

myth. Let us recall that we are spending \$30 billion a year, 25 percent of our national budget, 500,000 troops there today, with over 13,000 killed and 90,000 casualties. And this war is just beginning. These are the facts. We look here at home and we see that we do not have enough nursing homes, we do not have enough classrooms and we cannot begin our job-training programs. We have sprawling slums that pockmark every city in the country. The list is endless of things which we have to do here which we cannot do at home partly because we are investing \$30 billion a year in Vietnam. If there is a strategic overriding reason, let us hear it. If the President is willing to come here and make the argument that it is worth holding Vietnam whatever it costs, whether it is \$40 billion, \$50 billion, or \$60 billion, and whatever the troop commitment may be, then let us recognize that fact and justify it on that basis. Certainly the South Vietnamese are not concerned enough to make an equivalent commitment. I happen to think that the justification does not exist. But my mind is open. If that case can be made, then the administration should make it. Certainly let us not continue to proceed on the basis of a faulty rationale when the facts stand out as clear as light that there is just not the wherewithal in South Vietnam and the commitment to this struggle necessary to bring this thing to a conclusion. Let us either reconcile ourselves to being there forever or let us decide that it is time we take a new look at this commitment, and develop a new policy based on reality.

CHARGE THAT AIRLIE FOUNDATION BACKED BY CIA UNFOUNDED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under previous order of the House, the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. LAIRD] is recognized for 20 minutes.

Mr. LAIRD. Mr. Speaker, the charges that appeared in the Washington Evening Star last Thursday and Friday alleging that "Airlie House, the area's most prestigious conference center, is secretly supported by the Pentagon, State Department, and Central Intelligence Agency," are of direct concern to me because I have arranged for and participated in many conferences at Airlie House.

Ever since the charges appeared on Thursday, September 14, many Members of this body have contacted me concerning these allegations.

As chairman of the House Republican conference, I arranged the meeting of 57 freshmen Republican Members, the House leadership, and ranking minority members of the standing committees of the House last January at Airlie House.

I have also arranged and participated in other meetings at Airlie House.

For these reasons, Mr. Speaker, I felt obliged to look into the charges contained in the article which appeared in last Thursday's Star entitled "Airlie House Is Backed by CIA, District of Columbia Lawyer Claims."

After checking into these charges with, among others, the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, Mr. Richard Helms,

I have concluded that they are unfounded and without basis in fact.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, the article in question was the result of a press conference held on Thursday morning by Mr. William Higgs who was described in the article as a "Washington attorney."

The article, by Robert Walters, a Star staffwriter, stated:

Washington attorney William Higgs today charged that Airlie House, the area's most prestigious conference center, is secretly supported by the Pentagon, State Department and Central Intelligence Agency.

The charge was immediately denied by Dr. Murdock Head, founder and director of the Airlie Foundation, and by a government source. Head said that "not a single dollar of support from the CIA or any other similar organization has been offered or accepted by this institution."

Higgs told a press conference that "an elaborate system of electronic bugging" equipment has been installed in Airlie's main conference building and is capable of secretly monitoring the conversations of conference participants.

Mr. Speaker, this serious indictment of the Airlie Foundation, of its director, Dr. Murdock Head, his family, the Airlie Foundation board, the Department of Defense, the State Department, and the CIA, was found to have been made by a 31-year-old white disbarred lawyer from the State of Mississippi. Mr. Higgs is known in the Washington area as an active civil rights militant, espouser of black power, and is an unrelenting critic of the CIA. The files of every newspaper that has access to wire service information should be replete with this man's incredible record.

In the Star article it was suggested that the members of the board of Airlie Foundation who, in their own right, are all highly reputable and outstanding citizens have, because of their past affiliations with Government agencies, served as direct links to the Department of Defense and the intelligence community.

In checking out the allegations contained in this article, I found many false and unverified statements. But more important, the innuendo and general tone of the charges has unquestionably greatly damaged the reputation of this fine institution which has contributed so much to national and international affairs.

Mr. Speaker, the charges of "bugging" and monitoring of conferences are completely false, as was stated by both the Airlie Foundation and the Government agencies who responded to the Star's articles. The accusations of such menacing projects as a radio tower, a clinic for plastic surgery, and specialized electronic equipment, place a pall over the credibility of this institution, its director, its board, and those who have held conferences here. Among the groups who are listed in the Star article as having met there recently are the House Republican leaders, the International Association of Police Chiefs, the State Department, and others. As I indicated, it was at my suggestion that the House Republican leaders met at the Airlie Center and I deeply resent this libelous, false, and unprecedented attack upon the institution and its director, Dr. Murdock Head.

The damage from this kind of irresponsible and unfounded attack is incalculable. The private, scientific, academic, governmental, and business groups who have met or are scheduled to meet at Airlie in an atmosphere of guaranteed privacy may hesitate to do so again.

Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, Dr. Murdock Head's ability to contribute as an objective producer of important public affairs programming through the medical societies of this country is jeopardized along with the reputation of those outstanding scientists, political leaders, and broadcasters who have supported him in this important work.

The inaccuracies of these stories regarding Dr. Head's family and financial status alone could hamper the availability of future funding and financial support for the Airlie Center and its important projects. The CIA and Department of Defense are both much maligned governmental agencies and it is unfortunate that any attack, however skimpy, can find its way into public print.

THE INTERNATIONAL RECTIFIER CORP., AND ITS GIFT TO RIOT-TORN COMMUNITIES

(Mr. CORMAN (at the request of Mr. Jacobs) was granted permission to extend his remarks at this point in the Record and to include extraneous matter.)

Mr. CORMAN. Mr. Speaker, private industry has played a major role in the long history of our country's growth and development. Along with its efforts through the years toward building a greater America, private industry has also accepted responsibility to further the cause of human welfare. A particularly fine example of how one industry accepted this responsibility is an event that occurred in Los Angeles during this summer.

In early August, the Los Angeles-based International Rectifier Corp., through its Rachele Laboratories subsidiary, donated to the American Friends Service Committee 4 million capsules of the antibiotic "Tetrachel"—tetracycline hydrochloride—for use in combating disease and infection in riot-torn communities. International Rectifier's Rachele Laboratories subsidiary is the leading bulk and finished-form manufacturer of generic antibiotics in the United States. Having the welfare of people at heart, and having the foresight to see that antibiotics might be needed in riot-torn communities, this firm took the initiative to make a very generous quantity of this life-giving drug available to areas where riots occurred.

Mr. Eric Lidow, the corporation's executive vice president, in making the presentation of the antibiotics to the American Friends Service Committee, stated that—

The breakdown of basic health standards, with its resultant increase in disease and infection, is one of the most tragic aftermaths of the recent violence plaguing our cities. The continuing need to improve health conditions in poverty areas presents an obligation and a challenge to which we feel we must respond.