

1215

And I urge a strong rejection of the Paul amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Chairman, how much time do I have remaining?

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore (Mr. HASTINGS of Washington). The gentleman from Texas has 3½ minutes remaining.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I do not believe for one minute this is a surrender to the drug war. This is an acknowledgment that the \$250 billion we have spent over the last 25 years has not worked; that the strategy against drugs is wrong.

Why continue a war that does not work? This is money down a rat hole. This is totally wasted money and, as far as I am concerned, only an excuse to sell helicopters and go in to Colombia and protect oil interests. That is the real reason why we are down there.

We say this is only replacement of money for Kosovo. Well, what makes us think if we put the money in and replace it the President will not do the same thing over again? Of course he will. The fact that we are not watching the purse strings tightly enough is the problem.

The gentleman suggests that this would mean that there would be no more building and no support for our troops in Korea. My amendment only deals with the money in this supplemental. What about the current year's budget? Those funds can still be spent. But it also suggests that we shall question how long are we going to be in Korea. It is time to start thinking about these matters. It is time to bring these troops home.

If we want to spend the money, spend it here at home. Spend the money here. Build up our national defense. If we wish to continually expand our interventionism and aggravation overseas, then I guess we have to vote against this amendment and for the bill. But this is a policy statement. Should we continue current policy of forever spending money and being involved overseas? I say it is time to start thinking about what is good for our people, what is good for our taxpayers, what is good for national defense, and what is good for our constitutional republic. Should we be doing this? I do not think so. Are we authorized to do it? No, we are not authorized to police the world.

This is the furthest stretch of the imagination to believe that what we are spending here on this budget, especially what we are going to do in Colombia, has anything to do with national security. What are we worried about? Are the Colombians going to attack us? This is not national security. This is special interest spending. This is conservative welfarism; that is what it is.

We condemn all the welfare from the left, but we always have our own wel-

fare on the right, and it is not for national defense. We should do less of this military adventurism overseas and put it into national defense, take better care of our troops, which would boost morale, and increase our ability to defend our country. But, instead, what do we do? We subsidize our enemies to the tune of many billions of dollars for a country like China at the same time, when they are aggravated and annoyed with Taiwan, we send more weapons to Taiwan and then promise to send American servicemen to stand in between the two of them.

Some day we should ask the question of whether is this policy in good for us. I am frightened to think that this will only change either when we are in such a mess, a lot worse than Vietnam, or we totally go broke or both. But we should not wait. We should speak out and do what is best for our country. We have a good guideline as to what we should do in foreign policy, and it comes from the constitution, certainly we should note the tradition of the last 50 years. The Constitution gives us the guidance to pursue a proper foreign policy.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Chairman, may I inquire as to how much time I have remaining?

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida has 7 minutes remaining.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON).

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Chairman, let me take this opportunity to associate myself with the comments of the chairman, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG). He is right on on this.

What this amendment does is absolutely ignores the history and the role the United States has played since the days of Harry Truman, and I think that opposition to this amendment is proper and just and it must be defeated.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GREEN).

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time and let me begin by congratulating the gentleman in the manner in which he has conducted this debate. I think he has done a wonderful job, both yesterday and today.

I do rise in opposition to this amendment, because I believe it goes too far, it covers too many things, and withdraws from too many places and too many important operations. However, I do want to speak more favorably at least on one aspect of the amendment. This appropriation package has, as its linchpin, aid to Colombia. That is both its greatest strength and, I am afraid, its greatest risk. It is risky because its success in the long run is dependent upon cooperation and commitment, a commitment to justice on the part of the Colombian government, and this is, I am afraid, where I have some doubts.

Just over a year ago three innocent Americans were discovered, their bodies. They had been brutally slaughtered in northeast Colombia, slaughtered while they were educating the people of northeast Colombia, slaughtered by thugs from FARC narcoterrorists. One of these Americans was a constituent of mine, Ingrid Washinawatok of Menominee County, Wisconsin. If we are not careful, I am afraid these three Americans may become victimized yet once again. And here is why.

Last October, this body unanimously, unanimously, passed a Sense of the Congress Resolution which decried these murders, condemned FARC, but also, and this is the most important part, called upon the government of Colombia to arrest and to extradite to the United States for criminal trial these awful people. Some weeks ago, at a subcommittee hearing before the Committee on International Relations, I had the chance to ask our drug czar, the esteemed General Barry McCaffrey, for help in pushing for extradition. He assured me he would, and he assured me that he would keep me and my constituents posted. Unfortunately, I have to report today that we have heard nothing from him.

And now, just recently, we have heard from the president of Colombia that he will not extradite at least one of these murderers, German Briceno. So it looks as though the family of Ingrid Washinawatok may be let down once again. For this initiative, for this initiative aiding Colombia, to work, there must be trust, there must be understanding, and there must be a commitment to justice; and I am afraid that commitment may be slipping away.

I see my friend and colleague, the esteemed chairman of the Committee on International Relations, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), and I would ask him and ask the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG), the drug czar, and the President all to help us push for extradition.

I do speak in opposition. I believe this amendment goes too far, but some of the sentiments are valid.

