

7/8/09

LETTERS

To the Editor

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such moments. Perhaps they would ridicule them as irrelevant. Would they sacrifice their own place of respite and renewal on the altar of civic progress?

All those living in the Buckeystown/Adamstown/Urbana area should reflect upon what they are being asked to sacrifice, and at what cost. And anyone who believes that this facility is the answer should ask themselves if they would move their family within a five-mile radius of it.

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MARK LYSHER
Buckeystown

Deranged Ponzi scheme

Yes, it's true. Despite the present economic meltdown, the U.S. Congress had just quietly anted up, without a peep, \$738 million as a down payment for an embassy complex to be built in Islamabad, Pakistan. The estimated final cost comes to a staggering \$2 billion-plus price tag! This according to a story in the *Christian Science Monitor*.

The U.S. empire of military bases, currently estimated at almost 800 around the globe (38 on Okinawa alone!), costs out at each year's end at about \$102 billion, the world's most costly military enterprise. This new structure will be on the same scale as the current U.S. Embassy in Baghdad,

an imperial monstrosity occupying almost as much real estate as Vatican City.

With the national economy almost mimicking the worst days of the Great Depression — 45 states whose budgets are bleeding red, California reduced to handing out "IOUs," and almost one-half million jobs lost this past June, one would expect some effort in Congress to block passage of the money. Even while Obama and Congress argue over health care, energy policy and pollution control, no one rises up to suggest we close down some of the imperial real estate and save some money.

This proliferation of military bases overseas is like some deranged Ponzi scheme that can only end badly for this nation.

JERRY McKNIGHT
Frederick