

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.