

Chelsea Stands Up Against the War!

1/29/08

(Standup Week 142)

Tuesday, 6pm–7pm

Why are we in Iraq?

Not because of weapons of mass destruction.

Not because Iraq was involved in 9/11.

Not because Iraq was a threat to our national security.

What have we gotten?

US military dead: 3,934 **US military wounded:** 28,938

Iraqi civilians killed: 88,100* **Money spent on war:** \$498 billion

Who are we?

Chelsea Neighbors United to End the War has pledged to “Stand Up” until the war ends and the troops come home safely.

Every Tuesday evening at 6 pm (rain or shine), **Chelsea Neighbors United to End the War** assembles on the northwest corner of 8th Avenue and 24th Street to facilitate “*Chelsea Stands Up Against the War*,” a community protest against the war in Iraq.

We carry banners, signs, and candles as we gather for one hour each week to protest the war in Iraq. We distribute this newsletter, peace buttons, collect signatures on petitions and speak with our neighbors about the need to end war in Iraq. The *Stand Up* make a dramatic statement to passing vehicular traffic on 8th avenue.

Chelsea Neighbors United to End the War is an all-volunteer organization that wants to build the broadest possible neighborhood consensus. With that goal in mind, the organization is open to all and functions by consensus.

Chelsea Neighbors United to End the War is not formally affiliated with any other organization but is willing to work with all groups and individuals who are committed to ending this illegal and immoral war fought by our fellow citizens, paid for with our tax dollars, and prosecuted in our name.

*The recent Johns Hopkins/Lancet report places the figure at 655,000+



Chelsea Neighbors United to End the War

212.726.1385/chelseaneighborsunited@yahoo.com/www.chelseaneighborsunited.org

Guns or butter: choose

By Kate Abell and Bob Martin

Last week’s stock price plunge and the Federal Reserve’s emergency interest rate cut are just the latest signs of the sorry state of the economy. It all reminds me how much the war in Iraq hurts us here at home. Commentator Chalmers Johnson (in an article available at www.portside.org) says the debt crisis is “now the greatest threat to the American republic.”

U.S. defense expenditures in 2008 will be larger than the combined military budget of all other nations. Even without Iraq and Afghanistan, U.S. defense spending has doubled since the mid-1990s. As Johnson said, “Such expenditures are not only morally obscene, they are fiscally unsustainable. Many conservatives believe that we can afford it because we are the richest country on Earth. That statement is no longer true.”

The U.S., of course, has a huge trade deficit and an ever-spiraling national debt. We are now the world’s biggest debtor country. And the debt is largely a factor of our defense expenditures in comparison with the rest of the world.

These huge expenditures (which began well before Iraq) are in accordance with a “superficially plausible ideology” that “treats military output as an ordinary economic product, even though it makes no contribution to either production or consumption.” Johnson explained, as others have before him, that the economic payoff of military spending pales over time with spending with other purposes. One reason we now import literally everything is that instead of modernizing our manufacturing base, the U.S. spent money on the military.

As the old saying goes, you can’t have both guns and butter, and it’s truer now than ever. Our current economic crisis is yet another reason to demand leadership in Washington that refuses to try to police the world.

