

September 28, 1992 LB 10

column, those 46,900 children were under the age of five. So that's not the total number of children who have died as a result of that. Senator Schimek, you're correct in something you said earlier about the regular military being cut back. So if there should be a breakout of military action somewhere in the world and they need additional person power, in the same way they reach down into the states to send them to the Gulf War, do you think they would not reach down into the states to send them to Bosnia? When I was driving down here this morning, I heard a statement by General Colin Powell saying that they should go very slow before they talk about committing American troops to the Bosnian situation because too often politicians are willing and ready to endanger the lives of young people to achieve a political objective when that political objective is not even clearly defined. But the political objective in the Gulf War was not clearly defined. We had been told it was to protect American jobs. We had been told it was to keep the price of oil from going too high. Then we were told because Saddam Hussein was producing weapons of mass destruction. Then we were told there was an agreement between Saudi Arabia and this country, this country and Kuwait to protect them from incursions by Saddam Hussein. So it continued to shift the reasons for that. Senator Schimek, the reason some of the military people have said they don't want to go into Bosnia right now is because the Bosnians can fight. They can fight and they will kill Americans. Americans won't get a free pass as they did in Iraq, as they did in Panama, as they did in Grenada, as they have done in all these little countries where they want to flex the muscles of the strongest military power on the face of the earth. But if the political situation becomes strong enough and American's overseas allies, especially John Major in England, because America seems to lick the boots of the English; Margaret Thatcher was better at running America into Desert Storm than Major has been in running America into Bosnia, but they're trying to get America into that situation and these young people that you all want to entice into the National Guard may wind up going and at that point people will begin to say, it's not right, it's not fair, they were not trained to do this. When they joined the National Guard they thought they were going to get an education, not go over there and fight these people whom even the Nazis could not subjugate. The Nazis could not whip them and that's why they don't want military action even though the Bosnians are engaging in ethnic cleansing. After the Second World War everybody said about that kind of thing, never again, the civilized west will never allow such a thing to happen again