

has taken the bold step, making it possible for others to act. This may be the last best hope to avoid a needless and devastating U.S. attack on Iraq, triggering a perpetual war and the likely early onset of a global New Dark Age.

Byrd Says ‘Blind and Improvident’

Some of those same wartime leadership qualities were, happily, on display on the floor of the United States Senate on Oct. 3, where Robert Byrd, the 84-year old West Virginia Democratic Senator and Constitutional scholar, delivered his own courageous and compassionate attack against the Bush Administration’s doctrine of pre-emptive war. Byrd did not go so far; yet, he presented the evidence, supporting LaRouche’s diagnosis. LaRouche in turn commended Senator Byrd for his actions, urging that the Bush Administration show the intelligence to listen to the senior Senator’s cogent arguments.

Senator Byrd delivered a statement entitled “Rush to War Ignores U.S. Constitution,” as debate opened on Senate Joint Resolution 46—introduced into the Senate by Joseph Lieberman (D-Ct.) and John McCain (R-Ariz.)—authorizing the President to use whatever force he deem necessary in Iraq or elsewhere. Byrd began: “The great Roman historian, Titus Livius, said, ‘All things will be clear and distinct to the man who does not hurry; haste is blind and improvident.’ ‘Blind and improvident,’ Mr. President. . . . Congress would be wise to heed those words today, for as sure as the sun rises in the East, we are embarking on a course of action with regard to Iraq that, in its haste, is both blind and improvident. We are rushing into war without fully discussing why, without thoroughly considering the consequences, or without making any attempt to explore what steps we might take to avert conflict.”

The heart of the issue, seized on by Byrd, is that the resolution violates the Constitution and international law. “The resolution before us today is not only a product of haste; it is also a product of Presidential hubris. This resolution is breathtaking in its scope. It redefines the nature of defense, and reinterprets the Constitution to suit the will of the Executive Branch. It would give the President blanket authority to launch a unilateral pre-emptive attack on a sovereign nation that is perceived to be a threat to the United States. This is an unprecedented and unfounded interpretation of the President’s authority under the Constitution, not to mention the fact that it stands the Charter of the United Nations on its head.”

Byrd quoted from a letter of then-Congressman Abraham Lincoln, who warned: “Allow the President to invade a neighboring nation whenever he shall deem it necessary to repel an invasion. . . and you allow him to make war at pleasure. The provision of the Constitution giving the war-making power to Congress was dictated, as I understand it, by the following reasons. Kings had always been involving and impoverishing their people in wars, pretending generally, if not always, that the good of the people was the object. This, our Convention understood to be the most oppressive of all Kingly oppres-

sions; and they resolved to so frame the Constitution that no one man should hold the power of bringing this oppression upon us. But your view destroys the whole matter, and places our President where kings have always stood.”

Byrd challenged his fellow Members of Congress: “If he could speak to us today, what would Lincoln say of the Bush doctrine concerning preemptive strikes?”

War Without End in Sight

“Think for a moment,” Byrd asked the Senate, “of the precedent that this resolution will set, not just for this President but for future Presidents. From this day forward, American Presidents will be able to invoke Senate Joint Resolution 46 as justification for launching pre-emptive military strikes against any sovereign nations that they perceive to be a threat. Other nations will be able to hold up the United States as the model to justify their military adventures. Do you not think that India and Pakistan, China and Taiwan, Russia and Georgia are closely watching the outcome of this debate? Do you not think that future adversaries will look to this moment to rationalize the use of military force to achieve who knows what ends? . . . To be sure, weapons of mass destruction are a 20th-Century horror that the Framers of the Constitution had no way of foreseeing. But they did foresee the frailty of human nature and the inherent danger of concentrating too much power in one individual. That is why the Framers bestowed on Congress, not the President, the power to declare war.”

Byrd warned that the United States, under the Bush doctrine, would become a rogue state: “The principle of one government deciding to eliminate another government, using force to do so, and taking that action in spite of world disapproval, is a very disquieting thing. I am concerned that it has the effect of destabilizing the world community of nations. I am concerned that it fosters a climate of suspicion and mistrust in U.S. relations with other nations. The United States is not a rogue nation, given to unilateral action in the face of worldwide opprobrium.”

Unless, the President has gone mad.

Regional Press Show Distrust of War Madness

by Jeffrey Steinberg

Sen. Diane Feinstein (D-Calif.) revealed in an ABC-TV interview in late September that, of 10,200 letters she had received about the prospect of an Iraq war, only a couple of hundred supported war. Rep. Jan Schakowsky (D-Ill.) described the same phenomenon, at town hall meetings all over her district, when she spoke in Washington on Sept. 4. In her politically

diverse district, she had found only three people who support an attack on Iraq. Regional newspapers all across the heartland of America reveal that the editorial content reflects Americans' *rejection* of a "pre-emptive" Iraq war—a mood vastly different than the yellow chicken-hawk journalism so typical of the Washington-New York media and the national TV "all-news" networks.

