

GI SPECIAL 6L6:



THE PENTAGON HAS BECOME AN INTERNATIONAL MORGUE

From: Mike Hastie
To: GI Special
Sent: December 07, 2008
Subject: Treason Against The American People

THE PENTAGON HAS BECOME AN INTERNATIONAL MORGUE

As a Vietnam veteran, I have to constantly remind myself, that President Johnson, and President Nixon were nothing but a Genghis Khan in Vietnam. Fast forward 40 years, and the United States Government is repeating its bounty hunting history in Iraq and Afghanistan. It is a privilege to have lived long enough to see the lie repeated, because for so many years after Vietnam, I thought I was crazy.

**Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71
December 8, 2008.**

One day while I was in a bunker in Vietnam, a sniper round went over my head. The person who fired that weapon was not a terrorist, a rebel, an extremist, or a so-called insurgent. The Vietnamese individual who tried to kill me was a citizen of Vietnam, who did not want me in his country. This truth escapes millions.

**Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71
December 13, 2004**

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Resistance Action: General & Mayor Of Baquba Blown Up

December 7, 2008 AFP

The mayor of the Iraqi city of Baquba was among 34 people wounded in a roadside bombing in the restive provincial capital northeast of Baghdad, medical and security sources said.

General Raghem al-Omairi, head of military operations in the city, was wounded along with Mayor Abdullah al-Khayali in the Sunday afternoon bombing, a medic at Baquba General Hospital, Ahmed Alwan, told AFP.

Two journalists from local television channel Dijla, eight policemen, six U.S.-allied militiamen and 16 civilians were also among the wounded, the doctor said.

Resistance Action: Collaborator Cops Recruiting Drive In Kirkuk Blown Up

12.7.08 Associated Press

A bomber targeted police recruits near a checkpoint in the northern oil town of Kirkuk, killing at least one and wounding 14 others.

The explosion occurred during a recruiting drive at a police academy, said another police official, Brig. Gen. Sarhat Qadir.

The aim was to recruit 1,000 people, but only 150 were present when the explosion occurred. [And none of the possible explanation for that fact contain anything but very bad news for the Occupation.]

Ali Mahmoud, 24, a recruit, said the powerful blast threw him to the ground. "The explosion caused panic and chaos. Most of the recruits were very young men, and they were shivering in fear," he said.

Resistance Action: [Blinding Flash Of The Obvious]

12.7.08 By Sameer N. Yacoub, Associated Press & (KUNA) & Reuters

Insurgent attackers opened fire on the checkpoint in the village of Ousoud, killing three of the U.S.-allied guards and wounding four, according to police at the regional security headquarters. The town is northeast of Baqouba, the capital of Diyala province.

In Baghdad, a bomb attached to a police truck exploded near a popular vegetable market in a southern neighborhood, killing a tribal leader who was a member of a group that has joined forces with the Americans, and his driver, police and hospital officials said.

A wave of violence has targeted official Iraqi security forces after the approval of a security pact with the United States that allows American forces to remain in Iraq for three more years.

One soldier lost his life and seven others suffered injuries in combat action over the past two days.

Two policeman were wounded when fighters threw a grenade at a police patrol in central Mosul.

Three policemen were killed in three separate roadside bomb attacks in Kirkuk on Sunday, police said. At least two police were wounded in the attacks. Kirkuk is 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad.

<p>IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE END THE OCCUPATIONS</p>
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Collaborator Regime Pissing Pants For Eid

BAGHDAD, Dec 7 (KUNA)

Iraqi government security and military forces have been given instructions to observe extraordinary precautions during Al-Adha Eid.

The command of the Baghdad operations has advised the forces to prohibit parking of vehicles on sides of main roads, near religious and worship sites, entertainment parks, markets and bazaars.

They have been also told to ban entry of motorcycles and horse-drawn carriages into market and crowded places.

Security personnel are also ordered to subject vehicles and carriages to thorough inspection if found at public places or squares.

**THIS ENVIRONMENT IS HAZARDOUS TO YOUR
HEALTH;
ALL HOME, NOW**



U.S. soldiers patrol Baquba, in Diyala province, northeast of Baghdad October 21, 2008.
(Goran Tomasevic/Reuters)

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Second Day Of Taliban Raids Destroys More Supplies Bound For Afghanistan Occupation Troops



A Pakistani firefighter extinguishes smoldering trucks at a NATO container terminal near Peshawar. (AFP/Tariq Mahmood)

[Thanks to Pham Binh, Traveling Soldier & Military Project, who sent this in.]

December 8 2008 Saeed Shah in Islamabad, Richard Norton-Taylor, Simon Tisdall and agencies, Guardian News and Media Limited && 12.9 By MARK THOMPSON, Time Magazine.

