

HJR

8

Legislators have words for troops

Alaska legislators introduced pro-war and anti-war resolutions on the Persian Gulf conflict as soon as the session opened last month, and quickly combined them into one sweeping, largely inoffensive statement of Alaskans' feelings.

The first, HJR 8, was introduced Jan. 22, on day two of the session and day seven of the Persian Gulf war. Its prime sponsor was conservative Rep. Ramona Barnes, R-Anchorage, with 18 Republican and Democratic co-sponsors.



Fred Pratt

Representing the Interior among the supporters were Rep. Bert Sharp, R-Fairbanks, Rep. Georgianna Lincoln, R-Rampart, and Rep. Mike Miller, R-North Pole.

Other prominent co-sponsors are House Speaker Ben Grusendorf, D-Sitka, and House Majority Leader Max Gruenberg, D-Anchorage.

HJR 8 states: "... the Alaska State Legislature solemnly supports the president of the United States, other leaders of the allied forces, members of the Congress, United Nations officials, and military personnel involved in Operation Desert Storm as they take the actions considered necessary to respond to the ruthlessness of Saddam Hussein ..."

The resolution adds: "The members of the Alaska State Legislature express their heartfelt concern for the safety of all

the men and women serving in the allied forces in the Persian Gulf and hope for the speedy return of those men and women to their loved ones at home."

A rather different sentiment was taken by HJR 12, introduced by three liberal House Democrats two days later.

HJR 12 simply commends Alaskans serving in the armed forces in the Persian Gulf and urges the president and Congress "to seek a peaceful resolution of the conflict and to end the war as soon as possible."

HJR 12 was introduced by Rep. Kay Brown, D-Anchorage, and co-sponsored by Rep. Niilo Koponen, D-Fairbanks, and the same Majority Leader Max Gruenberg, who backed the very different HJR 8.

While HJR 8 devotes half a page to a list of Iraq's offenses against Kuwait and the world, HJR 12 mentions only that President Bush had called on Alaskans "to participate in the war effort in the Persian Gulf" and added that the number is likely to increase.

The findings in HJR 8 have phrases like "brutal actions in Kuwait" and "reign of terror," and mentions Iraq's attacks on Israel. HJR 12 doesn't even mention Iraq, Congress or the United Nations sanction of the military effort, making the whole thing look like George Bush's initiative.

And while its main thrust is supposedly to honor Alaskans serving in the gulf, the sponsors didn't even see fit to include the fighting forces there in the list of who would be sent HJR 12. It is addressed only to Washington D.C. politicians.

Both resolutions were brought up by the House State Affairs Committee Feb. 1, although the committee chose not to air this very current public issue on the Legislature's teleconference network.

By that time it had also picked up six more co-sponsors, two Republicans and four Democrats, including Rep. Tom Moyer, D-Fairbanks.

The result of the meeting was a substitute resolution by that committee; it passed in the House Monday by a vote of 38-0.

The committee substitute is basically HJR 8 with two additions from HJR 12: the observation that Alaskans are serving in the Persian Gulf and commending their bravery and dedication.

HJR 12 provision that urges a quick, peaceful resolution is

(See PRATT, Page B-6)

PRATT: Words for troops

you a safe and speedy return home."

HJR 12 quickly collected four Senate Republican "cross-sponsors," including Majority Leader Rick Halford, R-Chugiak.

The Senate isn't any more eager than the House to expose its handling of HJR 12. The Senate State Affairs Committee waived its public notice rules for meetings Wednesday so it could take up HJR 12 Friday.

But that's not all we're doing for the troops. HB 73, now in the House State Affairs Committee, would appropriate \$5 million to send Alaska canned salmon to the Persian Gulf forces.

■ Free-lance journalist Fred Pratt has been covering Alaska business and politics for the past 16 years.

(Continued from B-1)

The new version of HJR 8 expresses the Legislature's "heartfelt concern for the safety of the allied forces and the people residing in the Persian Gulf region" and urges the political leaders to "use whatever means are necessary to bring the conflict to an end as soon as possible and in a manner that will help secure a just and lasting peace in the region."

