feedback

Draft registration defended

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Germany in the 1930's and Soviet expansionism are striking. The Soviet Union and its satellite, Afghanistan, are just coming to light, and the two are reported to have lined up over one thousand Afghan last year and rescued them. They have also reportedly been using chemical warfare agents. When and where do we "draw the line," so to speak?

As Henry Kissinger said recently, if Europe had stopped Germany in 1936 instead of 1942 20 million lives would have been saved. If we had waited until our territorial interests were served, we would be ruling Europe today.

We are not advocating going out and starting a war. Quite the contrary, we feel that war can be averted only if we convince the Soviets that it would be too costly. Going back to a drafted army is a step toward strengthening our defense system.

A common misconception is that the draft automatically leads to militarism and war. Europe has had conscription since the end of World War II; national service is a fact of life in West Germany and Switzerland, yet they have been at peace for thirty-five years.

At this point we would like to elucidate the real significance of the Persian Gulf to US security interests. As oil is the lifeblood that would not just affect America's Sunday driving habits. An oil cutoff would cause shortages, food shortages, increased inflation, and widespread unemployment. However, we believe that the US could survive a cutoff of Persian Gulf oil, albeit with a lot of sacrifice by all of us, but our allies could not. Were the Soviets to seize the Gulf, they would be in the position to blackmail Western Europe and Japan into severing their security ties with America, since Europe and Japan are dependent on Middle East oil that a cut-off would cause economic collapse and political upheaval. This would seriously disrupt the delicate balance of power that keeps the world at peace.

The supposed "humanitarians" who are against the draft seem very willing to condemn millions of other people around the world to life under totalitarian dictatorships. Growing up in affluent middle class America, they seem unaware that freedom is not cheap, that it is something that must be fought for to be preserved. The self-serving, anti-draft movement is a natural outgrowth of the ascendant cult of the 1960's and 70's. Perhaps it takes personal experience of the horrors of the communist system to realize how bad it really is. Our freedoms are something worth protecting, and it does not seem a lot to ask young Americans to help ensure the security of the society in which they live and whose many benefits they enjoy.

If there is one thing that recent history shows us, it is that appeasement is not a practical policy, that isolationism is not a practical policy, and that aggression unopposed invites further aggression. War is a terrible thing, but we cannot retreat to a world of ideas. We live in a physical world where force and violence have always been used by some to coerce others. Force has never been successfully opposed by good intention alone. Societies that forget the necessity of defending themselves soon succumb. We cannot afford to retreat from the world or from our responsibilities. We must be strong, learn from the past, and look to the future.

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