Militants from the Pakistani Taliban torched supplies destined for Nato forces in Afghanistan for a second day running today, officials said.

The militants struck a container terminal on the outskirts of Peshawar, in north-west Pakistan, just over a mile from yesterday's attack, in which guerrillas torched more than 100 trucks.

About 50 containers were destroyed in today's assault, which again targeted the main route for supplies to troops in land-locked Afghanistan from Pakistan.

"The militants came just past midnight, firing in the air, sprinkled petrol on containers and then set them on fire," Mohammad Zaman, a security guard at the terminal on the Peshawar ring road, told Reuters.

"They told us they would not harm us, but they asked us not to work for the Americans."

Militants fired rockets at two trucks carrying supplies for Nato forces as they drove along the ring road overnight.

The Pakistani Taliban have begun to focus increasingly on choking off the supply path through Pakistan, which is used to take more than 70% of military equipment, food, fuel and other vital provisions to western soldiers across the border.

Marine General James Cartwright, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs, was asked in September how much trouble his forces in Afghanistan would be in if Islamabad shut down supply lines through Pakistan.

“It would be challenging to sustain our presence,” he answered. “It is very difficult then to get to this landlocked nation in a way that would provide the quantity of resources that we need, particularly as we see ourselves growing.”

Bearing in mind projected future deployments, the U.S. will need to deliver up to 70,000 shipping containers (15% of them refrigerated) a year to its troops in Afghanistan.

And the logistical needs that will accompany the doubling of the U.S. troop contingent over the next year or so makes securing supply lines even more urgent.

The Pentagon wants to require that 90% of the goods shipped over alternate routes be delivered by deadlines ranging from 30 to 45 days. It’s also demanding a “cargo loss rate” of less than 1% due to “pilferage, accident, spoilage, attacks and acts of God.”

No doubt the Taliban will love that last category.

Supplies are trucked hundreds of miles from the port at Karachi across Pakistan to Peshawar, and then onward to Afghanistan through the Khyber Pass.

There are few other options for Nato supplies. Iran also borders Afghanistan and has ports that could service it but this would be politically unpalatable. A long, cumbersome route via Russia and the central Asian states is a possibility but Russia has shown reluctance to help.

**OCCUPATION ISN'T LIBERATION
ALL TROOPS HOME NOW!**

**As New Report From Senlis
Council, Says “The Taliban Has A
Permanent Presence In 72% Of**

The Country Compared With Just 54% A Year Ago --- Resistance Officer Says “Jihad Is Going Fine” “During The Night Taliban Are Able To Carry Out Actions Anywhere In Afghanistan, On Any Street”

December 8, 2008 CBC News & By Caroline Alexander (Bloomberg)

The Taliban's second-highest ranking commander is playing down reports of proposed negotiations between members of his group and the Afghan government.

“The enemy wants to engage the Taliban and deviate their minds. Sometimes they offer talks, sometimes they offer other fake issues,” said Mullah Hassan Rahmani, who is second in command to fugitive leader Mullah Mohammed Omar, in a rare interview. “The Taliban never ever tried for such talks, neither do we want these talks to be held.”

Rahmani, who occasionally speaks with reporters by phone, agreed to a face-to-face interview with a Pakistani journalist hired by the CBC.

Rahmani, who was governor of Kandahar during the Taliban's five-year reign and now co-ordinates their operations in Afghanistan said the “Jihad is going fine.”

“During the night Taliban are able to carry out actions anywhere in Afghanistan, on any street,” he said.

Rahmani, who lost a leg fighting the Russians in the 1980s, also denounced recent acid attacks on schoolgirls in Kandahar, rejecting claims that the perpetrators were Taliban.

“This is propaganda aimed at defaming the Taliban. Nobody knows who threw the acid.

“Throwing acid on any human being, whether a man or a woman, has never been the Taliban's policy and the Taliban deny their involvement in such acts”.

He singled out Canadians in the interview, saying they should “free themselves from American pressures.”

“Don't let their children (be) killed in this war which is not theirs. They say that they are sacrificing for the interest of Afghan nation and for the peace and prosperity of Afghanistan.

“I suggest that they should not fool themselves for this American war.”

Meanwhile, a new report from the International Council on Security and Development, formerly known as the Senlis Council, says the Taliban has a permanent presence in 72 per cent of the country compared with just 54 per cent a year ago.

“The Taliban are now dictating terms in Afghanistan, both politically and militarily,” Paul Burton, ICOS Director of Policy, said.

“There is a real danger the Taliban will simply overrun Afghanistan.”

ICOS published maps of Kabul showing the area occupied by NATO headquarters, the U.S. embassy and the Afghan presidential palace as one of “high Taliban/criminal activity.”

The maps also document the advance of the Taliban on Kabul, where three out of the four main highways into Kabul are now compromised by Taliban activity.

