

this time, but I urge my colleagues to vote against the Moran amendment.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). Each side has 1 minute remaining, and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) has the right to close.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. OTTER).

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Chairman, we would not entertain in this body for 5 seconds the idea of suspending any other constitutionally protected right in this country. Yet we seem to advise ourselves constantly that the second amendment does not deserve the same protection from this body as freedom of speech or freedom of assembly or freedom to practice whatever religion we would.

Why do we not take and spend some time, spend our limited talents, our limited resources and our constitutional mandate to protect the peaceful citizens of this country and to punish the bad ones instead of the other way around?

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

In the first place, the Court has clarified time and again the interpretation of the second amendment, and it is for the purpose of a well-regulated militia. Chief Justice Warren Burger is a good person to consult on that. He was a gun collector himself, and he made that unquestionably clear.

We are not talking about compromising in any way the Constitution. What we are talking about is the ability of law enforcement to carry out its responsibilities. Currently a 90-day retention period is maintained so that you can audit the system, so that you can weed out those who are using straw purchases, so that you can identify people that are not supposed to be getting a gun, and to determine whether, in fact, the system is working. The FBI will tell you that privacy is scrupulously maintained. They are not keeping the names. There is no way that people's privacy is going to be violated. But if we do not have a reasonable retention period, this system is not going to work and we will go back to a waiting period. Maybe that is for the best.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUYER).

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

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the Moran amendment.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODE).

Mr. GOODE. Mr. Chairman, I hope it will be the pleasure of this body to overwhelmingly reject the Moran amendment. I heartily disagree with his assessment that law enforcement personnel need a 90-day rule to carry out their responsibilities. We are talk-

ing about law-abiding gun owners whose purchase was approved. Those records should be destroyed immediately.

Please vote against the Moran amendment.

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the Moran amendment.

I support an instant check system for the purchase of a firearm. But instant should mean instant. Legal purchasers of firearms should not have their names and addresses floating around in some government computer.

The Attorney General has underway efforts to make improvements in the National Instant Check System. The check system is only as good as the records it contains. The Attorney General is seeking to make the records in the system more complete and to increase the response level of the system. The Attorney General is directing the Justice Department to conduct a comprehensive, state-by-state review of missing or incomplete criminal history records, including adjudication records of cases of mental illness and domestic violence. This is appropriate.

The Attorney General has also pledged to increase the enforcement of the law for those who falsify information in order to obtain a firearm. From 1994 through June 5th of this year, the FBI referred 217,000 attempted illegal gun purchases for investigation. Of these only 294 people have been convicted. I applaud the Attorney General's pledge to enforce our gun laws aggressively.

But law abiding firearms purchasers should also be convinced of the background check system's integrity. Once a legal purchaser has cleared the instant check system, that should be the end of it. The Attorney General seeks improvements in the system so that the records of lawful approved gun purchases will be kept until the next business day after the transfer is approved to allow for real-time audits to ensure the accuracy and integrity of the results, a standard recommended by the computer industry.

The Moran amendment seeks to reverse the improvements the Attorney General is seeking to make. Oppose the Moran amendment.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN).

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

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN) will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MR. PAUL

Mr. PAUL. 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. 6 offered by Mr. PAUL:
Page 108, after line 22, insert the following:
TITLE VIII—ADDITIONAL GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 801. None of the funds appropriated in this Act may be used for any United States contribution to the United Nations or any affiliated agency of the United Nations.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) each will control 10 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL).

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

Let me just read the amendment because it is just three lines. It says, "None of the funds appropriated in this act may be used for any United States contribution to the United Nations or any affiliated agency of the United Nations." It would defund the United Nations. It would take away the dues that we pay the United Nations as well as the amount of money that we are paying to pay our back dues.

I think this is an appropriate time to discuss the reasonableness for our support for the United Nations. The government of the United States has continued to grow as our state sovereignty has gotten much smaller, but now we are losing a lot of sovereignty to an international government which is the United Nations. Just recently, the United States was humiliated by being voted off by secret ballot from the U.N. Human Rights Commission and Sudan was appointed in our place. How could anything be more humiliating. So democracy ruled, our vote counted as one, the same value as the vote of Red China or Sudan. But the whole notion that we would be put off the Human Rights Commission and Sudan, where there is a practice of slavery, is put on the Human Rights Commission should be an insult to all of us.

In committee, we dealt with this problem and we said, "Well, if the U.N. straightens up, then we'll pay our dues this year; but maybe we'll withhold our dues next year." That is very, very weak; and it does not show any intent or show any rejection of what is going on in the United Nations.

It was mentioned earlier in debate on the gun issue that the U.N. is currently meeting up in New York dealing with the gun issue. There have been explicit proposals made at the United Nations to have worldwide gun control. No, they are not taking guns away from the government. They are taking guns away from civilians.

If anybody understands our history, they will know that taking guns from civilians is exactly opposite of what the Founders intended. In a nation like Afghanistan, they were able to defend the invasion of the Soviet Union because individuals had guns. Likewise, when the Nazis were murdering the Jews, the Jews had been denied the right to own guns. Now we are talking about the United Nations having international gun laws. There have been proposals made for an international tax on all financial transactions. Yes, it is true, it has not been passed, but these are the plans that have been laid and they are continued to be discussed and they are moving in that direction.

Today we have international government that manages trade through the

WTO. We have international government that manages all international financial transactions through the IMF. We have an international government that manages welfare through the World Bank. Do these institutions really help the poor people of the world? Hardly. They help the people who control the hands of power in these international institutions and generally they help the very wealthy, the bankers, and the international corporations.

