

Of course, the other guy is always wrong, whether he is the driver of the struck car, the President, a Republican, a Democrat or, especially, a Russian. Russians are, in the United States, more wrong than the wrongest, even if you are Senator Everett McKinley Dirksen, ~~the~~ talking about the President.

During the minor crisis following the re-escalation of the Vietnam War with the resumption of U.S. air attacks on the North, which, without accident, coincided with the long-~~was~~ avoided American appeal to the Security Council, both of which just happened to coincide with the holding of important hearings on military appropriations for Vietnam and a Foreign Relations questioning of the aptly-named Secretary of State Rusk, /Senator Dirksen objected to Senate Committees holding hearings during sessions of the Senate. His reason? As he explained it on TV February 2, 1966, it was "for the boys in Vietnam". There is nothing, it seems, Senator Dirksen would not do for the boys in Vietnam, including delaying the hearings required before additional funds could be appropriated for their equippage.

Senator Dirksen was well within his legal rights in making his parliamentary objection. He didn't invent it. It is older than even his own private hoarier

mid-nineteenth century world, a truly ancient maneuver used to delay or pressure. As Senator Dirksen explained it - and an explanation from Senator Dirksen is no simple matter but a complete theatrical performance with built-in tube accompaniment - it was not he who was interfering with the flow of arms to the boys in Vietnam, it was the administration. All the administration had to do to end this tragic and hazardous interference with the legislative process as it related to this, the boys was yield to his blackmail. It was that simple. Their failure to do it, clearly, as Senator Dirksen intoned it, made this the administrations unshared fault. Of course, it also made no difference that what Senator Dirksen sought to accomplish was <sup>not</sup> desired by a majority of the Senators ( but less than the two-thirds required to break a filibuster). It was desired by an expensive public-relations outfit and a minority, the political right - and by Senator Dirksen and those who ~~firmly~~ for so these many years have supported his political campaigns ( from the time he quit the Chatsqua ).

Nor does Senator Dirksen enjoy either a patent or any other kind of a monopoly on this type of thinking. It permeates our national life and has been raised to the very highest pinnacle of probity and acceptability by the literati and other intellectuals brought into the government by President Kennedy. It is the basis of their proof the Russians were undeviatingly wrong: they, heathen

infiltrators, insurrectionists or whatever unpleasant designation at any particular moment seem most slanderous and therefore most appropriate, didn't agree with Kennedy or, as they more modestly put it, the "free world". That made them wrong. Senator Dirksen, President Kennedy and his advisors and almost anybody else agreed on this, if on almost nothing else.