TROOP NEWS

3,000 From Texas Army Guard Off To The Imperial Slaughterhouse: “War Taking Toll On Guardsmen”

Dec. 6, 2008 By SIG CHRISTENSON, San Antonio Express-News

A 3,000-member Texas Army National Guard infantry unit has taken over the job of running convoy missions in Iraq.

But the unit’s 12-month mission, one of the Army’s most dangerous jobs, began amid signs of increasing strain in its ranks.

Some mid-grade officers and enlisted men in the 56th Infantry Brigade Combat Team are leaving at the end of their enlistments, the unit’s adjutant general said, while others wrestling with troubled marriages and jobs have been allowed to stay home rather than deploy to Iraq.

And as the war drags on, the Guard has been told to prepare a Houston brigade for deployment within the next year.

In launching operations, the Fort Worth-based 56th Brigade joined a Texas Guard helicopter battalion that has been flying missions out of a base north of Baghdad since mid-September.

Their presence in Iraq is the largest yet by the Texas Guard since the 2003 invasion of Iraq, underscoring the Pentagon's reliance on part-time soldiers.

"Every single widget we use, from a slice of bread at chow to the fuel that runs out generators, is brought in by ground convoy, and Texan soldiers are the ones protecting it," said Lt. Col. Christopher Link.

Eight Guard soldiers have been killed in Iraq, in a CH-47 Chinook southwest of Baghdad, and one has been slain in Afghanistan. Sixty-seven troops have been wounded.

As the sixth anniversary of the invasion nears, there are signs of wear and tear in the Texas force. While it has kept more than 60 percent of its veteran troops and met and exceeded its recruiting goals, Rodriguez said mid-grade officers and non-coms are leaving.

The 72nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team based in Houston is expected to deploy in late 2009.

Defense Department figures released in February show that nearly half of the Army National Guard's force of 356,211 soldiers have served in Iraq or Afghanistan. The figure is similar for Texas.

**“I Have Been Having A Hell Of
Time Trying To Find Information
On This Bonus”**

**Two Months After Congress
Ordered Special Pay Of Up To
\$500 A Month For Anyone Kept On
Stop-Loss Orders, Nobody Has
Received A Dime:**

“Senior Army Officials Are Close To Issuing A Recommendation On Whether To Pay The Full \$500”

“The Amount Could Be Anywhere From Zero To \$500”



May 19, 1933: Veterans of World War I march past the White House en route to the Capitol, where they demanded payment of the veteran's bonus granted them eight years earlier via the Adjusted Service Certificate Law of 1924. (AP Photo/File)

[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes: Nothing is too good for our troops, and that's what they're gonna get--nothing. And they expect us to believe them when they say they're keeping us safe. Uh-huh.]

“I have been having a hell of time trying to find information on this bonus,” said an Army sergeant who asked not to be identified. “My finance people know nothing about it.”

Dec 7, 2008 By Rick Maze, Army Times Staff writer [Excerpts]

Two months after Congress ordered special pay of up to \$500 a month for anyone involuntarily kept on active duty under stop-loss orders, nobody has received a dime.

Senior Army officials are close to issuing a recommendation on whether to pay the full \$500 allowance authorized by Congress and when payments might begin, according to Senate aides monitoring the program.

The decision, one of the last military pay actions by the Bush administration, must be cleared by the House and Senate Appropriations committees before payments begin.

Army spokesman Maj. Nathan Banks could not say when an announcement would be made, but he noted that top Army officials are reviewing a payment plan for submittal to Congress.

“Congress authorized the payment, but the amount could be anywhere from zero to \$500,” Banks said.

“I would be very surprised if the amount was less than \$500, especially because we provided full funding for that amount,” one aide said. “The Army would have to make a very strong case why it needs to pay less.”

Banks’ statement and those of Senate aides come after several soldiers under stop-loss orders have complained that they went to local finance offices to look into collecting the promised money, only to find that no one knows anything.

“I have been having a hell of time trying to find information on this bonus,” said an Army sergeant who asked not to be identified. “My finance people know nothing about it.”

The soldier received stop-loss orders in January and does not expect to be released from active duty until March.

The allowance, included in Public Law 110-329 that was signed by the president Sept. 30, is a special pay available only during fiscal 2009, which began on Oct. 1 and ends on Sept. 30, 2009. [More chiseling cheating rats at work. Limitless money needed for handouts to corrupt, thieving bankers, so fuck the troops.]

Troops Invited:

Comments, arguments, articles, and letters from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send email contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe. Phone: 917.677.8057

“Gulf War Veterans And Their Families Say They Have Known For 17 Years That The Illness,

Once Called Gulf War Syndrome, Is Real” “People Died Waiting For This Report” “He Could Hardly Take Care Of Himself At The End,” She Said

[Thanks to Comrade Tribune, Vietnam Veteran, who sent this in.

