

The assault on mutual respect has pervaded Congress. Republicans, desperate after 40 years in the minority, are turning ever more negative. Some nervous Democrats follow suit. Not only do dissident members attack the personal integrity of our president, but they seem out to weaken and destroy Congress itself. Absurdly, they think this is what the public wants.

Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole and House Whip Newt Gingrich recently pledged support on the Capitol steps for a constitutional amendment to limit congressional terms. House members should not be trusted, the argument goes, to serve faithfully for more than six years, nor senators for more than 12.

But at the heart of this gimmicky assault on the Constitution lies an unspoken assumption that the public cannot be trusted to choose wisely. The hypocrisy of the position that these two publicly profess is transparent in the fact that Dole has been in Congress continuously since 1960, and Gingrich, who would limit future colleagues to no more than three terms, is seeking his ninth.

If their logic should ever prevail, the legislative branch will be vastly weakened, bereft of strong and experienced leaders, much more at the mercy of an authoritative executive branch. There will be no Sam Rayburns, no Robert A. Tafts, no Arthur Vandenberg or Barry Goldwaters to curb the presidential appetite for power or to soften its occasional rashness with their wisdom. And civility.●

NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION ACT

● Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I rise today to draw to the attention of the Senate my concern about declines in recent decades in voter participation in local and national elections. In the 1988 election, only about half of those citizens eligible to vote went to the polls. While turnout improved during the last Presidential election, voter participation remains low in this country compared to other advanced democratic countries. According to the Congressional Research Service, only 61 percent of U.S. citizens eligible to vote are registered. While there are many reasons why people do not vote, studies indicate that the major reason is that they are not registered. In fact, the Bureau of Census reports that voter turnout of registered voters in Presidential elections typically exceeds 85 percent.

Recognizing the need to establish uniform national voter registration procedures to allow greater opportunities for all eligible citizens to participate in the electoral process, the U.S. Congress adopted the National Voter Registration Act early in the 103d Congress, legislation I was proud to support. The National Voter Registration Act, also known as the motor-voter bill, provides greater opportunities for all eligible citizens to participate in the electoral process.

The methods for voter registration established by the legislation—by mail, as part of drivers license renewal, and when visiting Government agencies—are well tested and successful methods for registering voters. And, in fact, States which have implemented the motor-voter provisions have experienced significant increases in voter

registration. About 3,700 voters were registered in Washington State within the first 7 days of motor-voter operation. Florida has been averaging more than 3,000 new voter registrations per day from people obtaining drivers licenses. The successes continue to be documented in other States such as Georgia, where more than 18,000 people have been registered under the new procedures since January 1, 1995, and in Kentucky where 10,000 new voters were registered in the first 10 days of implementation. In my own State of Maryland, approximately 90,000 people have been registered through the Motor Vehicle Administration in 1995 alone, and Maryland election officials expect an additional 900,000 citizens to register under the new system.

While some critics of this legislation have charged that by making voter registration easier, there may be increased opportunities for fraud, the bill includes important safeguards to prevent such fraud. The mail registration form requires a statement of eligibility to vote, an attestation that the applicant meets each requirement of eligibility to vote, and the signature of the applicant under penalty of perjury.

Mr. President, there are further misconceptions surrounding this bill that should be clarified. First, though agencies are required to provide registrants with assistance when requested, the National Voter Registration Act does not require agency personnel to fill out registration forms—it is the applicant who fills out the form. Second, the legislation requires that an applicant be informed that the quality and quantity of Government assistance they receive will not be effected by their willingness or refusal to register. Third, the legislation protects the privacy of the applicant by restricting the use of voter registration information. An applicant has the option of completing the form at home and returning it by mail, and agency employees may not force an individual to register or attempt to persuade an applicant to join a particular political party.

I understand that concerns have also been raised about potential additional costs for State and local governments to implement this legislation. I would simply note that any increased costs for a State to comply with the uniform voter registration standards provided by this legislation would be relatively small, particularly in those States, such as Maryland, that have already taken steps to increase the opportunity for citizens to register to vote. In addition, the legislation provides relief to all States in the form of a postal rate reduction for State and local election officials which will save State and local governments more than \$4 million per year. There are also expected to be savings through the use of uniform registration forms in those States that have not yet adopted uniformity between jurisdictions and because voter registration is now likely to be spread out over the year as people

renew drivers licenses. Consequently, there will be less need to hire additional registrars to handle the higher volume of registration that typically occurs in some States before registration deadlines.

