

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Will this war in Iraq be worth it financially?

Is the "imminent" war with Iraq worth the cost? Put aside the more important human cost issue for a moment and consider it from a taxpayer's perspective. The Washington Post, The Christian Science Monitor and President Bush's former Chief Economic Advisor Lindsey reported that the war could cost up to \$200 billion of taxpayer money. The National Priorities Project estimates that the war would cost about \$100 billion and the bill to Rhode Island's income taxpayers would be over \$275 million. This doesn't include the cost of maintaining a force in Iraq after a war and the cost of rebuilding the country, estimated to be as much as \$20 billion by the conservative Brookings Institute and possibly \$50 billion according to the National Priorities Project. In addition, the Brookings Institute claims we are already spending about \$2 billion a month in Afghanistan. All of this is to take place during a time of eco-

nomie recession, elevated unemployment levels, and with a \$6.3 trillion dollar federal debt.

National Public Radio recently conducted a poll that concluded that most Americans are unconvinced that war is necessary with Iraq. Yet, President Bush has recently asked for a \$48 billion dollar increase in defense spending, according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. We already spend over \$250 billion a year in "defending" our nations. Should it be called "Imperialism Spending?" This military spending is more than all of the U.N. Security Council member nations combined and ten times that of China's defense budget, according to the International Action Center.

Another cost or hardship every citizen can expect to feel is the rising price of gasoline for our cars or oil for heating our houses, due to the estimated rise in price of oil per barrel from

\$30 to \$50, according to the Christian Science Monitor. That's a two-thirds percent increase in cost for those people that look closely at their fuel bill. Can you afford that?

Imagine if we realized that there is no evidence that proves that Iraq had anything to do with Sept. 11th or has nuclear weapons and, instead, used the money for other more pressing needs. For example, according to the National Priorities Project, the \$100 billion experts predict needed for the war with Iraq could be used to provide health care to all uninsured chil-

dren in the U.S. for five years. This amount is also three times greater than all the money the federal government spends on K-12 education. Imagine what this would do for our nation?

Is this regime changing escapade worth it to you as a taxpayer?

Think about where you would rather spend your hard earned tax dollars. Also, keep in mind that North Korea might need a regime change too in the eyes of our Commander and Chief. Where will these dollars come from?

Ted Mitchell

We want to hear from you

The *Kent County Daily Times* welcomes letters from readers, except those which are libelous or in bad taste. Letters should be no more than two pages typed, DOUBLE SPACED. They must be signed and should include an address and both day and evening telephone numbers. The staff of the *Times* reserves the right to edit letters and limit letters to one a week per author. Writers are encouraged to send their responses to the *Kent County Daily Times*, 1353 Main St., West Warwick, RI 02893 or email them to kceditor@ricentral.com.