[He writes: Like Rambo said in First Blood – an excellent view into Nam vet’s thoughts – talking to his friend’s mother about his friend – her son who died at home – about Orange – “He got killed in Nam and he never knew it.”]

November 20, 2008 By Jeb Phillips, THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

This week’s report that Gulf War illness is real might be news to the federal government. It is not, however, to Betty Legg.

Her son Jim returned from Operation Desert Storm in 1991 and developed seizures so violent that he broke his arm during one.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs recognized that he deserved compensation for a back injury he suffered in the Army, his mother said.

It did not recognize whatever gave him the seizures. He told his mother that he was sure they came from his exposure to chemical weapons.

Jim Legg was 39 when he died in 2003 at his home in Whitehall. His death certificate says the cause was “accidental poisoning, unspecified drugs, medicants and biological substances.”

It was a mix of the drugs he was taking to treat the problems he came back with from the Gulf War and suffered for 12 years, his mother said.

So the report was not news to Betty Legg, 78, of Reynoldsburg.

She did not read past the headline.

“He could hardly take care of himself at the end,” she said.

Gulf War veterans and their families say they have known for 17 years that the illness, once called Gulf War syndrome, is real.

Veterans developed problems ranging from chronic fatigue to brain cancer. The report from a congressionally mandated panel has told government officials that a “toxic soup” of chemicals caused those problems. It mentioned anti-nerve gas drugs given to troops and pesticides sprayed to ward off sand fleas and other pests.

It’s a good step, say veterans and their advocates.

But people died waiting for this report.

And the report itself doesn’t mean Veterans Affairs will start treating or compensating veterans.

Doctors and nurses must be trained; the government has to decide how much certain symptoms are worth before it will pay for them.

So the veterans still wait.

“I was in complete shock” at the report, said Jim Younkin, 41, a Gulf War veteran from Xenia. “It shouldn’t have taken near 17 years for this.”

Younkin helps other veterans navigate the Veterans Affairs system in Greene County. Many of them have never even tried to have their Gulf War illness symptoms treated because they thought they would be ignored, he said.

It’s a perception that is based in truth but is not entirely accurate.

Clarence Mingo, a lawyer who lives in New Albany, began receiving disability compensation in 1996 after fighting with the government for three years over his Gulf War-related tremors, slurred speech and muscle weakness. Veterans Affairs called the cause of his issues “environmental exposure.”

The original diagnosis for Mingo, as for many Gulf War veterans, was stress. The government’s 1996 decision allowed him to get past his Gulf War memories and go on to law school, he said.

He knows that most other Gulf War veterans had their conditions ignored.

But most of the information in this week’s report isn’t new, said John Schwertfager, founder and president of Ohio Gulf War Veterans.

This report just makes it official.

“The report says to the VA, ‘You have been put on notice.’”

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS



“At a time like this, scorching irony, not convincing argument, is needed. Oh had I the ability, and could reach the nation’s ear, I would, pour out a fiery stream of biting ridicule, blasting reproach, withering sarcasm, and stern rebuke.

“For it is not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder.

“We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake.”

Frederick Douglass, 1852

The Face Of The Enemy

Marx (from Capital):

“Capital is said by a Quarterly reviewer to fly turbulence and strife, and to be timid; but this is very incompletely stating the question.

“A certain 10 per cent [rate of profit] will ensure its employment anywhere; 20 per cent will produce eagerness; 50 per cent positive audacity; 100 per cent will make it ready to trample on all human laws; 300 per cent and there is not a crime at which it will scruple, nor a risk it will not run, even to the chance of its owner being hanged.

“If turbulence and strife will bring profit, it will freely encourage both.

Smuggling and the Slave Trade have amply proved all that is here stated.”

[Quoted by Clive Dilnot, New Statesman]

“A Failed Drug Prohibition Can Cause Greater Harm Than The Drug It Was Intended To Banish”

Consider the consequences of drug prohibition today: 500,000 people incarcerated in U.S. prisons and jails for nonviolent drug-law violations; 1.8 million drug arrests last year; tens of billions of taxpayer dollars expended annually to fund a drug war that 76% of Americans say has failed; millions now marked for life as former drug felons;

DECEMBER 5, 2008 By ETHAN A. NADELMANN, Executive director of the Drug Policy Alliance [Excerpts]

Today is the 75th anniversary of that blessed day in 1933 when Utah became the 36th and deciding state to ratify the 21st amendment, thereby repealing the 18th amendment.

This ended the nation’s disastrous experiment with alcohol prohibition.

It’s already shaping up as a day of celebration, with parties planned, bars prepping for recession-defying rounds of drinks, and newspapers set to publish cocktail recipes concocted especially for the day.

