

# America First

by Congressman James Traficant



## On Michael New

On January 24, I introduced a resolution condemning the court-martial in Germany of U.S. Army Specialist Michael New, who refused to wear the insignia of the United Nations on his uniform. My resolution, coauthored with Congressman Roscoe Bartlett (Republican-Maryland), calls on President Clinton to vindicate the principle under which Michael New made his refusal, to take action to override Specialist New's conviction, and to restore Specialist New to his position in the Army with honor.

Specialist Michael New is a twice-decorated soldier. He was scheduled to go to Macedonia with his unit as part of a United Nations peacekeeping mission, and he was more than willing to serve there with his unit. Specialist New, however, refused to wear the blue beret and shoulder patch of the United Nations, basing his refusal on the fact that he had enlisted in the Army as a volunteer to protect and serve the *United States*—not the United Nations.

The United Nations Participation Act of 1945 prohibits the use of the U.S. Armed Forces in U.N. deployments unless Congress approves of the participation agreement in advance by appropriate act or joint resolution. The deployment of American troops to Macedonia has never been approved by Congress. Both the Constitution and existing American law prohibit members of the U.S. Armed Forces from receiving badges or insignia from a foreign government, including any international or multinational organization whose members include any unit of a foreign government, without the consent of

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*James Traficant is a United States Congressman (Democrat) from Ohio.*

Congress. The use of U.N. insignia and uniforms by U.S. troops has *never* been approved by Congress. The Army's action in compelling Michael New to wear the U.N. insignia on his uniform was therefore unconstitutional.

What has this country come to when we allow a decorated American soldier to be court-martialed and drummed out of the Army for refusing to wear a foreign uniform? The only people who should be court-martialed are the bureaucrats in the Army who allowed Michael New to be tried and convicted. Michael New is an American hero, and I will continue to do everything I can to reverse his conviction and ensure that no American soldier is ever forced to wear a foreign uniform again.

## Protecting Our Borders

Last year I introduced legislation that would authorize the Pentagon to redeploy American troops stationed in Europe to assist federal law enforcement officials patrolling America's Southern border. Every day dangerous criminals pour into our country through our border with Mexico—unchallenged.

My bill authorizes the Secretary of Defense—at the request of the Attorney General—to transfer up to 10,000 American troops stationed in Europe back to the United States to assist the Border Patrol and the Immigration and Naturalization Service in preventing illegal aliens, drug traffickers, and terrorists from entering our country. The bill would also allow American troops to assist the Customs Service in inspecting cargo, vehicles, and aircraft at points of entry into the United States.

Let's be candid. The Border Patrol has only 3,800 personnel to guard the two longest borders of one of the largest countries of the world. Reports indicate that, at any given time, only 800 patrolmen are available to protect our 2,000 mile border with

Mexico. Congress has failed to provide funding to enlarge the Border Patrol, and until Congress can find the money, this military option is the best short-term way to address this shortage of personnel.

We have hundreds of thousands of troops deployed throughout the world protecting European, Asian, and Latin American nations. If the Pentagon can send hundreds of thousands of American troops to protect our allies, it should be able to spare 10,000 military personnel to protect America.

#### *Foreign Aid*

Last spring the House approved two of my amendments that require recipients of U.S. foreign aid to purchase American-made goods. If we are going to send money overseas, Congress should at least ensure that the aid is used to buy American products.

Specifically, my amendments required recipient countries to use U.S. foreign aid to purchase American-made commodities, services, or defense equipment. The requirement could be waived if, one, the goods purchased are made in the recipient country, or are not available in the United States or a developing country; two, Congress has specifically authorized procurement outside the United States; or, three, the President determines that procurement outside the United States would result in the more efficient use of American foreign aid.

I have also considered another amendment that would cut American foreign aid programs by five percent across the

board—except for antiterrorism aid, disaster assistance, the Peace Corps, and narcotics control. This would result in a savings of \$766 million.

#### *Foreign Lobbying Laws*

Last spring I testified before a House panel on behalf of my proposal to toughen federal registration requirements for foreign lobbyists. The American people have a right to know who is getting paid by foreign interests to influence our government. My bill would close the loopholes that exist in current law and end the secrecy surrounding foreign lobbying.

According to a 1990 General Accounting Office report on the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938 (FARA), of the thousands of known foreign lobbyists in the country, only 775 foreign agents actually registered with the Justice Department. The report detailed a number of other problems associated with FARA. Unfortunately, since the report was released, neither the Justice Department nor Congress has rectified this breach of security.

FARA requires foreign agents to disclose their connections with foreign governments, foreign political parties, and other foreign principals to the Justice Department's Foreign Agents Registration Unit. The term "foreign agent" was originally used to identify foreign principals in America who were spreading foreign propaganda and organizing political activities. As a result, many individuals and law firms *representing* foreign interests are exempt from registration under the act. My bill sub-

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## Afternoon in a Yellow Room

*by Charles Edward Eaton*

Too much of anything requires a mix—  
She knows her skin is white, and chose a yellow room:  
That is she stirred it in, in several shades, with different sticks.

Walls were white with lemon yellow borders,  
Curtains yellow silk, some yellow chairs matted with white straw:  
The painter, here and there, gave subtle orders.

It will not last, of course. Nothing does beneath the sun—  
It will go shabby, bilious, rancid, out of style,  
All of that beauty gone with the dandelion.

All of this she knows, looks in the mirror, predicts her fall:  
The lines, the creases, gray as the fragile puff left on the flower's stem—  
So she must be in love, or not at all, with things ephemeral.

The yellow clothes that lie in hostage to the moths—  
Someone will come someday, a brisk, belated buyer,  
To mock, misunderstand, the faded yellow humps beneath the dust cloths—

Not feeling palpitations, the joyousness of tint and tone,  
The calculations, calibrations, spent on passing things,  
Thinking that eternity is only found in stone.