

Feckless and Unashamed

By Dr. Chris Jones

There's a word we don't hear often enough in politics, but it fits this moment perfectly: **feckless**.

To be *feckless* is to be irresponsible, cowardly, and lacking the courage to act when it matters most. It's not just about being ineffective: it's about being willfully disengaged from the very duties you were elected to perform.

Right now, that word defines the Republican-led U.S. House of Representatives.

The Constitution is Clear

As a nuclear engineer and policy expert, I've studied nuclear war, not just the science behind it, but the law that is supposed to govern it. The U.S. Constitution gives Congress, and only Congress, the power to declare war. It was designed that way on purpose. The Founders didn't want a king who could send young people to die on a whim. They wanted debate, deliberation, and accountability. That duty isn't ceremonial. It's essential.

But today's Congress has completely abdicated that responsibility.

Abdicating Responsibility, Risking Lives

When the administration unilaterally bombed Iranian nuclear sites, without a vote, without a debate, and without the backing of Congress, the response from the House of Representatives was grossly insufficient. They were feckless—and unashamed.

I would think that they'd want to ask questions like:

- Was this decision based on verifiable intelligence?
- What is the nuclear fallout from bombing a site with nuclear materials?
- How far will that nuclear fallout spread?
- What does this strike mean for the international legal framework that prohibits military action against nuclear facilities?
- Would this strike pull the U.S. into a war in the Middle East? And does that matter?
- When Iran retaliates directly against the U.S., it will be considered a terrorist attack?
- If this does increase the chance of the U.S. entering in a prolonged military engagement, how will this be funded?

These are just a few of the many questions that should have been and should be answered.

The Weight of the Moment

This moment demands seriousness. It demands sobriety. And above all, it demands courage: the courage to *disagree*, to deliberate, and to do so in full view of the American people. That's what Congress is supposed to be for. War should be debated—vigorously and transparently—because lives are at stake. Not just our military soldiers, but every American citizen

This about the very foundation of our democracy. And right now, the GOP-led House is showing the country who they really are. Not stewards of the Constitution. Not defenders of the people. But feckless—and unashamed.

Share your thoughts and comments at chrisjoneslistens@gmail.com.