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Ron Kind Plays Politics With War

3rd District GOP Leaders Wonder If Kind Flip-Flop On War On Terror Is Result Of Poll Watching

U.S. Rep. Ron Kind (D-La Crosse) held a press conference last week Friday to announce that he joined 120 fellow Democrats in signing a letter, which was critical of President Bush and urged him to go slow with Iraq. Since that time, the Republican Leadership in his Third Congressional District expressed their own criticism of Kind for playing politics with war.

"Does this guy ever take a firm stand on any issue?," asked Dennis Shaw, Chairman of the 3rd District GOP. "Once again he is trying to play hero to both sides of an issue. One time he is for free-trade and, after taking some heat from the unions, the next time he is against it. One year he votes for a ban on partial-birth abortion and the next session he votes against it. Last session he says he is in favor of elimination of the unfair marriage penalty, but still votes against the bill. Now, Kind eagerly joins a blatantly partisan and coordinated Democrat letter writing campaign, when just months earlier he was holding public input sessions all around the district and getting tons of input which led him to support the U.S. House Iraq resolution."

Kind, in his press conference said, "I believe that any democracy should be loathe to go to war, and that a decision to go to war should not be a close call." This current view on war is a stunning contrast to his 1999 views, when there was a Democrat President who went to war in Kosovo -- after no U.S. civilians were killed or even threatened. At that time Kind was quoted as saying at a town hall meeting at UW River Falls: "We need to win this thing, and we need to stop the killing."

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"Once again Kind says pretty words that contradict his previous words," said Third District Republican Party Vice Chairman Gary Arneson. "After 3,000 plus Americans were killed in the World Trade Center, and millions of Americans are threatened with nuclear and chemical attacks, we don't need to stop the killing? What about Americans? And don't the Iraqi people need to liberated from Saddam Hussein just as the people in Kosovo needed liberation from Milosevic? Other than having a Republican in the White House, what has changed for you since 1999?"

"We all know that Ron Kind lets the polls and special interest group pressure determine his stand an issues, but he should stop playing 'politics' when it comes to decisions on war," Shaw said. "I would hope that he would stop letting others determine what he thinks about this one important issue and decide for himself what he believes."

"I hope that he listened, honestly listened with an open heart, to the case presented by President Bush in his State of the Nation Address," concluded Shaw. "This situation is really not 'a close call.' The President clearly explained why Hussein is a threat to the United States as well as to the region. I trust that he will listen to Democrat Presidential hopeful Sen. John Kerry who recently said he did not feel the U.S. needs go back to the U.N. Security Council. I encourage him to read carefully the article by Dr. Condoleeza Rice titled 'Why We Know Iraq is Lying' which appeared in the New York Times on January 23, 2003. I hope he will listen intently when Secretary Powell presents our case to the U.N. next month. And in the end, I pray the he does the right thing for the people of the U.S. and of his district."

The text of President Bush's speech and the Dr. Rice article will be linked from the Third District Republican Party website at www.3rdGOP.org

-30-