The new resolution also directs the Legislature's staff to send messages to all Alaskans in the gulf saying: "The members of the Alaska State Legislature want you to know that you are in our thoughts and prayers. We commend your bravery and dedication. We wish



Official Business

Alaska State Legislature

P.O. Box V
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

January 24, 1990

MEMORANDUM

TO: Terry Lauterbach
LAA Legal

FROM: Representative Gene Kubina *Gene*

RE: Draft CS for HJR 8 [LS0458/A]

Please prepare a CS for HJR 8, State Affairs. Attached is a draft for compromise language merging HJR 8, sponsored by Rep. Barnes and HJR 12 by Rep. Brown.

You may contact Mary McBurney, staff for the House State Affairs Committee at 4859 if you have any questions. Thank you.

A RESOLUTION RELATING TO THE PERSIAN GULF CONFLICT
AND ALASKANS SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

WHEREAS Iraq's military forces invaded Kuwait in August 1990, and, since that time, have plundered the country's assets, replaced its governmental leaders, and claimed to annex its territory as a province of Iraq; and

WHEREAS Iraq's initial aggression and its continuing reign of terror have caused a great number of civilian casualties in Kuwait, including children and other innocent persons; and

WHEREAS countries throughout the world have almost unanimously condemned the Iraqi aggression and, through the United Nations, have adopted resolutions demanding the withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait; and

WHEREAS there have been numerous diplomatic attempts to resolve the Persian Gulf crisis by government leaders, private citizens from many countries and the Secretary-General of the United Nations; and

WHEREAS the President of Iraq, Saddam Hussein, has uniformly rebuffed diplomatic overtures and continued brutal actions in Kuwait; and

WHEREAS the Allied Forces, under the auspices of the United Nations, have begun military action to enforce the United Nations' resolutions relating to the Persian Gulf crisis; and

WHEREAS, in response to the actions of the Allied Forces, Iraq has stepped up its aggression to include civilian targets in Israel and appears to be preparing for a devastating ground war involving well over one million troops; and

WHEREAS President Bush has called on Alaskans serving in the United States armed forces to participate in America's war efforts in the Persian Gulf; and

WHEREAS these Alaskans are serving United States interests with dedication, honor and commitment; and

WHEREAS the number of Alaskans called on to serve in the Persian Gulf is likely to increase;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature supports the President of the United States, other leaders of the Allied Forces, members of Congress, United Nations officials, and military personnel involved in Operation Desert Storm as they take the actions considered necessary to respond to the ruthlessness of Saddam Hussein; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature commends the bravery and dedication of Alaska's military personnel and all men and women who are serving ^{in the Allied Forces} in the Persian Gulf; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the Alaska State Legislature express their heartfelt concern for the safety of the Allied Forces as well as the people of the Persian Gulf region and therefore urge President Bush, the United States Congress and the United Nations to use whatever means are necessary to bring the conflict to an end as soon as possible and secure a just and lasting peace for the region; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Affairs Agency is directed to send the following message to all Alaskans serving with U.S. military forces in the Persian Gulf:

The members of the Alaska Legislature want you to know that you are in our prayers. We commend your bravery and dedication. We wish you a safe and speedy return home.

Copies of this resolution shall be sent to: etc.

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(7)

Date Referred: January 22, 1991

FURTHER REFERRALS:

Date of Committee Action: 1-30-91

The STATE AFFAIRS Committee considered:

HJR 8

HOUSE JOINT RES NO. 8

PERSIAN GULF CONFLICT

Relating to the Persian Gulf conflict.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

be replaced with CS HJR 8 (State Affairs) the same title
 a new title

have attached amendments(s)

do pass

do not pass

no recommendations

individual recommendations

additional referral to the _____ Committee

ADOPTS: _____ letter of Intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S): (Dept)

APPROVES PREVIOUS: (Dept/Date)

fiscal impact _____

fiscal note(s) _____

zero fiscal note Military Veterans Affairs

zero fiscal note(s) _____

SIGNING DO PASS:

SIGNING OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

		Check appropriate column:	Do Not Pass	No Rec	Amend
	<i>Tom Moe</i>				
<i>Betty Zachary</i>	<i>E. Braden</i>				
	<i>Mike Miller</i>				
	<i>Tom Baker</i>				
<i>David Thapett</i>	<i>Wendy Kucinski</i>				
<i>Max Trueman</i>	<i>W. Phelan</i>				
	<i>Gene Kubisa</i>				

