

## Letters to the Editor

Article published Saturday, December 19, 2009.

### Legislators lack health, war insight

The events of September 11 have scarred us. Those scars remind us where we have been but they need not dictate where we should go. By prodding Mr. Obama to commit 30,000 more troops, the war profiteers have coerced him to repeat his predecessor's mistake in Afghanistan. Senator Russ Feingold summed it best: "an expensive gamble to undertake armed nation-building on behalf of a corrupt government of questionable legitimacy". Actually it involves two governments, conjoined by a Taliban/Al-Qaeda infested lawless border.

The failure to kill or capture Bin Laden at his most vulnerable in the mountainous terrains of Afghanistan in December 2001 has had enduring consequences beyond the fate of one man. Change of focus based on falsified evidence and the hawkish hubris of the Bush-Cheney duo made Bin Laden the most illusive fugitive. In fact, his escape laid the foundation for today's reinvigorated Taliban insurgency.

If Bin Laden was killed or captured, there wasn't a reason to invade Iraq, was there? Looking back at the misery unleashed by a deceptive coalition of the willing, one can only sympathize with the Iraqis, still dying in hundreds.

We have languished in Iraq for almost 7 years spending close to \$1 trillion on an open-ended arbitrary war. Yet, instead of advising otherwise, senator McCain could only offer scathing critique to the President's exit strategy in Afghanistan.

At a time when Great Britain has turned a historic page on its conscience by courageously establishing the Chilcot Iraq Inquiry, the war mongers in Washington have no qualms about squandering additional \$30 billion per year on a foggy and jagged battlefield.

Our lawmakers seem unable to fathom the benefit of spending \$900 billion over 10 years on our broken healthcare system, thus making this convoluted engagement in Afghanistan above the well-being of American citizens.

Welcome to moral lunacy!

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