

last week, Sheriff Rainey publicly ^{expressed} ~~announced~~ his ^{determination} ~~intention~~ to remove us from the tracks. Speaking ~~me~~ for myself, I would like to respond.

It's true, Things have gone far enough.

For too long, the United States has bullied her neighbors, installing and uninstalling leaders of independent, sovereign nations as if they were wholly-owned subsidiaries. Putting into power and supporting with millions of dollars in overt and covert aid men whose ruthless drive to exterminate opposition (i.e. "communists") is exceeded only by their willingness to sell the remaining citizenry into slavery to American corporate interests. In the last eight years, over seventy thousand in El Salvador and over fifty thousand in Nicaragua, ^{have died, joining} ~~have joined~~ the millions of dead - mostly civilians - from Laos to South Africa to Chile ^{to Poland} who have bled and died at US hands since WWII.

One must ask why.

Last century was the century of the campaign to exterminate the "Red Man" for the control of North America. This century "the Reds" and the prize is the whole world to rule and plunder.

So in violation of treaty obligations, in flagrant disregard of the World Court, against the wishes of our citizens and the indignation of our allies, the United States has committed the crime of genocide, by proxy and by the sword, against the people of the world.

Again, in open and in secret, in violation of treaties, in violation of common sense, against the advice of our finest scientific minds, and at the cost of leaving our own brothers and sisters adrift on the streets, we pursue the nightmare of the nuclear first strike to complete our dominion of the world. But to what profit; a dead world.

I cannot accept these things and therefore I have set my life irrevocably against them.

There is a strange notion that praying, speaking out, writing letters, and voting every two years is the only obligation, indeed the only legal avenue, to oppose the evil of war. It is an assertion that falls lightly on the ears and soothes the troubled mind. But Consider:

Do doctors, in treating a ~~terminally~~^{critically} ill patient, confine their efforts to kind words and buoyantly optimistic pep-talks?

Do firefighters, when battling a blaze threatening to engulf a home, deliver a lecture on the ~~evil~~ danger of smoking in bed and then withdraw?

His service may fool the wise and sophisticated, but even a child knows the folly of empty words. The mind may be dulled but the heart still reacts and the heart is the heart I want to buy.

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And so to every living soul come times when a choice must be made, when a stand must be taken that can no longer be postponed. And such a time is NOW.

It is this thinking that has brought me here and this thinking that keeps me here. And as long as this government, my government, pursues its criminal course, so long will I oppose those crimes.

I will not restrict my efforts. I will use the most powerful and effective forces I know. I will use Love. I will use ~~Nonviolence~~ ^{Nonviolent confrontation.} I will take Direct Action. I will not abandon this vigil.

Rather, after prayerful consideration, I am intensifying my efforts to block munitions, placing my body between these agents of mass murder and their intended victims. And I will do my utmost to entice other hearts to do likewise.

I can no longer allow these wars to ~~continue~~ ^{continue.}

Things have gone far enough.