Mr. President, it is my strongly held view that we must be careful about attaching price tags to civil rights. Imagine if we had decided not to extend the right to vote to 18-year-olds, women, or other minorities because it would place a burden on the States due to an increased workload or the purchasing of new voting machines. The National Voter Registration Act is already making it easier for citizens to exercise one of the most fundamental rights of a democracy—the right to vote. A healthy democracy thrives on the active participation of the governed.

This important new law is clearly working and should not be repealed nor should its implementation be delayed as some have proposed.●

CUBAN LIBERTY AND DEMOCRATIC SOLIDARITY ACT—S. 381

● Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I am pleased to join several of my colleagues as a cosponsor of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act, although I have reservations concerning the trade sanctions included in the legislation. Fidel Castro's 36-year dictatorship has been catastrophic for Cuba's society and economy. Agricultural and industrial production have been stymied by authoritarian state control. Many of Cuba's most skilled and talented citizens have chosen to risk their lives to achieve freedom elsewhere, including the United States. Meanwhile, living standards for those who remained have fallen steadily. The backward direction of Cuba's development stands in sharp contrast to other states in Central and South America, who have flourished under policies of market and democratic liberalization. Castro is among the last adherents to the bankrupt philosophy of Communist authoritarianism. The Cuban people cannot move forward to the prosperity which their human and natural resources entitle them as long as Castro's authoritarian rule remains intact. The United States must continue to do what it can to help the Cuban people in their struggle for economic and political freedom and to reestablish the rule of law.

We also have an obligation to American citizens, many of whom have unresolved property claims against the Castro government, to work for justice on their behalf. At the same time, I believe the United States must balance its goals in Cuba with other important foreign policy objectives, such as free trade and support for market and political reforms in other countries. Accordingly, I associate myself with the objectives of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act and look forward to working with my colleagues to improve the bill particularly in the

trade areas as it receives further consideration.●

HOW COLORBLIND ADOPTIONS CHANGED AND ENRICHED OUR LIVES

● Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, for several years I had an outstanding staff member, Pamela J. Huey, who, unfortunately for me, moved to Minneapolis with her husband and family.

She was not only a superb staff person but she is a genuine humanitarian.

She and her husband have adopted two African-American children. I have seen Benjamin develop into a fine young man and their new child, Anthony, I am sure will do the same.

She has written for the Minneapolis Star Tribune an article titled, "Colorblind Adoptions Changed and Enriched Our Lives."

I ask that her article be printed in the RECORD.

The article follows:

[From the Minneapolis Star Tribune, Jan. 29, 1995]

COLORBLIND ADOPTIONS CHANGED AND ENRICHED OUR LIVES (By Pamela Huey)

The national debate on welfare reform, teenage pregnancy and orphanages demands another look at transracial adoption as one positive alternative for children who need stable, loving homes.

While some within the African-American community and other minorities continue to oppose the adoption of children of color by Caucasian parents, I would argue that such adoptions are not only successful but desirable, producing benefits for parents, children and society as a whole.

Five years ago, childless and wanting to start a family, my husband and I approached an agency in Washington, D.C., specializing in foreign adoptions. But the paperwork, red tape, cost and prospect of spending an undetermined amount of time in another country were daunting.

We learned our agency did receive "domestic" placements but these children were nearly always black or biracial. We wondered why, if there were babies in our own country in need of loving, nurturing homes, would anyone travel halfway around the world for a baby? Skin color seemed the only answer. We told the agency that the race of the child did not matter—a baby was a baby—and within seven months we were parents of a beautiful black 17-day-old boy. This Christmas, we became parents of Anthony, a 6-week-old African-American baby, also born in Washington, D.C.

Adopting Benjamin and Anthony has changed and enriched our lives in profound ways that we did not anticipate.

When we moved to the Twin Cities in 1992, we chose an integrated neighborhood in south Minneapolis.

The church we chose, Park Avenue United Methodist, has a spiritual mission to increase understanding between the races and to bring people together as one to worship God.

Benjamin attends Seed Academy, a private school with an Afrocentric curriculum.

We've attended classes for multicultural families. We've participated in the YMCA's "home team" program for multicultural families. The Twin Cities area seems to have no end of opportunities for us.

But most importantly, we have a perspective on race relations and racial prejudice

that we otherwise would never have had. The love of parent for child has no equal, and loving Benjamin and Anthony was given us a window on a world previously closed to us. Now, as parents, we hurt for the young black males who are considered threats just because of their race.

Interracial adoption breaks down barriers and increases understanding in new ways that filter through the extended family. Grandparents, aunts, uncles, brothers, sisters and cousins, even neighbors and family friends, also are exposed to this new understanding and a family love that crosses racial lines.