But let’s hope it also serves as a day of reflection.

We should consider why our forebears rejoiced at the relegalization of a powerful drug long associated with bountiful pleasure and pain, and consider too the lessons for our time.

The Americans who voted in 1933 to repeal prohibition differed greatly in their reasons for overturning the system.

But almost all agreed that the evils of failed suppression far outweighed the evils of alcohol consumption.

The change from just 15 years earlier, when most Americans saw alcohol as the root of the problem and voted to ban it, was dramatic. Prohibition’s failure to create an Alcohol Free Society sank in quickly.

Booze flowed as readily as before, but now it was illicit, filling criminal coffers at taxpayer expense.

Some opponents of prohibition pointed to Al Capone and increasing crime, violence and corruption.

Others were troubled by the labeling of tens of millions of Americans as criminals, overflowing prisons, and the consequent broadening of disrespect for the law.

Americans were disquieted by dangerous expansions of federal police powers, encroachments on individual liberties, increasing government expenditure devoted to enforcing the prohibition laws, and the billions in forgone tax revenues.

And still others were disturbed by the specter of so many citizens blinded, paralyzed and killed by poisonous moonshine and industrial alcohol.

Supporters of prohibition blamed the consumers, and some went so far as to argue that those who violated the laws deserved whatever ills befell them.

But by 1933, most Americans blamed prohibition itself.

When repeal came, it was not just with the support of those with a taste for alcohol, but also those who disliked and even hated it but could no longer ignore the dreadful consequences of a failed prohibition.

They saw what most Americans still fail to see today: That a failed drug prohibition can cause greater harm than the drug it was intended to banish.

Consider the consequences of drug prohibition today: 500,000 people incarcerated in U.S. prisons and jails for nonviolent drug-law violations; 1.8 million drug arrests last year; tens of billions of taxpayer dollars expended annually to fund a drug war that 76% of Americans say has failed; millions now marked for life as former drug felons; many thousands dying each year from drug overdoses that have more to do with prohibitionist policies than the drugs themselves, and tens of thousands more needlessly infected with AIDS and Hepatitis C because those same policies undermine and block responsible public-health policies.

And look abroad.

At Afghanistan, where a third or more of the national economy is both beneficiary and victim of the failed global drug prohibition regime.

At Mexico, which makes Chicago under Al Capone look like a day in the park.

And elsewhere in Latin America, where prohibition-related crime, violence and corruption undermine civil authority and public safety, and mindless drug eradication campaigns wreak environmental havoc.

All this, and much more, are the consequences not of drugs per se but of prohibitionist policies that have failed for too long and that can never succeed in an open society, given the lessons of history.

Perhaps a totalitarian American could do better, but at what cost to our most fundamental values?

Why did our forebears wise up so quickly while Americans today still struggle with sorting out the consequences of drug misuse from those of drug prohibition?

It's not because alcohol is any less dangerous than the drugs that are banned today.

Marijuana, by comparison, is relatively harmless: little association with violent behavior, no chance of dying from an overdose, and not nearly as dangerous as alcohol if one misuses it or becomes addicted.

Most of heroin's dangers are more a consequence of its prohibition than the drug's distinctive properties.

That's why 70% of Swiss voters approved a referendum this past weekend endorsing the government's provision of pharmaceutical heroin to addicts who could not quit their addictions by other means. It is also why a growing number of other countries, including Canada, are doing likewise.

Yes, the speedy drugs -- cocaine, methamphetamine and other illicit stimulants -- present more of a problem.

But not to the extent that their prohibition is justifiable while alcohol's is not.

The real difference is that alcohol is the devil we know, while these others are the devils we don't. Most Americans in 1933 could recall a time before prohibition, which tempered their fears. But few Americans now can recall the decades when the illicit drugs of today were sold and consumed legally. If they could, a post-prohibition future might prove less alarming.

But there's nothing like a depression, or maybe even a full-blown recession, to make taxpayers question the price of their prejudices. That's what ultimately hastened prohibition's repeal, and it's why we're sure to see a more vigorous debate than ever before about ending marijuana prohibition, rolling back other drug war excesses, and even contemplating far-reaching alternatives to drug prohibition.

Perhaps the greatest reassurance for those who quake at the prospect of repealing contemporary drug prohibitions can be found in the era of prohibition outside of America.

Other nations, including Britain, Australia and the Netherlands, were equally concerned with the problems of drink and eager for solutions. However, most opted against prohibition and for strict controls that kept alcohol legal but restricted its availability, taxed it heavily, and otherwise discouraged its use.

The results included ample revenues for government coffers, criminals frustrated by the lack of easy profits, and declines in the consumption and misuse of alcohol that compared favorably with trends in the United States.

