

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
ORRICK HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL
TEAM

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2008

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, let me take this opportunity to congratulate the Orrick High School Football Team on winning the Missouri Class 1 Football Championship. The team, led by Coach Pat Richard, won the game in double overtime against Thayer High. The Orrick Bearcats headed into the title game as a perfect 14–0 team ready to play. From a team that had its struggles in the early 2000s, this group has come a long way and has achieved the ultimate State prize. The thrilling win exemplifies the drive and ambition of these young men. I would like to share their success with you, Madam Speaker, and I am confident that my colleagues will echo my praise.

CUT NUCLEAR WEAPONS BUDGET

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2008

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, in a thoughtful and well documented article in the Boston Globe for December 3, Joseph Cirincione makes a very persuasive case for putting significant reductions in our nuclear weapons budget at the head of the list of budget savings President-elect Obama intends to make. Mr. Cirincione is the president of Ploughshares, and some of us remember the good work he did as a staff member working on trying to fashion a sensible nuclear weapons policy years ago in the House. He speaks with a great deal of knowledge and I am very pleased that someone as responsible and well informed as Mr. Cirincione has come forward to make this case. As he says in his article, the President “can cut obsolete programs and transfer tens of billions of dollars per year to pressing conventional military and domestic programs.”

Madam Speaker, no rational solution to the problem of an ever-increasing budget deficit can be imagined that does not include significant reductions in the rate of military spending. Joseph Cirincione demonstrates how this can be done in a way that does no damage whatsoever to our national security and I ask that the article be printed here.

[From the Boston Globe, Dec. 3, 2008]

NEED CASH? CUT NUCLEAR WEAPONS BUDGET

(By Joseph Cirincione)

President-Elect Barack Obama needs money, “To make the investments we need,” he said last week, “we’ll have to scour our federal budget, line by line, and make meaningful cuts and sacrifices, as well.”

There is no better place to start than the nuclear weapons budget. He can cut obsolete programs and transfer tens of billions of dollars per year to pressing conventional military and domestic programs.

Transfers to domestic programs will help jumpstart the economy. Military spending provides some economic stimulus but not as much as targeted domestic spending. This is one reason Representative Barney Frank has called for a 25 percent reduction in military budgets that have exploded from 305 billion in fiscal year 2001 to \$716 billion in fiscal year 2009, including the \$12 billion spent every month for wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

We must, of course, spend what we need to defend the country. But a good part of the military budget is still devoted to programs designed for the Cold War, which ended almost 20 years ago. This is particularly true of the \$31 billion spent each year to maintain and secure a nuclear arsenal of almost 5,400 nuclear weapons, with 1,500 still deployed on missiles ready to launch within 15 minutes.

We can safely reduce to 1,000 total weapons, as recommended by Senator JOHN KERRY and other nuclear experts. That reduction would save over \$20 billion a year, according to the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments.

The reductions could be done without any sacrifice to US national security, particularly if the Russians did the same (as they indicated they’d be willing to do) either by a negotiated treaty or the kind of unilateral reductions executed by former presidents George H.W. Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev in 1991.

The arsenal of 1,000 warheads could be deployed on 10 safe and secure Trident submarines, each with enough weapons to devastate any nation. In total, the smaller, cheaper arsenal would still be sufficient to destroy the world several times over. Further reductions would generate further savings over time.

Additional savings are available in the related anti-missile programs created during the Bush administration. Total spending is now \$13 billion a year—up from \$4 billion in 2000. Bush and former secretary of defense Donald Rumsfeld exempted the agency from the normal checks of Pentagon tests and procurement rules in an effort to institutionalize the program, locking in the next president, Obama will inherit half-built facilities in Alaska and California, along with plans to build new sites in Poland and the Czech Republic, but no assurance that the interceptors actually work—and a huge bill to pay. If Obama were to continue the program as is, he would spend an estimated \$62 billion through 2012.

In a congressional review of these programs, Representative John Tierney of Massachusetts concluded, “Since the 1980s, taxpayers have already spent \$120 to \$150 billion—more time and more money than we spent on the Manhattan project or the Apollo program, with no end in sight.” Tierney recommends refocusing the program to concentrate on defenses against the short-range weapons Iran and other nations currently field, and restoring realistic testing and realistic budgeting. Doing so could save \$6 billion or more a year.

Further savings can be found by stopping a planned expansion of nuclear weapons pro-

duction facilities pushed by contractors and some government nuclear laboratories. The facilities would cost tens of billions of dollars and produce hundreds of new nuclear warheads. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates strongly backs the expansion. In a direct challenge to Obama’s plans to reduce nuclear weapons and ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, Gates said in October, “there is absolutely no way we can maintain a credible deterrent and reduce the number of weapons in our stockpile without either resorting to testing our stockpile or pursuing a modernization program.” Obama will have to back him down or pony up billions to pay Gate’s nuclear tab.

What will the new president do? He comes to office with a comprehensive nuclear policy that could save billions. Obama will now have to show that this new security team will implement the change he promised, not their own parochial agendas.

HONORING ASSISTANT DEAN EVE
KLOTHERN, RECIPIENT OF THE
2009 FATHER ROBERT DRINAN
AWARD

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2008

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Assistant Dean Eve Klothen for receiving the 2009 Father Robert Drinan Award. This prestigious award is given by the American Association of Law Schools in recognition of outstanding contributions to pro bono activities and public service.

Assistant Dean Klothen’s distinguished career has included service as a legal services lawyer in Georgia, director of the Philadelphia Volunteers for the Indigent Program, and director of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation. During Assistant Dean Klothen’s service in these positions, she has successfully created programs to help the less fortunate while also mentoring students and young professionals. Assistant Dean Klothen has worked tirelessly over the course of her career to instill the values of public service and expand opportunities for students to participate in pro bono activities. During Assistant Dean Klothen’s tenure at Rutgers Law School, she has been central to efforts to create a number of programs, including the Pro Bono Research Project, new pro bono projects in areas such as tax assistance and immigration, and leadership training for students at nearby law schools.

Assistant Dean Klothen’s record of serving low income clients in south Jersey and Philadelphia is exceptional. This reputation, along with her remarkable leadership in advising the next generation of outstanding legal minds, clearly demonstrates why Assistant Dean Klothen is very deserving of the 2009 Father Robert Drinan award.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Assistant Dean Klothen on this achievement and wish her the best of luck in future endeavors.

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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