It was said the United Nations may have been set up to help preserve peace and help poor people, but it just does not happen. The poor pay the taxes and the international corporations gain the benefit.

The U.S. has taken a very strong position against endorsing the International Criminal Court. The argument is legitimate. It says that, oh, someday the International Criminal Court may arrest Americans because it just may be that Americans may pursue illegal acts of war, like bombing other countries and killing innocent people.

No, we do not want the international court to apply to us, but it is okay with our money, our prestige and our pressure to endorse the International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia, so that we can go in there and arrest the leaders that we have decided were the bad guys and leave the good guys alone, as if there were not bad guys on both sides in Yugoslavia.

But this presumption on our part that we can control the United Nations and arrest only those individuals that we do not like and allow the other ones to go free and that this will never apply to us, I think we are missing the point and it is a dangerous trend. Because you say, well, yes, we are powerful, we have the money and we have the weapons and we can dictate to the United Nations. They will not arrest us or play havoc with us. Yet at the same time we have already recognized that the U.N. Human Rights Commission which was voted on by a democratic vote kicked us in the face and kicked us off.

I think this is a time to think very seriously about whether this is wise to continue the funding of the United Nations. I think that a statement ought to be made. We should say, and the American people, I think, agree overwhelmingly that it is about time that we quit policing the world and paying the bills at the United Nations way out of proportion to our representation and at the same time being humiliated by being kicked off these commissions by majority vote.

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

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

Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the gentleman's amendment. I was in Kosovo and in Albania during this case; and I will tell you, Mladic is a war criminal, and Karadzic, he is a war

criminal, and Milosevic is a war criminal. So, without this, there would be no way to deal with it.

Secondly, I have been in Sudan and Southern Sudan four times, the last time in January of this year. Whether you like it or not, the World Food Program is feeding the people of Sudan. As many people know, there have been 2.2 million Christians who have been killed in Sudan by the Khartoum Government, and if the World Food Program was not sending food in there, and Andrew Natsios and Roger Winter from the State Department are in Sudan as we now speak, this would just devastate that whole operation.

I understand what the gentleman said with regard to the vote. We have language on page 112 of the report that says, "The committee is deeply concerned by the secret ballot of the U.N. Member nations to keep the United States off the U.N. Human Rights Commission. The exit of the United States and the election at the same time of the government of Sudan," the barbaric government of Sudan, which is sponsoring state-sponsored terrorism, slavery and has been responsible for the death of 2.2 million people, "effectively cancels the ability of the United Nations to speak out or act with credibility on this issue."

We have been very, very forthright with regard to that. But the U.N. has been responsible for calls with regard to getting its financial house in order.

In the Book of Luke, in the New Testament, it says to whom much is given, much is required. The King James version says "required." For us not to be helping the starving people of Sudan through the U.N., the World Food Program, I think it would not be good for this country.

This country has been blessed. We have been blessed because the American people are good and decent and honest and caring; and for us not to be participating to help to feed those in the South, particularly those who are Christian and Animists, who are being persecuted by the Khartoum Government, frankly would just have us walking away.

So I think this is a bad, bad amendment. I understand what the gentleman is trying to get to. It is a bad, bad amendment; and I urge a no vote by Members on both sides of the aisle.

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

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

Mr. Chairman, I would like to point out that the case of Milosevic is a case that will come back to haunt us for two reasons: one, we are setting a precedent. This has never happened before. He was democratically elected in a country and democratically disposed. The country there was willing to prosecute him.

The second part is that this stirs up tremendous anti-American sentiment. This is the reason why we are the greatest target in the world for ter-

rorism, because of our intrusion into these areas, pretending that we always know best and that we will trample the law because it serves our self-interests. But I believe our national security and our interests are not best served in this manner. This policy is very dangerous.

Likewise, we have had many examples of U.N. intervention. Rwanda, can we be proud of that? Can we be proud of what the U.N. and what our troops had to go through with the humiliation in Mogadishu in Somalia? I mean, this was horrible, what happened there. So good intentions will not suffice. Just because there are good intentions, it does not mean that good will come of it.

There is an alternative to a single world government, and that is individual governments willing to get along; open and free trade as much as possible, free travel, people having a unified free market currency where we do not have currency devaluations and poverty throughout the world. There is a lot that can be done with freedom, rather than always depending, whether it is here in the United States or at the international level, on more government.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the Paul amendment to prohibit funding for U.S. contributions. In my opinion, this would be not in the national interests of our country. With the support of the U.S., the U.N. and its agencies contribute dramatically in promoting international peace and security, nonproliferation, nuclear safety guards, human rights, reduction of health problems, humanitarian assistance, cooperation against international crime and sustainable development. In addition, the U.N. is leading the fight against HIV-AIDS.

The U.S. contribution to the U.N. and its affiliated agencies allows the United States to support these many important efforts without bearing the burden ourselves. The U.N. and its affiliated agencies have been responsive to our calls to incorporate financial and other reforms into their overall management practices, and we are continuing to press for even further improvements.

At the urging of the U.S., the U.N. has streamlined its bureaucracy and cut waste from its budget. The Secretary General has been leading the fight and the U.N. has chartered a path of reform which has included the reduction of over 1,000 positions and maintenance of a no-growth budget, not even to keep up with inflation for 8 years.

The U.S. should recognize these achievements by paying our full share. The administration has been working hard to achieve the benchmarks contained in the Helms-Biden arrears authorization. It would be a tremendous setback to incur new arrears, just as we are working effectively with various U.S. organizations to allow us to pay those we already owe.