

Program: Less Oil or More Caskets: The National Security Argument for Moving Away From Oil

Speaker: Greg Ballard, Visiting Fellow, University of Indianapolis, former Indianapolis Mayor

Introduced by: Peggy Sabens with additional remarks by William Dick

Attendance: 141

Guests: Marylin Fahey, Margaret Heckley, Sam Miller, John & Jean Nusbaum, Herb Tesser, Ned Wysong

Scribe: Russell Judd

Editor: Carl Warner

Our talk today was given by Greg Ballard, the former mayor of Indianapolis. The subject of his talk was "Less Oil or More Caskets: The National Security Argument for Moving Away from Oil." Greg was a Lt. Colonel in the Marines and served in the Persian Gulf War. In 1970 he was elected mayor of Indianapolis and served two terms. He is now a visiting fellow at the University of Indianapolis where he has some time to write a few books that he has wanted to do.

While in the military in Iraq, Greg was troubled by the irony of all the efforts that have been spent in the Middle East to protect the oil fields and to keep open the flow of oil. About \$81 billion is spent to protect the oil fields annually. We've sent thousands of military troops there. A number of the military died in those battles. Terrorism sponsored by oil countries continues though. It is ironic that we subsidize the Middle East and yet these countries sponsor and oil funds terrorism around the world. We continue to buy big gas guzzling vehicles. Every president from Nixon to Bush has stressed the need to be independent from foreign oil. The United States has only about 2% of the world's oil reserves. OPEC has around 73% of oil reserves. Something needs to change to keep from relying on the Middle East.

Revenue from oil makes up the majority of the budget of countries in the Middle East. Iran has sponsored terrorism around the world since 1984. Al Qaeda and ISIS depend on money from oil. We could disrupt the transfer of oil from Iran for the purpose of terrorism. That seems sensible.

A solution to dependence on oil from the Middle East is using electric cars. Plug-in or all-electric ones would be good. These cars and batteries are getting better all the time. The "Holy Grail" car will be one that will go 440 miles per charge and then be recharged in 10 minutes.

Many thanks to the Mayor for his presentation.

Greg Ballard