Gene Kubisa

 Chairman's Signature



House State Affairs Committee Representative Gene Kubina, Chair

DATE: January 30, 1991

PLACE: Room 102
Capitol

SUBJECT OF MEETING:

HJR 8 - Relating to the Persian Gulf Conflict

HJR 12- Commending Alaska's Soldiers in Gulf War

NAME	REPRESENTING	BUSINESS/PERSONAL MAILING ADDRESS	ZIP	(H) PHONE	(W) PHONE	DO YOU WANT TO TESTIFY?	WHAT SUBJECT/ WHICH BILL?
Rob Ryan		2221 Davis St. Juneau	99801	764-2696	465-2987	(Y) N	HJR 8 & HJR 12 12
Sill C-1000	self	PO Box 22316 JNU	99801	586-5606	same	(Y) N	HJR 8/12 12
David J. Lennie	-	Box 21878 JUNEAU	99801	364-2626	"	(Y) N	HJR 8/12 12
Cindy Smith	MEMBER DUISA	130 Seward St. P.O. Box 1301		586-3650	-	Y (N)	observe
Gregory Punge	self/District	592 Scatter St	99801	586-4469		(Y) N	HJR 8/12 12
Robert Wolfe	self	1760 Evergreen	99801	586-2664		(Y) N	HJR 8/12 12
Franklin Borkel	self	440 E. 1st St. Juneau	99801	586-2606	465-2767	(Y) N	HJR 8/12 12
Jeff Morrison	DMVA	PO Box L Juneau		760-5883	465-4600	Y (N)	HJR 8
						Y N	
						Y N	
						Y N	



OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Alaska State Legislature

House of Representatives

REPRESENTATIVE
RAMONA L. BARNES
DISTRICT 14

ANCHORAGE
2230 PARSON
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99504
(907) 337-7737
(907) 561-2036

BOX V
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
(907) 465-3438

January 27, 1991

SPONSOR STATEMENT

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 8

This resolution is offered as a statement of support, not only for the President of the United States and other leaders of the Allied Forces, but more importantly for the men and women of the military forces serving in the Persian Gulf. It is important to the morale of our troops that they know their fellow Americans appreciate their bravery and dedication.

According to a spokesperson from the Office of the Secretary of Defense, there are 245,000 personnel from the Allied Forces plus 475,000 American military personnel serving in the Persian Gulf as of January 25th. Accurate figures are not readily available regarding the number of Alaskans currently on duty serving in the Gulf. It appears that to date, Alaska has been most fortunate in having most of her sons and daughters left at home. There are, however, 7 Alaskan Naval reservists who have been activated for service in the Persian Gulf. I have been told that there are Army medical corps reservists from Alaska who have also been activated but I cannot substantiate that at this time.

Additionally, Alaska is home to several thousand active duty military personnel and their families who have made and continue to make significant contributions to our state. These active duty personnel are all subject to duty in the Persian Gulf. It is important to indicate to those men and women serving in operation "Desert Storm" and all military personnel that Alaska supports their efforts.

I believe that all Alaskans were praying for a peaceful resolution to the Middle East crisis. However, exhausting diplomatic efforts failed to resolve the issue. To debate whether we should have launched the attack when we did would serve no purpose at this time. The fact is that we are at war with Iraq. War is never easy and many personal sacrifices will be made. Let us, members of the Alaska Legislature, make Alaska a forerunner in publicly acknowledging support for the men and women of our military services who will be making those sacrifices.

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

POSITION PAPER
CSHR 8 (STA) (Draft)

Summary of Resolution: This resolution expresses the Legislature's support of the United States and Allied Forces military personnel involved in Operation Desert Storm, their concern for the safety of people residing in the Persian Gulf Region, and their desire to have a message of support sent to all Alaskans serving in the Persian Gulf.

Impact of Resolution of Department of Military and Veterans Affairs: None

Departmental Position on Resolution: The department supports the resolution.