Is President-elect Barack Obama going to commemorate Repeal Day today? I'm not holding my breath.

Nor do I expect him to do much to reform the nation's drug laws apart from making good on a few of the commitments he made during the campaign: repealing the harshest drug sentences, removing federal bans on funding needle-exchange programs to reduce AIDS, giving medical marijuana a fair chance to prove itself, and supporting treatment alternatives for low-level drug offenders.

But there's one more thing he can do: Promote vigorous and informed debate in this domain as in all others.

The worst prohibition, after all, is a prohibition on thinking.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



Obama: Let's Take Him At His Word "The Empire Will Roll On As Before"

October 27, 2008 M. Hazlitt, The Taylor Report

Obama's like Kennedy and that's the problem.

Campaigning for President Kennedy said he'd be a tougher cold warrior than Nixon. Jack said Ike Eisenhower/Nixon had been unwilling to confront Communist "Chiner" and America was lagging in the arms race, he'd fix that and he'd take care of Castro.

Liberal democrats would mutter, he's just saying that.

Turns out - Bay of Pigs/Vietnam/ Cuba missile crisis - he wasn't just saying that.

With Obama we hear he has to say those things, but soon the phrase will be, he has to do those things.

He will go right into the bomb and embargo business same as his Republican/Democrat predecessors.

He'll go from just saying that, to just doing that.

Let's take him at his word: More troops in Afghanistan; hot-pursuit into Pakistan; "boots on the ground" in Sudan.

He will appoint people like Holbrooke, the thug who ripped up Yugoslavia; Samantha Power, a think-tanker who thinks tanks and provides blather for humanitarian intervention, sugar-coated imperialism; General Powell will get a job somewhere. So, it will be Obomba Pakistan and such, laced with high-minded rhetoric that will pall rather early.

Every four years American progressives (don't ask for any precise definition) have a nervous breakdown over which servant of plutocrats they should vote for.

Better they spent some time over the speeches of the authentic labor leader and anti-war militant imprisoned for opposition to imperialist war, Gene Debs, and put their energies into putting the brakes on an out-of-control empire.

If they leave it to Barack, they're in for a shock.

**POLITICIANS CAN'T BE COUNTED ON TO HALT
THE BLOODSHED**

**THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE
WARS**

**DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE
MILITARY?**

Forward GI Special along, or send us the address if you wish and we'll send it regularly. Whether in Iraq or stuck on a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to

encouraging news of growing resistance to the wars, inside the armed services and at home. Send email requests to address up top or write to: The Military Project, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657. Phone: 917.677.8057

CLASS WAR REPORTS



“Politicians Tripped Over Each Other In Their Swoon For Wall Street And Its Ponzi Schemers”
“But The Detroit Boys Were From The Midwest Where They Made Real Things That Consumers Needed And Could Touch And Buy, And That

Continually Recycled Money Into The Economy”

“For All Of That, The Auto Heads Had To Sit There In November And Be Ridiculed About How They Traveled To D.C.”

December 5, 2008 By Michael Moore, MichaelMoore.com [Excerpts]

Two weeks ago, the CEOs of the Big Three were tarred and feathered before a congressional committee that sneered at them in a way far different than when the heads of the financial industry showed up two months earlier.

At that time, the politicians tripped over each other in their swoon for Wall Street and its Ponzi schemers who had concocted Byzantine ways to bet other people’s money on unregulated credit-default swaps, known in the common vernacular as unicorns and fairies.

But the Detroit boys were from the Midwest, the Rust (yuk!) Belt, where they made real things that consumers needed and could touch and buy, and that continually recycled money into the economy (shocking!), produced unions that created the middle class and fixed my teeth for free when I was 10.

For all of that, the auto heads had to sit there in November and be ridiculed about how they traveled to D.C.

Yes, they flew on their corporate jets, just like the bankers and Wall Street thieves did in October.

But, hey, that was OK!

They’re the Masters of the Universe!

Nothing but the best chariots for Big Finance as they set about to loot our nation’s treasury.

What a long, sad fall from grace we witnessed on Nov. 19, when the three blind mice had their knuckles slapped and then were sent back home to write an essay called, “Why You Should Give Me Billions of Dollars of Free Cash.”

They were also asked if they would work for a dollar a year. Take that!

What a big, brave Congress they are! Requesting indentured servitude from (still) three of the most powerful men in the world.

This from a spineless body that won't dare stand up to a disgraced president nor turn down a single funding request for a war that neither they nor the American public support.

Amazing.

You could buy all the common shares of stock in General Motors for less than \$3 billion.

They promised, if Congress gave them \$18 billion now, they would, in turn, eliminate around 20,000 jobs. You read that right.

We give them billions so they can throw more Americans out of work.

That's been their Big Idea for the last 30 years -- layoff thousands in order to protect profits.

