

on a Wanted poster only after becoming a Member of Congress. And the individuals who put me there are my own colleagues.

I and the American people have seen these Republican scare and divide tactics before. I well remember the days of Watergate and Richard Nixon's enemies list. Now it looks like NEWT GINGRICH and the Republican Party has their own hit list too.

Those of us who are targets of this cheap shot are ready to fight back.

But, ours will be a fair fight.

One that is based on the issues that the American citizens who sent us here care about.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD an editorial from the Buffalo News, as follows:

[From the Buffalo News, July 16, 1995]

NASTY POLITICS FROM PAXON—POSTER TARGETS MINORITIES BUT DEMEANS GOP

The National Republican campaign machine, with a crude "wanted" poster, has identified itself with racial politics again. This time it's a Western New Yorker, Rep. Bill Paxon, coming up with a gimmick that puts an ethnic face on ideas that should be debated on their own merits.

The disproportionate loading of the now-infamous poster with the faces of African-American, Jewish and female members of Congress is hard to read as inadvertent.

The poster says "liberal Democrats" who voted against at least seven out of 10 provisions of the Contract With America are its target. But the pictures below show a group that others might have chosen as demonstrating a positive picture of the diversity of this country—a diversity that is still all too poorly represented in the ranks of Congress.

By Paxon's own statement, more than 170 Democrats "failed the Contract With America test." Yet, of the 28 members pictured, 10 are black and eight are Jewish. Nine also are female.

Those numbers in no way reflect the makeup of the Democratic caucus or Democratic opposition to the contract's regressive, counterproductive provisions.

The poster was released as part of a fund-raising letter by the National Republican Congressional Committee. As head of the committee, Paxon must take full responsibility for its divisive tenor. The Republicans should have learned their lesson after the infamous Willie Horton campaign in 1988 linked the Democratic Party to minorities in a way calculated to frighten white voters. But here, the pattern seems to be repeated.

Paxon, who represents a carefully gerrymandered safe Republican district stretching from Amherst east to Auburn, has little to lose personally no matter what campaign tactics he becomes identified with. But the nation loses when politics sinks to a level that panders to ethnic fears.

The selection of pictures says to the white male voters who increasingly make up the Republican base that the GOP's enemies are the people who don't look like them.

That, in turn, is likely to appeal to the anger many on the economic margin already feel over declining economic opportunities that Republicans want to blame on blacks and women trying to penetrate the job markets.

The incident doesn't say much for Paxon's confidence in the Republican platform or the party's ideology. The Republicans should learn to rely on the power of their ideas to win voters' support.

Paxon and the other party honchos are defending their poster. Instead, they should be acknowledging it as a mistake and backing away from what it implies as fast as they can move.

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak out on something which never should have seen the light of day in our political process—a new low in tactics to raise money to win elections.

As part of a recent fund raising drive, the National Republican Congressional Committee has issued a special "wanted" poster. This poster features pictures of 28 Democrats who it claims to be targeting for defeat because they voted against the Contract With America 70 percent of the time.

Ninety Democrats have similar voting records, yet the Republican wanted poster consists almost entirely of people who are seldom associated with Republican fund raising lists—African-Americans, women, Jewish-Americans, and Hispanics. In fact, only 6 of the 28 targeted Democrats are white men who are not Jewish.

Despite Republican protests to the contrary, this wanted poster is less about raising money than it is about raising the ugly specter of racism, sexism, and antisemitism.

It's all about appealing to the most base elements of human nature. It's all about degrading the opposition with thinly veiled personal attacks. It's all about manipulating the political forces of division and hate.

This wanted poster illustrates how far the party of Lincoln has fallen.

Today's Republican Party has been captured by the forces of extremism and intolerance. Moderate Republican voices are being drowned out by a chorus of right-wing ideologues who are far outside the mainstream of American thinking.

This wanted poster sends several messages.

It says that while Pat Buchanan and David Duke may have failed in their efforts to win national public office, they have won the hearts and minds of the national Republican Party.

It says that Republicans would rather run with Willie Horton than run on the issues.

