

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

SHOULD WE EXCHANGE DEBATE FOR TYRANNY?



By Stephen L. Bakke  April 20, 2014

Here's what provoked me:

A letter writer took umbrage with an editorial which supported the right of the University of Minnesota to invite former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to speak at an event commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act. There had been a group of faculty members which opposed engaging her as a speaker, considering her role in conducting the military actions in Iraq. The writer accused the paper of making "false comparisons" because it asked (appropriately) whether there should also be similar reaction to the Obama Administration for it's use of drones in military attacks, and also the inability to close Guitmo. The letter also questioned why many members of the Bush administration were not in jail for war crime violations stemming from decisions made relative to the Iraq "war." So much for debate and free speech. Well, read on

Here's my response:

Should we exchange debate for tyranny?

On April 17 the paper supported the appearance of Condoleezza Rice at the University of Minnesota. Stephen Monson's April 18 letter "False Comparisons" accuses the paper of promulgating (?) "the mother of all false equivalencies" for suggesting what are fair comparisons between Bush (and Rice) getting militarily involved in Iraq with Obama's use of military attack drones or failing to close Guitmo. Monson questioned why many of the entire Bush administration (including Rice) are not behind bars.



I have noticed that for some pundits, impersonal killing (via drones) is somehow more palatable than very personal traditional methods of warfare. Is there really a big difference?

There isn't room here to go into the facts and circumstances that led our politicians (both parties) to agree to militarily challenge Saddam Hussein. In fact, there was enthusiastic bipartisan Congressional approval! Nor can we decide here on the overall merits of the Iran conflict. **But those, who would encourage the jailhouse as proper punishment for a mistake of fact, interpretation or judgment, are really encouraging a very scary form of TYRANNY! THAT WE CAN DECIDE!**

