

End the Afghan War; Revive Glass-Steagall

Oct. 8—*Rep. Walter Jones (R-N.C.), was interviewed on Oct. 6 by LPAC-TV's Ardena Jones (no relation). Representative Jones is one of the two originals co-sponsors of Rep. Marcy Kaptur's H.R. 1489, for revival of Glass-Steagall.*

Jones is also a co-sponsor, with Rep. Jim McGovern (D-Mass.), of a bipartisan bill to require an exit strategy from Afghanistan.

The video interview can be found at <http://www.larouchepac.com/node/19744>.

LPAC: Good morning. This is Ardena Jones with a special report from Capitol Hill. I'm currently in the company of Rep. Walter Jones of the 3rd Congressional District of North Carolina.

Walter Jones: Ardena, glad to be on your show today.

LPAC: Well, very soon you'll be heading over to a press conference, in which you'll be discussing the prospects of bringing our troops home from Afghanistan. This is also the eve of the 10-year anniversary of our war in Afghanistan. Just say something about what you intend to do.

Jones: Well, Ardena, it's going to be a bipartisan news conference—obviously I'm a Republican, but Jim McGovern, Democrat from Massachusetts, is a good friend of mine. And, over a year ago, we started to push the Congress to bring our troops home from Afghanistan. So, this news conference today is exactly what you said: It's to remind Congress and the American people that, Friday, 10 years ago, we committed our troops to Afghanistan. We are still there; nothing has really changed.

Now, let me rephrase that: Bin Laden is dead now, and al-Qaeda has dispersed all over the country. So the fight now is with the Taliban, who basically are Afghans. And we're not going to change anything. Our kids have done everything; have had victory after victory. We're trying to spend \$10 billion a month to prop up [Afghan] President [Hamid] Karzai, who is a corrupt

leader, and we can't even account for the \$10 billion—it's taxpayers' money—and we can't even audit the books in Afghanistan.

The important thing is, our troops are worn out; they're tired, suicide rates are up, divorces are up. Why can't we wake up as a country, and demand from the Congress and the President, to not wait to 2014 or 2015, to start [pulling] the troops out? Let's bring them home now within the next year.

Afghanistan: No End-Point, No Strategy

LPAC: That's your timetable, for the next year?

Jones: Absolutely, absolutely. I have Camp Lejeune Marine Base in my district, Cherry Point Marine Air Station, and I can honestly tell you, the Marines are tired; they don't know what the end-point is. If you don't know what the end-point is, you have no strategy. It just goes on and on and on. And I hope that people watching this interview with you today, Ardena, will pick up the phone, call their Members of Congress—House and Senate—and the White House, and say "Bring 'em home!" "We're not gonna let you wait until 2015."

LPAC: I have a follow-up question on that. Some retired U.S. military personnel, as well as Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, have called for a regional security conference in the South Asia/Central Asia region—to include the United States, Russia, China, India, Pakistan, and Iran—for the purpose of establishing a security cooperative, a development perspective for Afghanistan, following the withdrawal of U.S. military personnel. What do you think of such an idea?

Jones: I don't think it would work, quite frankly. I have a former Marine general who has been my advisor for 21 months.... For 21 months he's been asking, "Why hasn't America learned history?" No country, no individual has ever changed Afghanistan, and we're not going to. And yet, in this country today, the Congress is debating cutting programs for children and seniors, so we can prop up Karzai....

And I just think the American people, just like the military—we are fed up and tired. Again, I hope that those watching this interview with you will pick up the phone and call Congress and the White House, and say, "Bring 'em home, bring 'em home."

Reinstate Glass-Steagall!

LPAC: You are also the co-sponsor of another very important bill, which was originally introduced by Rep.



Rep. Walter Jones (R-N.C.) interviewed by LPAC-TV's Ardena Jones: Call your Congressmen. Tell them to bring our troops home from Afghanistan! Tell them to pass Glass-Steagall!

Marcy Kaptur [D-Ohio], the [H.R.] 1489 Glass-Steagall bill. The former Prime Minister of France, Michel Rocard, just penned a full-page op-ed calling for the implementation of Glass-Steagall in France, calling on the UN to have a special Security Council meeting, calling for the implementation of Glass-Steagall.

And that sentiment has been echoed across Europe. And Europe is really looking to what is happening here in the United States, and saying that the United States should provide leadership on that, leadership that you've been providing, on a bill that has been growing in support almost by the hour these days.

What do we need to do to get this bill passed?

Jones: Well, Ardena, I have said many times that the two worst votes that I have ever cast as a Member of Congress: first, going into Iraq—the intelligence was manipulated to send us into Iraq, and I should never have voted to give President Bush the authority to send our troops into Iraq. And the second-worst vote I ever made, was the repeal of Glass-Steagall. All that did, was to allow the banks to expand their interest, so to speak. After the Depression in the '30s, they passed the law Glass-Steagall to say to the banks, you will do nothing but banking.

And when we repealed Glass-Steagall, we allowed them to get into real estate, to get into insurance, to create these boutique-type investments, if I can say it that way. And we can see the problems the banks are in today.

I didn't vote for the bailout of the banks; I think the big ones should have failed, but that's history now. The

Congress did bail out the banks. And I think that if we are going to have a strong banking system, we must reinstate Glass-Steagall. And I want to thank my good friend—and she is my good friend—Marcy Kaptur from Ohio, for taking the lead, and I am glad to be one of the Republicans to join Marcy Kaptur.

There again, this is another issue, just like Afghanistan—the people watching this show should pick up the phone and call their Member of Congress, and tell him or her, “you need to get on the bill to reinstate Glass-Steagall.” I think you're right in your introduction—that the interest is growing, because we realize that the banking system needs to be curtailed.

Swaps, derivatives, all these things: I mean, it's not sound banking, that's the problem. We need to go back to sound banking in America.

Impeach Obama?

LPAC: Thank you for your active participation in championing this bill also, that we intend to get passed.

My last question for you is simply that, one of your colleagues recently, Ron Paul [R-Tex.], called for the impeachment of President Obama, for his recent order of the murder of al-Awlaki. Now, a lot of other people say that there are a plethora of other reasons why we could have called for the impeachment of Obama, prior to this. But just on this issue, would you care to comment?

Jones: Well, I will comment on this. Ron Paul is a very dear friend of mine; he's my choice for the President of the United States. But, he and I don't agree on everything. But let me clarify that. Ron is a true Constitutionalist....

I agree with Ron Paul on this: that every American citizen—bad or good!—has a right in the court system.... I have not researched the issue as deeply as he has. But again he believes in the Constitution, and he thinks every American citizen—you can be the worst person in the world, you can be Charles Manson—but you have a right in the court system. And that's Ron's position. And I do support that. American citizens should have [that right].

I don't know about the impeachment on this issue. But I do agree with Ron Paul that every citizen, bad or good, [should] have their day in court.