

**The original documents are located in Box D13, folder “House Speech Defense Legislation, July 26, 1950” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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MR. SPEAKER - At the outset I yield to no citizen in my devotion to this country and I consider it an outrage that anyone in the House should accuse another of opposing legislation for the defense of our country. Yesterday the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. Walsh) during the general debate on H.R. 9178 stated that he could point out that I had failed to vote for the defense of my country. Immediately on the floor of the House I challenged him to prove such a false and preposterous statement. The gentleman indicated that he would at some later date but at the time he uttered the accusation it was obvious he was talking to hear himself talk, with absolutely no knowledge whatsoever as to how I had voted on any measure that has come before the House in the 81st Congress. You will note in the printed record today that the gentleman from Indiana during our colloquy frankly admitted he didn't know me from Adam. For any member to accuse another without facts at hand to substantiate such a charge is irresponsibility of the worst sort.

Earlier during this same speech in which he made the false accusation concerning my voting record, the gentleman from Indiana patted himself on the back for never condemning any individual without a full and fair hearing or trial. Yet in the same speech, all within a period of ten minutes, the gentleman from Indiana openly accused a colleague of voting against the defense of his country when during our colloquy it was obvious he knew nothing concerning my voting record. Mind you, my colleagues, the gentleman from Indiana frankly admitted he would have to supply the data from the record when I challenged him to back up his statement. I respectfully suggest that the gentleman from Indiana be somewhat consistent



when he contends he never accuses or condemns without all the facts at hand.

The gentleman's own record in the House is rather interesting. During the first session of the 81st Congress there were approximately 68 highly significant legislative issues on which there were roll call votes. On 16 of the 68 the gentleman was not recorded. It should interest the House that on these same significant issues I was recorded on 65 out of the 68 roll calls. This is a somewhat better record than that of my colleague from Indiana.

It should also interest the House that on 42 significant issues in the 2nd Session of the 81st Congress the gentleman from Indiana failed to vote in twelve instances while my own record indicates my absence on only 3 occasions out of the 42. Again, if attendance to duty is a criterion, the gentleman from Indiana has a far worse record than I.

Here are some other interesting facts which should be called to the attention of the members of the House. During the First and Second Sessions of the 81st Congress through June 30, 1950, there were 430 roll calls. I missed 17 out of the 430 roll calls, in other words I was on the job 96% of the time. The gentleman from Indiana missed 260 out of the 430 roll calls, in other words he was on the job 40% of the time and absent 60% of the time. In this same period there were 205 roll call votes on legislative matters. I missed 8 out of the 205 and the gentleman from Indiana missed 66 out of the 205 roll call votes. During the same period there were 225 quorum calls. The gentleman from Indiana missed 104 out of the 225 quorum calls and I missed 9 out of the 225. I ask ~~the~~ the members of the House, who has the better record for being on the job?



Those of us who have been selected for this position of responsibility by the voters of our respective districts owe it to ourselves and our constituents to be on the job. The gentleman's record in this regard is obviously inferior to my own. Perhaps if he was more conscientious about his attendance record, the gentleman from Indiana would know accurately the voting record of his colleagues and would not fly off the handle and make such irresponsible statements concerning the record of a colleague.

Yesterday after the colloquy between the gentleman and myself, a member of the House suggested that as a test of our loyalty I put my service record of 47 months in World War II against the gentleman's Army record of approximately 13 months. I assure you that that is not a fair and honest basis for any test of loyalty or devotion to our nation's security and welfare. Many of our fellow citizens served our nation well and faithfully in a civilian capacity during World War II, perhaps even contributing more than we who were in the various branches of the Armed services. What does perplex me, however, is why the gentleman from Indiana should ignorantly resort to derogatory and irresponsible statements of the kind made yesterday on the floor of the House.

At the time the gentleman on the floor of the House made the reference to my voting record, as I said before, he had no facts, if ever there were any, to back up his accusation. Subsequently he apparently learned my name and checked the record. The gentleman from Indiana now states because I voted for or against certain selected proposals he has proved his point. The members of the House should know the facts on this afterthought analysis.



Let's start with H.R. 5895, the Mutual Defense Assistance Act of 1949. This bill originally called for an authorization of \$580,495,000 for North Atlantic Pact Countries; plus 500 million in forward contracting for North Atlantic Pact Countries; plus \$211,370,000 for Greece and Turkey, and \$27,640,000 for Iran, the Republic of Korea and the Republic of the Philippines. On August 18, 1949, on Roll Call No. 188, 209 members of the House including myself voted for the Richards Amendment. This amendment was approved by a bi-partisan vote and it deleted the 500 million for forward contracting but left intact the sum of \$580,495,000 for military aid to our European allies. Does the gentleman from Indiana honestly contend that all of the 209 members who voted for the Richards Amendment "failed to vote for the defense of their country"?

It is interesting to note that the gentleman from Indiana condemns me for my support of the Richards Amendment yet, according to Congressional Record, my colleague from Indiana was not present and consequently cast no vote whatsoever on the Richards Amendment. The record shows his absence at the time the vote was cast and furthermore he neither took the time or made the effort to pair himself either for or against the proposal. One who condemns another should at least have a record of his own to exhibit.

