

other states. So naturally the main-line retail industry support it.

An RPIL subscriber in Alvin, Texas, wrote to the two Texas Senators, Lloyd Bentsen and Phil Gramm to oppose this legislation, and got the usual run-around letters in response, meaning these two will probably vote for the tax increase. But Tom DeLay, his Congressman and my successor, endorsed the bill "out of fairness"! Tom, say it ain't so.

The Military Technology Myth

As a flight surgeon in the Air Force, I remember the promises that air power would win the Vietnam War. Similar predictions were made during Korea, and now I hear the same talk about the Iraq war from the fired Gen. Michael Dugan and other hawks. But now comes a voice of sanity, Col. Harry G. Summers of the Army War College, who warns that we are beset by a myth of military technology, a faith in "magical machines" that will overcome all obstacles.

"But most of our 'wonder weapons,' which work perfectly on paper, have never been tested in battle." Night-vision goggles are supposed to allow us to "own the night." Yet "during one six-week period, five low-flying helicopters on night training missions crashed into Saudi sand dunes, killing all aboard." And 35 Army aviators have died in night helicopter crashes in the states.

On paper, the Army's Apache helicopter gunship is a tank killer. "But it is also a maintenance nightmare," with one study revealing that "it may not be able to operate properly in sustained combat." That would be catastrophic, "for the infantry's handheld Dragon antitank weapon appears to be useless and even the TOW antitank missile may prove ineffective against some Soviet-supplied Iraqi armor."

The burden may fall on the M-1 tank, but in the Gulf it "breaks down during exercises after an average of only 152 miles and experiences some system failure--electronic or mechanical--every 21 minutes."

U.S.-Soviet Perfidy

A Soviet expert tells me that in addition to promising Gorbachev food and other foreign aid for endorsing the Gulf war, Bush also promised to look the other way when the Soviets crush the Baltic states and the other captive nations within the U.S.S.R. And the timetable for the planned massacre is as soon as U.S. troops move against Iraq, and the media's attention is riveted there. The wonders of the New World Order.

Martin Luther King: Socialist

St. Martin was a world-class philanderer who beat up his paramours ("non-violence" didn't apply in all spheres, I guess). He was a flagrant plagiarist with a phony doctorate. He replaced

forced segregation in a few states with forced integration in all states. And he was a dedicated socialist. What a guy. He probably deserves two holidays.

Why, he often asked, "is it that people have to pay water bills in a world that is two-thirds water?" (Forget a PhD. Give this man an IQ test.)

Capitalism, he said, has "left a gulf between superfluous wealth and abject poverty, has created conditions permitting necessities to be taken from the many to give luxuries to the few, and has encouraged smallhearted men to become cold and conscienceless." As compensation, he advocated paying blacks "about fifty billion"--\$250 billion in today's dollars--per year for ten years, although all the wealth in the country "could not adequately compensate its Negroes for his centuries of exploitation and humiliation."

King advocated racial quotas: "If a city has a 30% Negro population," then "Negroes should have at least 30% of the jobs in any particular company, and jobs in all categories."

And David Garrow's Pulitzer Prize-winning biography reports that King "made it clear to close friends" that he considered himself "a Marxist."

Even his ballyhooed "non-violence" was a tactic. He wanted to take power like Castro did, "but a violent revolution on the part of American blacks would find no sympathy and support from the white population." So he adopted non-violence as a "strategy for change, a tactical program."

The official line among some conservatives and libertarians is that the civil rights movement started out well, but went astray after King's death. In fact, it was bad from the beginning, never seeking the mere removal of Jim Crow laws, which would have been legitimate, but forced integration and wealth redistribution.

In 1988 when I ran for president on the Libertarian Party ticket, I was berated for hours by LP members because I had refused to vote, while in Congress, for a Martin Luther King national holiday.

I didn't know then about his plagiarism, but the rest of King's crimes were clear. J. Edgar Hoover once called him "the most dangerous man in America." Who could have known the danger would continue after his death and threaten to strangle our culture?

The Lawyer and the Catfish

What's the difference between a lawyer and a catfish? One is a bottom-scouring, scum-sucking scavenger, and the other is a fish.