

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