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

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. I yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me, because I want to assure him that we will try to work with him in conference, and wherever we can, to assist in his desire in getting this criminal extradited.

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Reclaiming my time, Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman. That means a great deal to us. And I thank the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations as well, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chairman, I want to repeat that this is a serious amendment and should

be rejected in a very serious way. Now, the issues that our colleague, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL), has raised, are major policy decisions that need to be made, but this is not the bill to do so.

I would suggest to the gentleman that he should go to the Committee on International Relations or he should go to the Committee on Armed Services to deal with the issues that he has raised. He deserves a debate on those issues but not on this bill. This is an appropriations bill, this is not a bill where policy is set. And so I ask the Paul amendment be rejected in a very strong and serious way.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. All time for debate on this amendment has expired.

The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL).

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

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

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 450, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. TAYLOR OF MISSISSIPPI

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi:

To restrict funding for in excess of 300 U.S. military personnel in Colombia.

On page 80 after line 11, insert the following new section:

SEC. . None of the funds made available by this Act may be expended for the support of in excess of 300 United States military personnel in Colombia.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of Wednesday, March 29, 2000, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. TAYLOR) and a Member opposed each will control 10 minutes.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I rise to claim the time in opposition.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG) claims the time in opposition.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. TAYLOR).

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I ask my colleagues, Mr. Chairman, for a few minutes to try to remember what it was like before we all got caught up in which party we are in and which committee chairman is for something and which committee chairman is against it, and try to remember why I think all of us ran for this office. It was to do good things and to keep bad things from happening.

It is the second point that I would like to discuss today, because I think that the needless loss of an American service person is quite possibly the worst thing that can happen.

The amendment that I am offering today is an effort to keep a bad thing from needlessly happening. Colombia is a dangerous place. The FARC and the ELN, the two primary guerilla groups, now control better than 40 percent of the Colombian countryside. They are well financed, they are well armed, they are well trained. And in increasing instances, they are working in large units to overwhelm Colombian army outposts; and just this week killed about 30 Colombian policemen.

In my opinion, they threaten the Nation of Colombia. And yet the political leaders of Colombia in the past year have reduced their defense spending. The political leaders of Colombia in the past couple of months have actually changed their law so that people who hold a high school diploma are no longer eligible for the draft in Colombia. In private conversations with their business leaders, they tell me, yes, there are taxes on the books, but they do not pay them. And I suspect that they are expecting someone else's kid to defend their country.

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

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. MURTHA. We have no problem on this side with the amendment.

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Reclaiming my time, Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman and assure him I will go quickly.

Usually it is some poor uneducated kid from the Colombian countryside, and I get every indication that they expect American kids to fight in a war they will not fight in and the American taxpayers to pay for a war that they will not pay for.

It is with some hesitation that I will vote to help them with America's money and equipment. I will not, however, vote to send America's sons and daughters off to fight a war in Colombia that the sons and daughters of Colombia and their political leaders often will not fight in.

This amendment would limit America's troop strength in Colombia to 300 military personnel. In a hearing before the House Committee on Armed Services last week on Colombia, General Charles Wilhelm, the United States Commander in Chief of the Southern Command, was told of my reservations and asked if he would agree to a troop limitation. His response was:

Would I be willing, as the Commander in Chief of the United States Southern Command, to subscribe to a properly considered and developed troop cap for Colombia? I certainly would. Categorically, yes.

That was 1 week ago today.

I am asking my colleagues to put such a cap on American troop strength in Colombia. Should it be the will of the majority of this House to break

that cap, then it should be done in a deliberate manner and by a vote of this body, and not something that some president on a whim gets us involved in.

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

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. I yield to the gentleman from Missouri.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Chairman, I think that this amendment is an important one because it helps point out the fact that the strategic thought on the fight against drugs is being directed in the wrong place.

1230

What should happen and should, of course, come from the Colombian military and their government is to put a stop to the traffic, the drug traffic coming across the Andes by air as the Peruvians stopped, and through the three, and only three, mountain passes through the Andes. Instead, we might find ourselves enmeshed in a civil war, going after one-third of the guerillas who, of course, are being supported by the drug trafficking.

The proposed strategy is a 6-year strategy; that should not be. It should be one where you shoot down the airplanes as they fly over the Andes and stop up the three passes and then should we look at assisting in going after the guerillas if that be our policy. Let us go the first things first.

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I yield our 10 minutes for purposes of control to the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Defense Appropriations.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore (Mr. HASTINGS of Washington). Without objection, the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) will control 10 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Chairman, as my colleague, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA), indicated we are not going to have any problem with this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to my friend, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BATEMAN).

Mr. BATEMAN. Mr. Chairman, I thank the distinguished gentleman (Mr. LEWIS of California) for yielding me this time. I do not rise in opposition to this amendment. I would not ask for a rollcall vote on this amendment.

I do have to tell my colleagues in the House that within the last hour, I have spoken to General Wilhelm; and General Wilhelm says that he does not believe this figure of a 300-person cap on military personnel in Colombia is realistic. And he does not know where it came from.