But no one ever stopped to ask this question: If you throw everyone out of work, who's going to have the money to go out and buy a car?

These idiots don't deserve a dime.

Fire all of them, and take over the industry for the good of the workers, the country and the planet.

MORE:

“The Treasury’s TARP And Federal Reserve Programs To Ease The Financial Crunch Have Focused On Banks”

“But It’s Doing Nothing For Industry In General”

DECEMBER 4, 2008 By JESSICA HOLZER, Wall St. Journal [Excerpt]

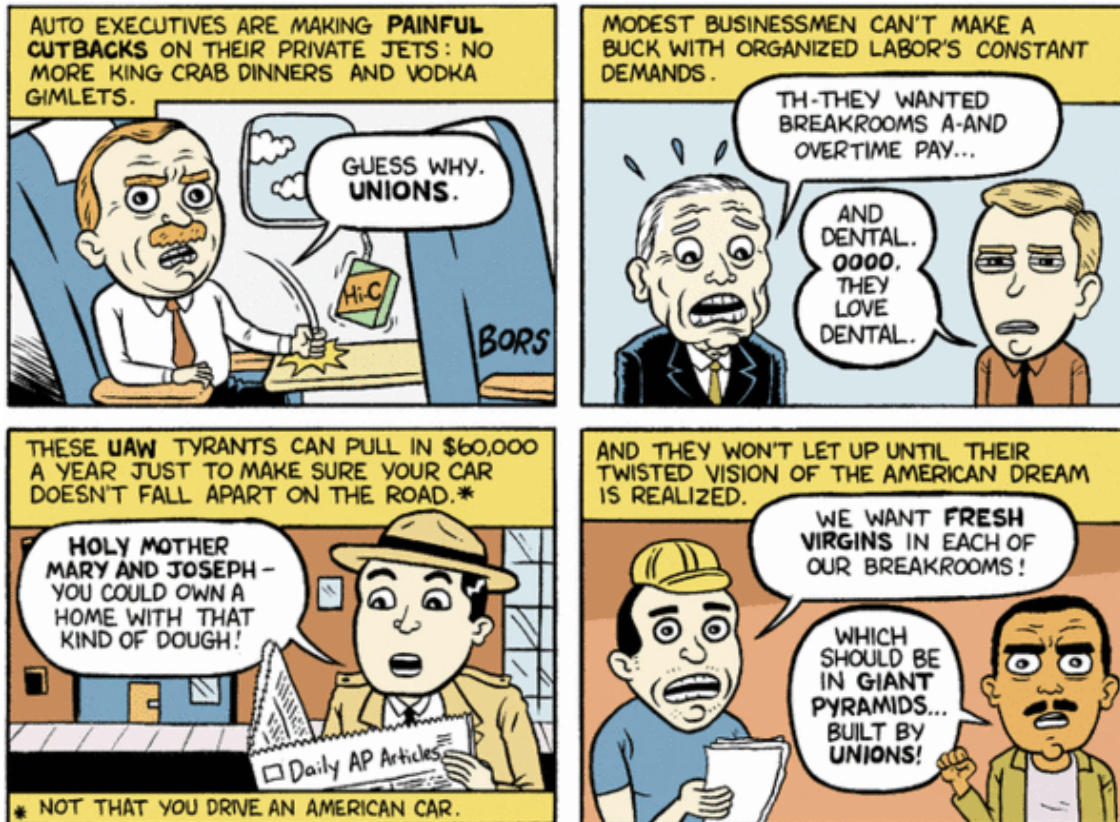
WASHINGTON -- Commercial and industrial companies are clamoring for more federal action to unlock credit markets, saying that moves to prop up the banking sector haven't done enough to jump-start lending to businesses.

Among the latest seeking relief is car-rental chain Avis, which wants to turn the Troubled Asset Relief Program, or TARP, into a bigger tent.

The Treasury's TARP and Federal Reserve programs to ease the financial crunch have focused on banks and, more recently, consumer-based lending. Nonbank companies

now are vying for relief, taking the lead of the Big Three auto makers, which are seeking a combined \$34 billion federal bailout.

“It’s great that (TARP is) helping the banks...but it’s doing nothing for industry in general because of the freeze in the capital markets,” said Arnold Klann, chief executive of ethanol producer BlueFire Ethanol Fuels Inc.



