

Senator defends Marines' role in Middle East's civil war

U.S. Senator Carl Levin defended U.S. peacekeeping role in Lebanon speech before the Redford Township Chamber of Commerce Monday night after a cease fire was announced in the civil-war-torn country. "I think our role in Lebanon is quite appropriate," he said during the chamber's breakfast meeting. "Our presence in Lebanon, as a pro-western country, is essential to protect our interests in the Persian Gulf. It would not be in our interest to have to take over a large part of Lebanon."

"We can't bring peace in Lebanon, but I think our role there must be of a participant in the multinational peace keeping force. Our role must be to maintain western occupation of critical territory in that region area, while helping to train and supply the Lebanese army."

"THERE CAN be no hope for Lebanon until that happens," said Levin. "The cease fire brings hope, but we can't be too optimistic because of a history of broken cease fires there in the recent past."

Relating to the presence of U.S. Marines in Lebanon is the U.S. War Powers Act, which Levin said will be in the news this week as Congress begins a debate on the issue.

"Basically, this debate represents the inherent conflict between the Congress and the president, involving our democratic system of checks and balances as they pertain to declaration of war," Levin said. "The U.S. Constitution provides that Congress has the authority to declare war. The president is the commander in chief of the nation's military and he believes he doesn't need Congressional approval to send and keep troops in a conflict area," he said. "The Congress is deeply divided on this issue along strict bipartisan lines." The act was approved by Congress



U.S. Sen. Carl Levin

after the Vietnam War, which did not have broad support in this country, Levin said. The intent of the act was to avoid that type of situation in future conflicts which involve the U.S. military, he said.

The act allows the president to deploy military troops to a conflict area without a declaration of war from Congress, but his action must receive Congressional sanction within 60 days of the presidential troop deployment or the troops must be removed.

"THE PRESIDENT would like Congressional approval to maintain our Marines in Lebanon, but he insists he doesn't need that approval," Levin

said. "My concern is that the president seems to support language that would allow Congress only an opinion, but no role in the deployment of troops to conflict areas. I think this controversy will persist until decided by the courts."

Levin referred to himself as a hawk in revealing his distrust of the Soviets. "I do not support unilateral nuclear disarmament and I don't trust the Soviets," said Levin. "Based on that statement, I suppose you could call me a hawk."

"It's hard to define Congress in terms of hawks and doves," he said. "I have been a constructive critic of the president's defense budget. I'm opposed to a 10-percent increase in defense spending, favoring a 3-percent increase that I think would be adequate."

"I've always been opposed to the MX missile system because I think it represents a huge waste of money and a temptation for a Soviet nuclear attack," Levin said. "I believe the MX missile puts the U.S. in jeopardy because it is a land-based system. That puts them in a fixed hole with the cardinal rule of nuclear arms being survivability. The mere fact that the MX is immobile may be a temptation for a Soviet nuclear first strike to take advantage of the MX weakness."

"I would support defense spending to build up our conventional military capabilities in the face of much superior Soviet capabilities in that area," said Levin.

Education studied

Continued from Page 1

study," Schulman said. "It sets a standard that's consistent with what's been going on in this district for the past few years. The board has always reviewed school graduation requirements and emphasized curriculum changes."

Added board member Richard Wallace: "I have a personal view that this (study) is one of the more important issues facing our district."

The board will vote on the issue Tuesday at the central office, 32500 Shawwassee. The meeting starts at 8 p.m.

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