It says that Republicans are less concerned about controlling illegal immigration than they are about whipping up fear over Hispanics increasing their presence in our communities.

It says that women who stand up for the right to choose should sit down and be silent.

It says that the gay-baiting and bashing openly practiced by Republican leaders in the House and Senate is a deliberate policy, not a slip of the tongue.

Finally, it says that Republicans are willing to inflame the anti-Government sentiment which contributed to the Oklahoma City tragedy instead of reminding people that public service is a noble calling.

The Republican wanted poster demonstrates a dark side of the majority party and their politics. These below-the-belt tactics have no place in this Nation and its body politic.

I think the Republican Party needs a new wanted poster, and here's what it should say: "Wanted—Tolerance. Civility. Moderation. Inclusion. If found, please apply to the Republican National Congressional Committee for reward."

Mr. Speaker, bigotry belongs in the trash bin of American history, not in the envelopes of Republican fund raising letters.

It's time for those who instigated this effort to recognize their mistake and apologize to the people who they attacked and withdraw this shameful effort.

It's time for them to pledge to the American people that it will never happen again.

And it's time for them to heed the words of President George Washington who wrote that our Government should be one which " * * * gives bigotry no sanction; to persecution no assistance."

AUDIT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas [Mr. BROWNBACK] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. Speaker, on the opening day of this Congress, January 4, there were a number of needed reforms that were passed in this institution. One was an audit of the House of Representatives. In looking back on that period of time, we were talking then about, well, when was the last time that the institution of the House of Representatives, the People's House, had been audited?

We looked back and we looked back and we looked back and found out it had never been audited before ever in the history of the institution. It is about time, and that audit was released today. A number of us as freshmen Members coming into this body had asked for and pushed for reforms of Congress, that the Congress itself had grown imperial and aloof.

One of those things that it had failed to have done was audit itself. It asked for that of all sorts of other institutions, both public and private, but not of itself.

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Mr. Speaker, the closet doors were thrown open today with the audit coming forth, and it revealed many problems of the House of Representatives and skeletons in the closet, such as the recordkeeping was so shoddy and haphazard that our auditor would not suggest any definite conclusion on the reliability of the financial statements. Oversight was so flexible as to be nonexistent. It was anything goes for some Members in the past.

Mr. Speaker, computing services in the House were woefully inadequate for modern security needs, and accounting practices were, in effect, run on an inappropriate cash basis instead of an accrual accounting basis to account for debts and earnings.

Congress must not operate in the dark. A regular, independent audit coupled with the other reforms of the institution will keep this place honest, and we will begin to rebuild the people's faith in this body.

As much as I am disgusted by the results of the audit, I am proud to have carried the bill authorizing the audit to this floor in January. It was a good way to begin the year. The House audit is the first and only comprehensive and

independent audit of House operations, something inconceivable in the recent past.

We are committed to regular audits in the future, just like any other institution. It is embarrassing to realize that the executive branch instituted regular audits the year I was born.

Congress in the past has betrayed the public trust. Now we have to ask, and we must ask, to get that public trust back and to earn it back. An audit is one way of doing that. We must push reforms to the next level. We have already instituted a number of the recommendations made by the Price Waterhouse firm that did the auditing. We need to evaluate the remainder of those.

This audit is one of the best indications of real change in the Congress. People sent us here to change government, and we are doing it.

With this audit, Congress has taken steps toward credibility with the American people. Congress must operate in the open. As we legislate openness and accountability for private companies and public institutions, we have to obey these principles ourselves. The old Congress didn't obey these rules.

The auditors found in the last Congress a shocking disregard for financial control, for institutional management, and just pure common sense.

For example, the audit showed that some of the Members overspent their allowances for staff salaries, office expenses, and official mail. It showed Members being paid twice for their travel expenses. If Congress were a business, an auto repair shop, a farm, a bank, well, by the auditors' own statements, they would not be able to get a loan and they would be bankrupt. If it was a public institution, it would have been violating laws since 1990.

It is time that these practices end, and today we finally had the audit that came forward with the information to open the closet doors. This is only a start. We have to continue these reforms. We have to continue to open this body up to the people so that they can look and see and hear and learn what all is taking place.