Approved: _____

J. Morrison
Col

MG John W. Schaeffer

Date: _____

Jan 29, 1991

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
1991 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HJR 8

Revision Date: _____ Department Affected: Military Veterans Affairs

Title: Persian Gulf Conflict BRU: _____

Component: _____

Sponsor: Rep. Barnes

Requestor: House State Affairs Committee **COMPONENT SERIAL NO.**

--	--	--	--

Expenditures/Revenues: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97
PERSONAL SERVICES	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

CAPITAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
----------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

REVENUE	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
----------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

POSITIONS: N/A

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

Estimate of current year impact: _____

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary.)

Prepared By: House State Affairs Committee Phone: 465-4859

Division: _____ Date: _____

Approved by Commission: Representative Gene Kubina, Chair

Agency: House State Affairs Committee Date: 1-28-91

Distribution (by preparer): Legislative Finance, Legislative Sponsor, Requestor, OMB, & Impacted Agency(ies).

Presentation to the Alaska Legislature, 1-14-90

I am here to speak about HJR 8 Relating to the Persian Gulf Conflict (1-28-91).

I believe there are serious problems with the resolution as it is currently written. The problems are not with the "Whereas Statements", which detail the heinous actions of the Iraqi military against Kuwaiti, Saudi, and Israeli people: the unprovoked aggression, the brutal killing of men, women, and children, the plundering of a neighbor's assets, the threatening, recalcitrant response of Saddam Hussein to world authority. These brutal events are correctly named in the resolution. The problem is the conclusion that follows, that therefore, the state legislature "solemnly supports" those involved in "Desert Storm", "as they take actions considered necessary to respond to the Iraq's ruthlessness."

What might those actions be? Any actions? Any actions whether they are morally right or wrong? Any actions, as long as they are considered "necessary" to "respond to ruthlessness?" Considered necessary by whom? The President? Allied Force leaders? Unnamed "U.N. officials?"

I believe there are serious ethical problems with this resolution. Such unnamed and undefined support constitutes an ethical blank check, endorsed by the legislature, for any action, moral or otherwise, by our national leaders, by other national leaders, or by men and women in the military operation.

Think about what this means in reality. Once large-scale war starts, it predictably escalates. There are many actions that all know are bound to occur during Desert Storm in response to Iraq's ruthlessness: the aerial bombing of men

and women, including women, children, and other non-combatants; the destruction of Iraqi and Kuwaiti cities, including homes, mosques, cultural sites, and economic infrastructure; the severing of food and water lines, leading to famine, starvation, disease, and death; the displacement of vast numbers of refugees; the permanent destruction of families, the inconsolable mourning for lost sons and daughters, the long-term impoverishment of ethnic groups, and on and on. This is the nature of war. I submit to you, that such conduct in response to Iraq's ruthlessness is contrary to the religious values of many Catholic and Protestant churches in our communities. This is why I cannot support this resolution.

As you know, there is a range of ethical value systems in our communities. One of these value systems is that of Nationalism or Patriotism: that in times of war, it is right and good to stand behind, support, and follow the nation's leaders, and that military action is an honorable service. Currently, the resolution is written from this value system: to support ("to give approval to or be in favor of"), our leaders and military. From the values of Nationalism or Patriotism, these are appropriate ethical value statements.

However, there are other value systems deeply held by many Alaska residents. The one I grew up with and teach to my children, and to other's children in Church school on Sunday mornings, derives from my Protestant church upbringing. In this value system, as a matter of conscience, each person must decide for themselves whether it is right or wrong to participate in the destructive actions of war. In making these personal decisions, the church tells us not to automatically follow the ways of the world in dealing with conflict, but to follow the ways of spiritual truth. We are taught that it is never God's will to kill one's

neighbor or one's enemies. War is never part of God's plan. We are taught to love our enemy, to combat evil with good deeds, and to be willing to suffer persecution in our obedience to God's will. Under this value system, the destruction of lives by the military during war is a thing of great sadness and anguish. Under this value system, we feel deep concern and pray for the physical and spiritual safety of men and women caught in war. Under this value system, we feel repentance because killing our neighbor in war is a sin that separates us from the plan of God.

