

Pipes not fit

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Letters to the Editor

Your editorial criticizes my opposition to the Bush administration's appointment of Dr. Daniel Pipes to the U.S. Institute of Peace ("Kennedy vendetta's price," Aug. 27). But a review of his record clearly shows that he's the wrong person for the job.

The Institute of Peace was founded in order to find ways to bridge differences between nations, cultures and religions to prevent armed conflicts. Its mission is more important today than ever, and we should appoint to it only the best that America has to offer.

Pipes is a serious scholar, and I would support him for another post. However, as recently as last year he disparaged peaceful efforts by governments to end brutal conflicts. Regarding the Middle East conflict, he wrote, "The idea that a 'peace process' can take the place of the dirty work of war is a conceit." The view that armed conflict is inevitable may be debated in academic circles, but it has no place at the Institute of Peace.

Pipes also has made various offensive remarks over the years, and has called for racial and religious profiling in law enforcement. He believes that mosques should be targets of police surveillance. These controversial stands make him unsuited for a position that's about bringing people together.

Your editorial wrongly suggests that I blocked Dr. Pipes' nomination. I'm willing to put his nomination to a vote in the Senate if the White House and the Republican leadership so decide. But surely, we can find someone better to serve at our Institute of Peace.

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy

The writer is the senior senator from Massachusetts.