

tribunals (which were previously rejected by the Supreme Court as unconstitutional); gives the green light to the "CIA program" allowing waterboarding and other forms of torture; strips Guantanamo detainees of the right to challenge their detention, thus prejudging them as being guilty; disallows any person harmed by the U.S., in violation of the Geneva Conventions, from filing a claim in U.S. court; and most heinous of all, it strips legal U.S. citizens of their right to challenge their detention if they are accused of being "enemy combatants."

Furthermore, this legislation grants immunity to Bush, Cheney, Rumsfeld, et al, by legalizing U.S. war crimes committed prior to Dec. 30, 2005. This clause, as well as the Geneva Convention waiver, indicates that the administration knows full well that its acts will be considered war crimes.

The only members of the Oregon delegation to vote for this disgusting legislation were Sen. Gordon Smith and Rep. Greg Walden, who coincidentally are the only Republicans in the group. Please thank Sen. Wyden and Reps. Blumenauer, DeFazio, Hooley, and Wu for their futile attempt to uphold the Constitution.

God bless America indeed.

Greg Lief
Corvallis

STOP WANTON CRUELTY

One hundred years ago, famed social critic Upton Sinclair's masterpiece *The Jungle* exposed the filthy conditions and cruel treatment of animals and workers in Chicago slaughterhouses. The book electrified the nation, led to enactment of the first Pure Food And Drug Act and is generally credited with spawning the U.S. consumer and labor union movements.

Unfortunately, it did little to improve slaughterhouse working conditions and even less to reduce the cruelty of animal slaughter. Subsequent Humane Methods of Slaughter Acts of 1958 and 1978 were never funded or implemented.

For the last 24 years, World Farm Animals Day (wfad.org) has continued in Sinclair's footsteps, exposing the atrocious conditions of animals raised for food in the world's factory farms and slaughterhouses. On Oct. 2 (Gandhi's birthday), I and hundreds of other caring folks in all 50 states and two dozen other countries planned local educational events including information tables, exhibits, leafleting, marches and vigils.

It seems to me that folks who choose to eat animals owe them at least a decent life and truly humane slaughter. They should refuse to patronize a meat industry that cannot meet these minimal standards.

Edward Newland
Eugene

KICK 'EM TO THE CURB

It appears to me that the U.S. military has come more and more to resemble the old French Foreign Legion, an employer of last resort. They've lately changed the recruitment rules to allow some with a criminal past in. Misfit for the society at large, they are shipped abroad, to Afghanistan, Iraq, Uzbekistan, etc., to serve in an army of occupation, for the "nation-building" project of the U.S. empire envisioned by the Bush gang.

The French eventually abandoned their imperial aspirations, as have all others with the sole exception of the U.S. The war on Iraq alone has cost Lane County taxpayers over \$2,000 each, and counting. Those whose domestic dream is a police state (the National Security Society) have sowed the wind. They will reap the hurricane.

While individuals may act heroically in the heat of battle, the presence of the U.S. military increases local resentment and terrorist recruitment. It's a damn shame that they are dragging the rest of us along with them. We need to put a stop to the extreme and irrational foreign policy we've been saddled with for five years. Throw the bums out!

Paul Prensky
Eugene

DEFazio AGAINST THE WAR

The *EW* recently published a letter from an opponent of the Iraq War (Lynn Porter, 9/7) who said she plans to vote for Peter DeFazio's Republican opponent to send a "message" to Mr. DeFazio for voting for funding to support our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan even though he's always opposed the war in Iraq. The only message Ms. Porter will send with that strategy is that she wants to perpetuate the failures in Iraq. Because, unlike Mr. DeFazio, his opponent has been a long time supporter of the war in Iraq and believes President Bush's status quo policy is brilliant.

Besides voting against going to war in Iraq, DeFazio has written to President Bush proposing a withdrawal strategy, voted for a Woolsey amendment directing the president to submit a plan to Congress to withdraw our troops from Iraq, has co-sponsored legislation calling for the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq, has co-sponsored legislation to establish a U.S. policy against permanent U.S. military bases in Iraq and has co-sponsored the Murtha resolution to bring our troops home as soon as possible.

DeFazio has been a vocal critic of the Iraq war since 2002. A vote for his opponent is NOT a vote to end the war in Iraq. It is a vote to PROLONG the war in Iraq (and to go to war with Iran for that matter).

Supporting the troops means more than slapping a ribbon on your car.

Teresa McSween
Eugene

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