In our communities, there are at least these two value systems, and undoubtedly more. Because of this, I believe resolutions from the Alaska legislature which make ethical statements must be very carefully worded, so as not to denigrate the deeply held value systems of the good people in our communities who follow their conscience in faith. In particular, resolutions should contain factual statements and ethical statements that, at the very least, do not denigrate the values of God as the churches hold them. Either that, or there should be no resolution at all.

As for the final resolution, expressing "heartfelt concern for the safety of all the men and women serving in the Allied Forces in the Persian Gulf", let us add a concern for the safety of all men and women in the Middle East, as this terrible war engulfs them. May we pledge ourselves to play an active, life-giving role in bringing about a peaceful solution, in the hopes of making "necessary" military responses unnecessary.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Robert J. Wolfe 1760 Evergreen Juneau, AK 99801
586-2864 (h)465-4147 (w)

January 29, 1991

Representative Gene Kubina, chair
House State Affairs Committee
Alaska House of Representatives
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Gene,

I am writing in regard to the two Persian Gulf war resolutions: HJR's 8 and 12. While Kay Brown's HJR 12 is the more-balanced statement; neither of the original resolutions nor the 1-28 Draft Committee Substitute for HJR 8 adequately addresses the deeply-felt longing for peace that Alaskans, even those who currently support the war, have consistently expressed.

The Juneau Coalition for Peace in the Middle East, in a current letter to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, calls for four key actions which are in keeping with our broadly-shared social values and which represent positive steps toward a permanent resolution of the conflict. These are:

- "1.) a cease-fire, negotiated and supervised by the United Nations;
- 2.) support of our military men and women, by non-violently bringing about the conditions that will allow them to return home safely, as soon as possible;
- 3.) a comprehensive international conference on peace and justice in the Middle East; and
- 4.) the re-allocation of world resources for human and environmental needs, not for war."

Only point 2.) is addressed in the draft CS. I suggest that the other points be added to any resolution passed, in similar form to this:

(In the draft CS, these would follow the "further resolved" expressing concern and support for the troops and requesting steps to peace.)

FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature urges President Bush, the Congress, and the United Nations to actively and immediately work toward a cease-fire, negotiated and supervised by the United Nations, and a United Nations-sponsored comprehensive international conference on peace and justice in the Middle East as key steps to end the war; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature urges President Bush, the Congress, and the United Nations to actively work toward the re-allocation of world resources for human and environmental needs, not for war; and be it

The draft CS also contains a number of deeply troubling, highly polarizing statements which reflect the common but regrettable wartime tendency to depersonalize the enemy. These distorted statements do not fairly represent Alaskan sentiment, and contribute nothing to the intent of the Resolution or to the goal of a satisfactory peace. Some, in particular the statements that we have pursued all diplomatic means while the Iraqis have rebuffed all overtures, are so blatantly untrue that they are highly offensive to many of us. Issues as complex as war do not lend themselves to this kind of simplistic self-righteousness. I suggest that such statements either be dropped entirely or extensively reworked to reflect a reasoned understanding. I would be happy to work with your staff on such changes.

thank you



Bill Glude
PO Box 22316
Juneau, AK 99802
586-5606

Ron Reed

STATEMENT ON GULF WAR RESOLUTION

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Honorable representatives of this committee. I am here to testify in opposition to HJR8, introduced by Rep. Barnes, and in favor of HJR12, by Rep. Brown.

Despite Pres. Bush's declaration that the Gulf War is a "noble cause," Americans remain deeply divided over the propriety of this engagement. When the Senate gave Mr. Bush the power to attack Iraq without further consultation, they did so by the extremely narrow margin of 52 ayes to 47 nays, reflecting the division of their constituents. In early January, columnist Mike Royko reported that his mail was running about nine to one against launching a war, even after months of incessant pro-war propaganda from most of the major media outlets. Indeed, several members of congress, in the course of the debate on the resolution to authorize force, stated that they were voting in favor primarily to convince Saddam Hussein that the U.S. was serious, in the hope that a war would then turn out not to be necessary.

