

**UNPUBLISHED:**

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(Emailed to Dennis Dugan, columnist for NewsDay.com)

January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2003

Mr. Duggan,

I just finished reading your article "Draft Makes War Personal" on Newsday.com. In regards to your paragraph below I have a few comments.

*"It was Nixon, however, who abolished the draft in 1973. He was advised by economist Milton Friedman that such a move would quiet the vocal opposition to the war in Vietnam. I tried without luck to find the 90-year-old Friedman at the Hoover Institute."*

As you might know, Dr. Friedman has accomplished quite a bit during the 90 years of his life. He was an adviser to two Presidents, his research was the first to explain the Great Depression in terms of monetary policy, he championed vouchers enabling poor children to escape failing public schools, he was a Professor of Economics at the prestigious University of Chicago, a Senior Research Fellow at the Hoover Institute and the list goes on. In addition, his books and articles have inspired and influenced millions around the world. Along the way he even picked up a Nobel Prize in Economics in 1976.

But when asked what accomplishment he takes the most pride in his answer is helping to end military conscription in the United States.

Why does he take so much pride in quieting "vocal opposition to the war in Vietnam?" Clearly his concerns lay not solely in calming civil unrest. Milton Friedman opposed the draft because it is slavery, and ultimately, immoral.

At the age of 26 I find it hard to believe that politicians could ask young men my age to leave their loved ones, abandon their careers or studies, and put their goals, dreams and lives on hold for 2-4 years. More depressing is the fact that I could be sent to kill (or be killed by) other young men also forced into military service. The main difference between us would only be that we were born on opposite sides of an invisible line called a border.

I'm convinced that "middle-class America" can be convinced, through discourse, that war with Iraq should be avoided. (A good place to start might be making the analogy that if there is a murderer in an apartment complex, you don't drop a bomb on it to bring him to justice). But to convince them by forcefully taking their children out of their homes and sending them to their deaths makes me wonder who the real dictator is...

Something I took from Friedman's writings was that two wrongs don't make a right. May I suggest you pick up one or two of his books and give them a quick read.

Best regards,

Peter Mork

<http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/search-handle-url/index=books&field-author=Friedman%2C%20Milton/102-7939314-9442564>