagues to oppose this amendment, and in fact, take a strong position to support the United Nations and to make sure that the United States can stand tall and fulfill our responsibilities as a leader in the world by paying our arrearages.

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

Mrs. LOWEY. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Chairman, I share the gentlewoman's desire for the United States to be a leader. It is just that my concept of leadership is different. We have troops in 100 countries of the world. That does not have very much to do with our national security. I am for neutrality. I want to be friends with everybody. Some say this is an isolationist viewpoint. It has nothing to do with isolationism, if we combine it with free trade.

This whole notion that we are isolating and drawing back, yes, we would like to draw some of our troops back, maybe because we are not authorized, it is not part of our national security, we do not have the funds, and it gets us into trouble. Those are the reasons why the American people are sick and tired of all this adventurism overseas.

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

Mrs. LOWEY. I yield to the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I would say to the gentleman from Texas [Mr. PAUL], my distinguished colleague, those 100 countries the gentleman asserts we have troops in are not all under the aegis of the United Nations. Many of those are our bilateral responsibilities, and some are unilateral.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, reclaiming my time, I would say to the gentleman from Texas [Mr. PAUL], again I would like to respectfully disagree. It has been our policy that educating the populations of the world, spreading de-

mocracy, has been in the interests of the United States. I would like to close by saying that it is in the interest of our country, of our constituents, that we do what we can to strengthen the United States, to invest in world peace. Hopefully this will keep our community safe here at home.

I would like to work with the gentleman to invest in our communities at home, to help our families be strengthened through education and through housing and health care programs. But in order to keep our constituents safe at home, we have a responsibility, in my judgment, to strengthen our role in the United Nations, to be sure that we have a United Nations that can continue to work for world peace. That is in the interest of our constituents here at home.

Mr. PAUL. If the gentlewoman will continue to yield, Mr. Chairman, I think a lot of American people want to feel secure. That is obviously part of our responsibility. But a lot of people in this country now would feel more secure if they could keep more of their own money and we were not so adventurous.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas [Mr. PAUL].

The question was taken; and the Chairman announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to House Resolution 159, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas [Mr. PAUL] will be postponed.

□ 1900

The CHAIRMAN. Are there further amendments to title XV?

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY Mr. STEARNS

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. STEARNS: Page 156, line 12, strike "Secretary of State" and insert "Congress".

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Chairman, I have in my hand the actual bill, H.R. 1757. If my colleagues are interested, on page 156, I am just going to read what it says in the one word we are substituting.

Of amounts authorized to be appropriated for "Assessed Contributions to International Organizations" by this act, the President may withhold 20 percent of the funds appropriated for the United States assessed contribution to the United Nations or any of its specialized agencies for any calendar year if the Secretary of State.

My colleagues, all my amendment does is delete the words "Secretary of State" and put in the word "Congress" so that if the Congress determines that the United Nations or any such agency has failed to implement or to continue to implement consensus-based decisionmaking procedures on budgetary matters which ensure that sufficient attention is paid to the views of the