On the same day after the adoption of the Richards Amendment a roll call vote demanded on H.R. 5895 and on that vote I am recorded in favor of the bill. Again the gentleman from Indiana, who so glibly and ignorantly accuses a colleague was not present. He cast no vote and was



not paired one way or another. Two hundred and 38 members supported the bill by a recorded vote. In no vote in the record on this day do I find an indication of the gentleman's attitude on this bill yet he feels free to comment on my vote on this issue.

Subsequently the other body considered H.R. 5895 and reduced the authorized appropriation for North Atlantic Pact countries to 500 million but added 500 million for forward contracting and included 75 million for the general area of China. The House and Senate conferees approved the appropriation authorization of the House (\$580,495,000) and added the 500 million for forward contracting as adopted by the other body.

On September 28, 1949 the conference report on this legislation came before the House. After debate the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. Smith) offered a motion to recommit. One hundred and 13 members including myself supported that motion. I supported the motion to recommit because in my estimation such a vote was consistent with my vote on the Richards Amendment. I ask this question, does the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. Walsh) suggest that all of the 113 members who voted to recommit "failed to vote for the defense of their country"?

On final passage of the conference report on H.R. 5895 the gentleman from Indiana and I voted the same, namely, for the bill. This was his first affirmative support for the legislation and the second time during the first session that I had supported such legislation. Obviously his blasphemous comment of yesterday, considering his own record, was not justified.

The gentleman from Indiana (Mr. Walsh) in his afterthought analysis makes much of my two votes on January 19, 1950, when the House considered



and rejected the first bill authorizing economic aid to Korea. A brief review of the Far Eastern situation on that date is important to an understanding of why 193 members of the House rejected this bill. Early in January of this year, just before this vote, both President Truman and Secretary of State Acheson turned their backs on and literally abandoned Formosa contrary to the views of General MacArthur who all along has contended we must maintain the integrity of Formosa against the aggression of Red China. With the President and the Secretary of State abandoning Formosa at that time was there any justification for pouring 60 million or more in economic aid into Korea. Of course not.

This bill, H.R. 5330, proposed only economic aid to Korea, no military equipment, only U.S. dollars for the construction of power plants, fertilizer, etc. It was predicted on January 19th during the debate on this bill that Communist forces could and would overrun the South Korean Republic whenever such a military move was to the advantage of the Soviet Union. That prediction, unfortunately, has come to pass but the recent developments in Korea certainly sustain the position of those who refused to pour U. S. economic aid into a militarily defenseless nation. The gentleman from Indiana (Mr. Walsh) wanted the US to authorize 60 million for South Korean power plants, fertilizers, etc. when all our military leaders said the territory could not be defended yet he has the gall to accuse me, and by implication 192 others in the House, for failing to vote for the defense of our country because we rejected this proposal.

Again, on February 9, 1950, the House was called upon to consider a bill (S. 2319) for Korean economic aid. It was in effect the same bill as H.R. 5330 except certain U.S. funds were authorized for the Island of Formosa. Frankly this bill with the inclusion of aid to Formosa made sense,



principally because it was an admission by the State Department under Mr. Acheson that Formosa was not to be abandoned to Stalin and Red China. Prior to this change in attitude, Mr. Acheson and the President had abandoned Formosa. However, with this change in Pacific policy by the Administration, I could and did support the legislation. Yes, I did vote to reduce the authorisations, but again in light of our recent military reverses in South Korea perhaps it would have been wiser to cut back some of the economic aid to the South Korean Republic. Certainly a vote on February 9th of this year to reduce but not eliminate economic aid to Korea is not a vote against the defense of this nation. Again as before the afterthought analysis of the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. Walsh) is in error.

A short summary of the ill-founded accusation by the gentleman is in order. Of the 8 record votes to which he refers, either directly or indirectly, he and I voted alike on two occasions. I would suggest that in these instances he is like the pot calling the kettle black. On two of the roll calls when the House considered the Mutual Defense Assistance Act of 1949, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. Walsh) was nowhere to be found. In other words, he cast no vote. The members can draw their own conclusions in this instance. On the other 4 roll calls I voted differently from the gentleman from Indiana, for good and sufficient reasons. In no way whatsoever, as the record shows, did I or the many others who voted similarly, vote against the defense or national security of this nation. If anything we who disapproved of Secretary Acheson's policies and supported those of General MacArthur in light of recent developments, are right and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. Walsh) was quite wrong.



In closing, let me say no man in this House or elsewhere is more devoted than myself to our country and the principles for which it stands. At the same time never have I nor will I ever accuse another in the manner of the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. Walsh). Each member of the Congress has a duty and an obligation to vote on each and every proposal as his or her conscience dictates. It is not within the prerogatives of the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. Walsh) to determine and judge the merits or errors in my decisions, particularly when at the time of his comment he was completely ignorant of the facts. The record is now correct. I thank my colleagues for their indulgence in permitting me an opportunity to refute the gentleman's irresponsible statement of yesterday.



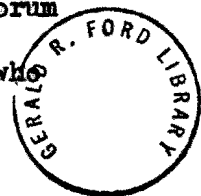
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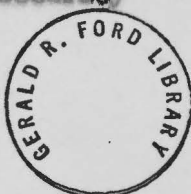
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