Yet only one day after the artificially concocted deadline of Jan. 15, less than a week after the Congressional debate, and a mere five months after the imposition of sanctions, Mr. Bush launched his midnight air raids, and the defensive Shield was transformed into an offensive Sword. Why this rush to war? After all, CIA Director William Webster testified to Congress in December that the sanctions had been up to that time approximately 97 percent effective. And sanctions do take time. During the twentieth century, sanctions have been imposed on recalcitrant states by other states a total of over a hundred times. The average length of time for the sanctions to have the desired effect in these cases was between one and two years. Are Iraqi civilians dying, and our soldiers risking death, because an impatient George Bush "had it" with Saddam Hussein?

There are plentiful indications of the artificiality of the Jan. 15th deadline. It was agreed to by the United Nations Security Council, an organization to which the U.S. paid only scant and contemptuous attention in the past, after a great deal of administration arm-twisting, threats and bribery, as a compromise to the earlier U.S. demand for a New Year's deadline.

Nor did Iraq refuse all offers of negotiations. Beginning early in August, within two weeks of the invasion, Iraq floated the first of a series of peace feelers to the West. This was not the attempted "linkage" that proposed that Israel, Syria and Turkey be held to the same standards of conduct as Iraq, which later received such a hostile reception as tantamount to "rewarding aggression," a motive conspicuously absent of mention when discussing the aforementioned cases.

No, this first Iraqi proposal, presented Aug. 23 but unreported by our faithful media, was an offer to withdraw from Kuwait and release all hostages in return for guaranteed access to the Gulf through cession of two small uninhabited islands, and for full control of the Rumailah oilfield, the original source of the dispute with Kuwait, which lies in any case 95 percent under Iraqi territory. Access to the Gulf has been an Iraqi ambition ever since the British mandate deliberately drew up the boundaries of the Protectorate to exclude such access.

The answer of the White House was to ridicule the offer when it was made public on Aug. 29; the media, when it bothered to report the initiative at all, followed suit. Of course, the Iraqis may indeed have been playing games, although an administration official who specializes in Middle Eastern affairs felt it was "serious" and "negotiable," according to the New York *Newsday*, but we'll never know, as no response was forthcoming. Without drawing further and possibly unwarranted conclusions, one can at least say the failure of diplomacy was mutual.

The pros and cons of different dates to start the war was even the subject of detailed accounts in *Time* and *Newsweek* during the Fall. Why the unseemly rush to war? One answer is offered in an intriguing cover article in this week's *Nation* on the economic incentives for the war: not just the swallowing of the peace dividend, or the diversion of attention from the Savings and Loan scandal, or the testing of new weapons, or even control of the Middle Eastern spigot, though all of these no doubt have a part to play; but the continued floating of the recession-wracked, deficit-ridden U.S. economy through Saudi and Gulf petrodollars; the U.S. Army as Mercenaries for Hire. Are we indeed going to Mr. Bush's "hoble war" for jobs, as Secretary of State Baker suggested in a moment of candor last Fall? Is propping up the banks and the exchange rate of the dollar, and obtaining economic leverage over our post-Cold War rivals Japan and the European Economic Community, worth the lives of our brothers, sisters, lovers and friends?

Before I go any further, I'd like to make two things clear. The first ought to go without saying, but given the rightwing propensity to equate dissent with treason and support of the enemy--there's a t-shirt for sale in the Nugget Mall that reads "Reward the Professors--Send them to Kuwait"--I will state it for the record. I do not, and the peace movement does not, consider the soldiers to be the villains in this war. They are victims just as the Kuwaiti citizens and the Iraqi civilians and troops. The best support we can give them is to urge ceasefire and peace: to bring them home alive, rather than in body bags, or "human remains pouches," as the Pentagon prefers to call them in its sanitized and bloodless prose.

