

The Passy Press®

Letter to the Editor

From: Peter Moore <peter.moore@undisclosed.com>
Subject: Re: From Nick in Paris
Date: October 15, 2013 5:10:29 PM GMT+02:00
To: Nicolas Gardiner "enpg@thepassypress.com"

Dear Sir,

I did read the essay by Jim Webb that you sent me. Over the last several decades presidents have indeed increasingly abused the provisions of the constitution that have to do with the making of war. The Libya example Webb discusses is only the most recent and extreme case in point. The Bay of Tonkin resolution... is the first one that sticks in my memory. In that case LBJ got Congress to authorize him to make war all right, but he did it using fraudulent evidence. I am not sure that going to war without Congressional approval is worse than going to war with approval that is based on fraud. You pays your money, you takes your choice. However that may be, Webb is right. We have a Big Problem. We are in the midst of a governance crisis that is every bit as serious as the one that led to the adoption of the constitution over 200 years ago. Our system functions effectively only if both the President and the Congress work together - as though they were adults - to solve the Nation's problems. This absolutely requires that all parties be prepared to compromise their so-called principles from time to time.

In recent years, all too many members of Congress have been putting their devotion to their own reelection prospects ahead of their duty to serve the Nation. A lot of them will not compromise on anything, and really do not care at all what the consequences of their intransigence may be for the Nation as a whole. Nor are they particularly concerned about the correspondence between their principles and what some of us like to call "the real world", which makes them impervious to rational argument. The paralysis that characterizes Congress today invites Presidents to engage in over-reach in all directions.

Peter

Dr. Peter B. Moore, Sterling Professor Emeritus of Chemistry, Dept. of Chemistry-Yale University