If there was going to be a cap, as he said in his statement before the committee, it should be properly considered and developed. This, I do not believe meets that test. I am not opposed

to there being one. And I would hope in the course of the legislative process that that kind of deliberation on what the cap should be and what exemptions might be in order to that cap would be a matter that would be considered.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Chairman, I have no further requests for time, but I reserve the balance of my time. I am prepared to yield it back as soon as we are through on both sides.

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Chairman, I am very grateful for the help of the committee chairman.

Mr. Chairman, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. ABERCROMBIE).

(Mr. ABERCROMBIE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Chairman, I think that it is very, very important, speaking as a Member of the Committee on Armed Services who was there when this statement was made, and reflecting for a moment on very cogent remarks of the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BATEMAN), the reason that we need to pass this today is to at least set in motion the fact that we are not going to make an open-ended commitment here.

We are dealing with numbers that have been the case so far with the commitment of the United States. It is very, very important in the context of what has happened from Vietnam on that we not find ourselves stumbling into something from which we cannot come back, getting into something from which we cannot retreat if it is found to be necessary. Of course, we need to take into account exactly what should be done with respect to numbers or anything else, but failing to do this today we will find ourselves in a position where that kind of benchmark has not been established.

Mr. Chairman, I think it is very, very important for us to pass this amendment today on the basis that we do not find ourselves drifting inextricably into a situation that we cannot only control, but for the consequences of which may be something that all of us would find most grievous in terms of what the Congress of the United States did.

I recognize that we are near the end of a day in which people may be leaving; that the full attention may not be on this question right now. That is even a more important reason that we pass this amendment today.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Chairman, I am prepared to yield the balance of my time, presuming the other side is as well.

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LARGENT), the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) for their assistance in this.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. All time for debate on this amendment has expired.

The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. TAYLOR).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 16 OFFERED BY MR. TANCREDO

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

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 16 printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD offered by Mr. TANCREDO:

At the end of the bill, add the following section.

SEC. . The amounts otherwise provided by this Act are revised by reducing the amount made available for RELATED AGENCIES AND FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES—Food and Drug Administration Buildings and Facilities by \$20 million.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of Wednesday, March 29, 2000, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDO) and the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. SKEEN) each will control 10 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDO).

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, in the proud tradition of the \$500 hammer, the \$1,000 toilet seat and the \$1 million outhouse, the FDA and this bill now bring us a hugely expensive Federal office building in Los Angeles. This building, 133,000 square feet, will cost us, when it is done both in construction and in land acquisition and design, some \$53 million. That is an extraordinarily expensive piece of property, and as you can see by this picture here, it looks nothing like what one would consider to be an appropriate design building for a Federal Government agency.

By the way, this amount, this \$52 million, \$53 million for this 133,000 square foot building does not include the cost of furniture, telecommunications, or security systems. It is just the building and the land. Yes, there are some laboratories in the building, but that does not account for the massive expense.

It is the incredible opulence of this building, the building itself, a rendering of which, by the way, the architect proudly displays on his Web site, and proud he should be.

Look at this thing. Does this look like a building designed with the slightest consideration for cost containment? Of course not. But why should anyone care. After all, it is just government money.

Let us take this \$20 million that they are asking this year and use it for debt reduction and not for pork production.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SKEEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume,

and I rise in opposition to the amendment.

Mr. Chairman, this construction project is not included in this bill at the request of any Member. This replacement laboratory has been in the agency's program of requirements for some time. It was included in the President's budget request last year, and it was included in the House-passed bill last year.

As we moved towards our conference agreement last year, this was one item that we could not fit within our overall spending levels. But that did not mean that the requirement went away. It only meant that the building has gotten older, more decrepit, and more dangerous for employees.

What is done in this laboratory? This lab does the scientific and analytical work that backs up the FDA's consumer-protection mission, with a heavy emphasis on the surveillance of important products. Fully 25 percent of the agency's laboratory work related to imports is done in this one location.

What happens if this replacement construction is further delayed? Eventually, and the time is soon, operations in the existing facility will have to halt because of the combination of lack of worker safety and questionable scientific results due to substandard conditions.

What happens then? Laboratory work will be performed elsewhere at reduced efficiency and higher costs. Turn-around time on sample analysis will increase, and fresh imported foods being held for this analysis will rot on the dock; or worse yet, unsafe food will find its way to our homes and tables.

So if the goal is to increase the cost of Federal efforts to ensure the safety of imported products, increase the health risks to the American consumer, increase the risk to Federal workers in doing their jobs, and increase the cost of industry of complying with necessary regulation, then, by all means, my colleagues should support this amendment.

I do not support those goals; and, therefore, I oppose the amendment. Mr. Chairman, I ask all Members to oppose this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I have been on the ground at this facility. It is an absolutely ruinous situation, very dangerous. I do not know whose artistic presentation that was. But in a place where this facility is today, it has to be redone and has to be moved, or we will lose it.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume in response.

Mr. Chairman, first of all, the artist rendering of the building that we presented here is the architect, the architect that has been hired by FDA. This we took off of his Web site. This is not our representation. This is the artist rendering the building that they are going to put on a piece of property that