The second point that needs to be stressed is that I, too, deplore the invasion and annexation of Kuwait by Iraq. But unlike our statesmen, I also deplore the invasion and annexation of the northern third of Cyprus by our ally Turkey, supported to the tune of \$500 million a year by our country; the invasion and annexation of East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights; and the invasion and occupation of southern Lebanon, the Gaza strip, and the West Bank by our close ally Israel, the single largest recipient of U.S. foreign aid; the invasion and annexation of the Sahel, or Sahara Arab Democratic Republic, by the puppet state of Morocco (as Amnesty International called it), now a vaunted ally against the new Hitler of the Middle East; the invasion and occupation of eastern Lebanon by Syria, now a "reformed" terror state thanks to its role as a co-belligerent against its ancient enemy Iraq, on whom it has territorial designs of its own; the invasion and annexation of East Timor, and the genocidal butchery of one third of its population, by the regime we helped bring to power in Indonesia at the cost of up to one and a half million lives; and last but not least, our own invasion of Grenada, terror bombing of Tripoli, and takeover of Panama during the era of "America--standing tall." For that matter, I deplore the previous Iraqi invasion of other people's territory, which was directed against Iran in 1980, and which the Reagan/Bush administration tacitly supported.

The point I am making is that while Iraqi atrocities against Kuwaiti civilians and other nefarious activities cannot be excused, they are hardly of a fundamentally different character from those that we routinely condone and dismiss when carried out by our friends and allies, and indeed, by dictators who are maintained in power solely by our tax moneys, our training, and our troops. As the *New Yorker* put it last Oct. 15, if we try Hussein for crimes against humanity, by the same standards, many of the regimes we supported in Central America in the Eighties, not to mention those in our government who directed the policies of support, would also be in the dock.

Iraq itself, pre-invasion, is not absent from this list of "our" state terrorists. Aside from our pronounced "tilt" in Iraq's direction during the war with Iran, by 1990 the U.S. had become Iraq's largest trading partner. Congressman Henry Gonzales of Texas has

charged that \$3 billion in letters of credit were extended to Iraq by one Atlanta-based bank alone, and that the deal included armaments as well as, quite possibly, chemical weapons. This money helped finance the invasion of Kuwait, as Gonzales pointed out. In 1989 Iraq received \$1 billion in loan assurances, second in this regard only to Mexico.

This was the culmination of a long and mutually profitable relationship; ever since 1982 Iraq has been one of the largest importers of U.S. rice and wheat (a total of \$5.5 billion worth), financing a good deal of that through federally guaranteed loans. By 1987, 10 percent of Iraq's food was imported from the U.S. Over the years, the federally guaranteed loans freed up moneys for armaments for the war with Iran; during the Eighties, Iraq purchased \$46.8 billion worth of arms, more by far than any other Third World country.

Even when Iraq diverted helicopters purchased from the U.S. to military purposes in blatant violation of explicit promises, the administration hardly blinked. In 1988, when Congress wanted to restrict trade with Iraq due to egregious human rights violations, the Reagan administration lobbied successfully to defeat the restrictions. And when the human rights office of the State Department compiled a critical report against Iraq last Spring, the Bush administration, fresh from having lifted a formal ban on loans to Iraq, pressured the office to tone down the report in the interest of increased U.S. influence and better oil flows.

In fact, the Iraqi invasion itself followed closely after U.S. Ambassador April Glaspie indicated clearly at a meeting with Saddam that the U.S. had no intrinsic objection to whatever means Iraq used to settle its disputes with Kuwait. This reassurance came in response to Saddam's virtual announcement of his plans, saying that Kuwait was threatening Iraq's lifeblood, and that no country had a right to threaten another with economic extinction. Two days before the invasion, a State Department official testified before Congress that the U.S. was not committed to defend Kuwait in the event of an invasion, although by that time, according to the chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, the CIA not only knew of the invasion plan, but even correctly guessed the day. The State Department then forbade the Agency to warn the Kuwaiti government or people, and forced the cancellation of a Voice of America broadcast on the Iraqi threat.

Meanwhile, on July 27, Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf successfully carried out a command exercise for 350 of his staff officers based on the premise of one Middle Eastern country invading another and threatening U.S. interests. We need to ask, did George Bush invite the invasion of Kuwait, whether in fulfillment of short-term political objectives, geopolitical strategems, or the long-coveted permanent U.S. bases in the Middle East? Or, as one Middle East diplomat was quoted, if Saddam didn't exist, would Bush have had to invent him?