“It Will Be A Cold Day In Hell When Workers In Our State Agree To Dig Themselves Into Deeper Holes While Everyone Else Gets Rich”

November 21, 2008
Letters To The Editor
The Chief-Leader
New York City, New York

To the editor;

The Governor's call for labor unions to re-open their contracts isn't such a bad idea, but should come only after the following happens:

- 1) The bankers will re-negotiate the interest rates they charge to the city, state and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority. They will agree to a longer pay-back plan, thus giving the MTA some breathing room. They say this is not the time to increase subway and bus fares when every study shows that lowering the fare increases ridership, reduces air pollution and — remember congestion pricing? — cuts asthma rates among poor kids;
- 2) Oil companies reduce the prices they charge to municipalities and the price of the oil they charge out-of-state electricity producers;
- 3) Electric, gas and phone company contracts with the city and state are re-opened;
- 4) Governor Paterson and Mayor Bloomberg tell Senators Schumer and Clinton and the New York House delegation to vote no on any welfare checks for General Motors, AIG or any bank of ill repute until the City of New York gets its fair share of Federal largesse;
- 5) The shady operators who are responsible for the collapses of the financial markets tell the city and state they will lower the fees charged for bond sales and managing public-sector pension funds;
- 6) Contractors working on multi-billion dollar construction jobs (some with only one bidder) realize they can still finish the job, but they won't take as much of a profit. They re-open their contracts;
- 7) The owners of the Yankees and Mets agree that it is their patriotic duty to give up hundreds of millions of dollars in city and state subsidies;
- 8) Millionaires and billionaires, all writing from their vacation homes, agree to be taxed a small amount of money to help keep city and state services flowing. They promise not to move to Alabama if they have to pay a mere one percent extra on their bloated incomes;
- 9) The Mayor re-opens the Department of Education school bus contracts, worth more than \$1 billion a year.

The routes haven't been bid in nearly 30 years, and some owners have admitted to paying off union leaders and city inspectors so they would have advance notice of safety inspections! If there are no legitimate bidders, the MTA can take over the routes, keep the union contracts and cut out the middlemen.

So, as we can see, it will be a cold day in hell when workers in our state agree to dig themselves into deeper holes while everyone else gets rich.

JIM CALLAGHAN

[Staff writer for the United Federation of Teachers newspaper.]

Anti-Government Street Fighting Shakes Greece: After The Police Kill A Schoolboy On A Public Street In Athens, Banks And Government Buildings Burned



Alexandros Andreas Grigoropoulos, 15, killed on the street by Athens police, is seen in this undated photograph released to Reuters December 8, 2008. (Handout/Reuters)

08 December 2008 By Nicole Itano, The Rag Blog [Excerpts]

ATHENS - Greece's worst rioting in years erupted late Saturday night after an Athens policeman shot and killed a teenage boy in a central neighborhood known as the base of anarchist and other antiestablishment groups.

By Sunday morning, with the riots continuing, a trail of devastation had been blazed across central Athens – with the stench of tear gas and smoke from charred vehicles and buildings hanging over parts of the ancient city. The violence quickly spread to other parts of the country, including Greece's second-city, Thessaloniki, and the vacation islands of Crete and Corfu.

The conservative government, which was already struggling to stay in power in the wake of a recent land-exchange scandal, attempted to calm the rioters by arresting the two police officers connected with the shooting.

Brady Kiesling, a former US diplomat, who is writing a book about the Greek militant group November 17, says Greek police have limited power to use force against these groups because public sentiment will not tolerate it.

“The feeling is anger,” says John Gelis, a 28-year psychologist, shortly before joining the march. “A kid was killed just like that. It’s a sign of arrogance by the police. It’s an act against democracy.”

Mr. Gelis joined in the riots on Saturday night, saying the targets of the unrest included banks and multinational companies, not small businesses. “No one has anything against the little owners.”



December 8, 2008: A man cries as he leaves the site where 15-year-old Alexandros Grigoropoulos was shot dead by police in Athens. (Yiorgos Karahalios/Reuters)



A bank marked with graffiti burns in Athens December 8, 2008. Protesters set fire to banks, government buildings, a major department store in central Athens and torched the city's giant Christmas tree outside parliament as anti-government protests worsened. (John Kolesidis/Reuters)



A fireman rushes to extinguish a fire at a bank in Athens December 7, 2008. (Yiorgos Karahalidis/Reuters)



People are evacuated from the burning Foreign Ministry's diplomatic school in Athens December 8, 2008. (Nikolas Kominis/Reuters)



Map locating violent anti-government protests in Greece. (AFP/Graphic)

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Telling the truth - about the occupations or the criminals running the government in Washington - is the first reason for Traveling Soldier. But we want to do more than tell the truth; we want to report on the resistance to Imperial wars inside the armed forces.

Our goal is for Traveling Soldier to become the thread that ties working-class people inside the armed services together. We want this newsletter to be a weapon to help you organize resistance within the armed forces.

If you like what you've read, we hope that you'll join with us in building a network of active duty organizers. <http://www.traveling-soldier.org/> And join with **Iraq Veterans Against the War to end the occupations and bring all troops home now!** (www.ivaw.org/)

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