According to one editorial writer, the dozens of editorials and articles in state and regional papers that heavily oppose the war, increasingly reflect the impact of Lyndon LaRouche's seven million leaflets since late July, and his Sept. 11, 2002 webcast exposing the neo-conservative/Israeli/Christian Zionist networks behind drive for imperial war. A sampling of editorial commentaries since Bush released his "Congressional War resolution" on Sept. 19, shows that.

- *USA Today's* lead editorial Sept. 20: "The Tonkin Gulf resolution which launched the Vietnam War was rushed through the Congress in hours. . . . Many lawmakers later cited that hasty vote as their greatest regret. . . . As *USA Today* reported this week, *even Bush's own intelligence agencies don't back administration claims* that Saddam has stockpiled chemical and biological weapons. . . ."

- *Los Angeles Times* lead editorial, Sept. 20: "We Need Answers, Mr. Bush!" The Constitution "couldn't be more clear in insisting that Congress act as a check on commander in chief. . . . Bravery . . . demands that elected leaders interrupt their President's tough rhetoric" before the United States goes on the "radical course of pre-emptive first strikes." It asks, Weapons of mass destruction? "Where's the concrete evidence?" Bush has given no answer.

- *Sacramento Bee* editorial, Sept. 22: "Congress' Duty—War Authority Must Not Be Open-ended." "Congress must slow down this rush to war by refusing to give Bush the blank check he seeks. . . . In his drive against Iraq, the president has lost sight of long-term American interests and values."

- National syndicated columnist Molly Ivins wrote a column which the *Baltimore Sun* ran on Sept. 26 under the headline, "Mr. Bush, Stop the Insanity." She warned, "The announced plan of this administration for world domination reinforces every paranoid, anti-American prejudice on this Earth. . . . This creepy, un-American document has a pedigree going back to Bush I, when—surprise!—Dick Cheney and Paul Wolfowitz were at the Department of Defense. . . . It was roundly criticized at the time, its manifested weaknesses attacked by both right and left. Now it is back yet again as the answer to post-Sept. 11. . . . Happy Pearl Harbor Day. We have just announced ourselves Bully of the World."

- New Jersey's *Bergen Record* editorial, Sept. 26: "Caution on Iraq: Retired Generals Question Wisdom of Attacking," citing Congressional testimony of Generals Wesley Clark, Joseph Hoar and John Shalikashvili. "President Bush's

loud criticism of the United Nations in recent days for not moving fast enough on Iraq, his high-pressure tactics in Congress, and his seeming indifference to alienating U.S. allies could all be costly to our nation in the long term. . . . it would be a mistake to rush through a resolution giving the president unlimited powers to invade Iraq, especially without UN backing."

- *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* editorial, Sept. 29: "The official story on Iraq has never made sense. The pieces just didn't fit. Something else had to be going on; something was missing. In recent days, those missing pieces have finally begun to fall into place. . . . This is not really about Iraq. It is not about weapons of mass destruction, or terrorism, or Saddam, or UN resolutions.

"This war, should it come, is intended to mark the official emergence of the United States as a full-fledged global empire. It would be the culmination of a plan 10 years or more in the making, carried out by those who believe the United States must seize the opportunity for global domination, even if it means becoming the 'American imperialists' that our enemies always claimed we were."

- *Minneapolis Star Tribune* editorial, Sept. 27: "War Resolution: Postpone It Until After Election. . . . The [Gulf of Tonkin] resolution amounted to a declaration of war against North Vietnam. . . . Later scholars effectively demonstrated that the attack in the Gulf of Tonkin didn't happen. The story illustrates why all members of Congress have a profound duty to ask tough questions on the issue of Iraq."

- Madison, Wisconsin's *Capital Times* editorial, Sept. 26, by managing editor Phil Haslanger: "Attack on Iraq Just Wrong." The paper warned that the United States is about "to do something terribly wrong . . . approve a devastating attack on a nation that poses neither an immediate nor an overwhelming threat to the existence of our country." It continues, "These are not random acts. They are a result of a fundamental shift in American policy that moves this nation into the posture of being the aggressor whenever it feels threatened. . . . To start this war dishonors our history, ignores our ideals, and moves us from being a world leader to being an imperial power that thinks it can attack other nations with impunity. That kind of power risks the final corruption of the nation's soul."

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