There are many unanswered and provocative questions about the origins of the crisis, and good reasons for doubting that our media, spoon-fed by the Pentagon, according to their own complaints, are presenting us with anything like the full story. The Barnes resolution, with its blanket and advance approval for whatever the Bush administration may be planning, is not a real gesture of support for our troops, but only for our government, right or wrong. I believe that Rep. Brown's resolution, a neutral statement that praises our people in uniform and at the same time urges Pres. Bush and the Congress to seek peaceful resolution of the Gulf conflict, much better expresses the feelings of most Alaskans. Thank you.

592 Seatter Street
Juneau, AK 99801

29 January 1991

Representative Gene Kubina, Chair
State Affairs Committee
Alaska House of Representatives
Pouch
Juneau, AK

Re: HJR 8; HJR 12

Dear Representative Kubina:

There are obviously a lot of people who need to express themselves about the Gulf War (I have been doing at least my share), and it is natural that the Legislature should try to express the feelings of Alaskans about it, but, with all due respect to the sponsor and co-sponsors of HJR 8, do we really need still more pious rationalizations, still more jingoism, still more demonization of Saddam Hussein, and still more cheerleading for our war leaders? I doubt if such stuff improves the morale of our military men and women. It certainly doesn't demonstrate that they are there on behalf of a peace-loving, thoughtful, democratic society. And its superficially supportive note does not really do anything for the welfare of our troops, let alone for the welfare of all the people of the region; it just leaves them there to be victimized by the war.

By contrast, it struck me upon reading HJR 12 that this is the sort of message that would have heartened me greatly, had I read it when I was in Vietnam back in '65 and '66. It shows that we care, by engaging the reality of war and trying to stop it. That's the only real support for the troops. I would have gone further and recommended the earliest possible UN-sponsored cease fire and comprehensive peace conference. But at least HJR 12 sends the right message of support.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on these two resolutions.



John Dunker

cc: Rep. Kay Brown
Rep. Max Gruenberg
Rep. Niilo Koponen

Douglas K. Mertz
1215 Fifth Street
Douglas, Alaska 99824

January 29, 1991

Honorable Gene Kubina, Chairman
House State Affairs Committee
Alaska State Legislature

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I urge the members of the House State Affairs Committee to support HJR 12, commending Alaskans serving in the Persian Gulf and urging the President and Congress to seek an end to the war. Public debate on the war has too often been in terms of full support for the U.S.'s military objectives as the only viable and patriotic position. HJR 12 redresses this misstatement by emphasizing that our personnel in the Gulf deserve our support no matter what view we take of the war, and by emphasizing that the best support we can give them would be an early and peaceful resolution to the war. This is an attitude that all Alaskans and all Americans can support, and is far preferable to statements that emphasize belligerency toward Arab nations or which define support only in terms of military objectives.

Sincerely,



Douglas K. Mertz



House State Affairs Committee

Representative Gene Kubina, Chair

DATE: January 30, 1991

PLACE: Room 102
Capitol

SUBJECT OF MEETING:

HJR 8 - Relating to the Persian Gulf Conflict

HJR 12- Commending Alaska's Soldiers in Gulf War

NAME	REPRESENTING	BUSINESS/PERSONAL MAILING ADDRESS	ZIP	(H) PHONE	(W) PHONE	DO YOU WANT TO TESTIFY?		WHAT SUBJECT/ WHICH BILL?
Ron Reed		2721 DAVIS ST. JUNEAU	99801	314-2096	465-2988	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	N	HJR 8 & HJR 12
Bill G-wood	self	PO Box 22316 JUNEAU	99802	586-5606	same	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	N	HJR 8/12
Dennis J. Woodie	—	Box 21878 JUNEAU	99802	314-2626	"	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	N	HJR 8/12
[REDACTED]								
Amy Paige	self/Dunkley	592 Scatter St	99801	586-4409		<input checked="" type="radio"/>	N	HJR 8/12
Robert Wolfe	self	1760 Evergreen	99801	586-2864		<input checked="" type="radio"/>	N	HJR 8/12
Judy Brakel	self	440 E. 1 st St, JUNEAU	99801	586-2606	465-2767	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	N	HJR 8/12
Jeff Morrison	DMVA	PO Box L JUNEAU		780-5883	465-4600	Y	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	HJR 8
						Y	N	
						Y	N	
						Y	N	

12
12
NO 8
NO 8
NO 8
NO 8