This is taxpayer dollars, and this is how the people's decisions are being made. We need to continue to open that up. I am very proud that this first big step was taken today, to open up, and now we have to continue to push this forward. We have to aggressively pursue those things that are put forward in this audit to be able to clean up the People's House.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to hear of this audit coming forward, and I think the American people will be most interested in its findings.

ADMINISTRATION ATTEMPTS TO DESTROY TOBACCO INDUSTRY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. JONES] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, it is clear that Bill Clinton and Dr. Kessler at the FDA did not get the message of the November 8th elections.

The American people do not want more regulations and more government in their lives. They want far less intrusion and far less regulation.

This latest attempt by the administration to destroy the tobacco industry, through a regulatory power grab, is unprecedented and unwarranted.

It is ironic to me, that the Clinton administration wants to classify nicotine as a drug. I think the administration should spend their time and money fighting the illegal drug trade, that is destroying this country instead of being so concerned about a legal product which has been used since the founding of this country.

The Federal Government has consistently used tobacco as their whipping boy, first trying to finance their big government health care plan on the backs of tobacco and now by trying to regulate them to death.

Let me make it clear, no tobacco farmer or tobacco company is encouraging young people to smoke. As a matter of fact the tobacco industry has established programs to encourage young people not to smoke. In many States, it is illegal to sell cigarettes to minors.

The Clinton administration view is that they know what is best for the American people. They believe that Government has an obligation to be our big brother.

This is big brother at its worst. What next, prohibition of alcohol, caffeine, chocolate?

Ladies and gentlemen, adults over 18 make responsible decisions on caffeine, tobacco, and alcohol every day.

The Government has no business in those decisions and the FDA and Commissioner have no authority to classify nicotine as a drug.

The courts have consistently stated that the FDA has no authority to regulate cigarettes and it is time that Kessler end this witch hunt on the tobacco industry and the tobacco farmer.

If Bill Clinton and Dr. Kessler had ever held a real job, they would understand the struggle that family farmers face.

They would understand that the tobacco farmer has to fight the elements and that most farmers work within a small financial margin.

Congress has already levied numerous taxes on tobacco making the farmers' life even more difficult and his ability to make a profit even slimmer.

Again, I call on the administration to stop the witch hunt of the tobacco industry and tobacco farmers and get on with the business of downsizing Government, reducing the debt, and implementing the mandate of the November 8th elections.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Ms. BROWN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Ms. BROWN of Florida addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York [Mr. FORBES] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. FORBES addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

FIRST AUDIT EVER OF THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCINNIS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arizona [Mr. HAYWORTH] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, when I return home to the Sixth District of Arizona and visit with my constituents and talk to them about various issues confronting this body and this Nation, the question always arises: What are you in the Congress doing to take the lead? What differences have you made by example?

Today in this Congress, we reaffirm one of those examples with the announcement of the privately conducted audit of this institution, the first ever, the first in its history finally being completed.

Unfortunately, some of the worst fears of the American people have been confirmed with this report. Because you see, Price Waterhouse, the independent accounting firm with whom we contracted to do the audit, said that the records were so poorly kept that they could not even make an accurate assessment of the problem. What a terrible indictment of the old order, that this, the people's House, had fallen into such disrepair in terms of balancing the ledger books, in terms of keeping track of your money, that the independent accounting firm could not even issue any type of evaluation or accurate opinion. In accounting parlance the worst possible evaluation.

The audit is rife with examples. The House Finance Office, an office which processes \$700 million a year in salary and expense checks using handwritten ledgers to keep records. Here in the information age, as we brought the House of Representatives on line and on the Internet through Thomas, as we look to the technological advancements in the computer age, and still in this institution handwritten records. The opportunities for abuse were plentiful. The audit notes bills were paid late, appropriations limits ignored. Little accounting for the property and equipment belonging to this, the people's House, and with the computer program and the computer system that does exist, significant security problems.

Now, be forewarned: It is almost impossible in the course of 6 or 7 months to take this institution and automatically put it on the right track. Certainly more remains to be done, and