We hope growing up in our racially blended family will give Benjamin and Anthony skills for living in both white and black worlds and that their worlds will be more human and loving, rather than divided along racial lines.

Harvard Law Prof. Elizabeth Bartholet wrote in the May 1991 issue of the University of Pennsylvania Law Review that "transracial adoptees appear more positive than blacks raised inracially about relationships with whites, more comfortable in those relationships and more interested in a racially integrated lifestyle."

American University Prof. Rita Simon, who has done exhaustive studies on the long-term effects of these adoptions, has written that transracial adoptees perceive "their world as essentially pluralistic and multicolored."

We hope we are not being naive. We know Benjamin and Anthony will face racism and hatred in future years, and we are trying to prepare them for that.

As we prepared for our second adoption, I asked Benjamin what kind of sister or brother he would like. His first response was "black." But then he thought for a moment and responded, "Any color would be OK."

Pamela Huey is a journalist who lives in Minneapolis.●

RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE COMMITTEE ON BANKING

● Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, I ask that the rules of procedure and jurisdiction of the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be printed in the RECORD.

RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS (Adopted in executive session, January 11, 1995)

RULE 1.—REGULAR MEETING DATE FOR COMMITTEE

The regular meeting day for the Committee to transact its business shall be the last Tuesday in each month that the Senate is in Session; except that if the Committee has met at any time during the month prior to the last Tuesday of the month, the regular meeting of the Committee may be canceled at the discretion of the Chairman.

RULE 2.—COMMITTEE

(a) *Investigations.*—No investigation shall be initiated by the Committee unless the Senate, or the full Committee, or the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member have specifically authorized such investigation.

(b) *Hearings.*—No hearing of the Committee shall be scheduled outside the District of Columbia except by agreement between the Chairman of the Committee and the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee or by a majority vote of the Committee.

(c) *Confidential testimony.*—No confidential testimony taken or confidential material presented at an executive session of the Committee or any report of the proceedings

of such executive session shall be made public either in whole or in part by way of summary, unless specifically authorized by the Chairman of the Committee and the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee or by a majority vote of the Committee.

(d) *Interrogation of witnesses.*—Committee interrogation of a witness shall be conducted only by members of the Committee or such professional staff as is authorized by the Chairman or the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee.

(e) *Prior notice of markup sessions.*—No session of the Committee or a Subcommittee for marking up any measure shall be held unless (1) each member of the Committee or the Subcommittee, as the case may be, has been notified in writing of the date, time, and place of such session and has been furnished a copy of the measure to be considered at least 3 business days prior to the commencement of such session, or (2) the Chairman of the Committee or Subcommittee determines that exigent circumstances exist requiring that the session be held sooner.

(f) *Prior notice of first degree amendments.*—It shall not be in order for the Committee or a Subcommittee to consider any amendment in the first degree proposed to any measure under consideration by the Committee or Subcommittee unless (1) fifty written copies of such amendment have been delivered to the office of the Committee at least 2 business days prior to the meeting, or (2) with respect to multiple first degree amendments, each of which would strike a single section of the measure under consideration, fifty copies of a single written notice listing such specific sections have been delivered to the Committee at least 2 business days prior to the meeting. An amendment to strike a section of the measure under consideration by the Committee or Subcommittee shall not be amendable in the second degree by the Senator offering the amendment to strike. This subsection may be waived by a majority of the members of the Committee or Subcommittee voting, or by agreement of the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member. This subsection shall apply only when at least 3 business days written notice of a session to markup a measure is required to be given under subsection (e) of this rule.

(g) *Cordon rule.*—Whenever a bill or joint resolution repealing or amending any statute or part thereof shall be before the Committee or Subcommittee, from initial consideration in hearings through final consideration, the Clerk shall place before each member of the Committee or Subcommittee a print of the statute or the part or section thereof to be amended or repealed showing by stricken-through type, the part or parts to be omitted, and in italics, the matter proposed to be added. In addition, whenever a member of the Committee or Subcommittee offers an amendment to a bill or joint resolution under consideration, those amendments shall be presented to the Committee or Subcommittee in a like form, showing by typographical devices the effect of the proposed amendment on existing law. The requirements of this subsection may be waived when, in the opinion of the Committee or Subcommittee Chairman, it is necessary to expedite the business of the Committee or Subcommittee.

RULE 3.—SUBCOMMITTEES

(a) *Authorization for.*—A Subcommittee of the Committee may be authorized only by the action of a majority of the Committee.

(b) *Membership.*—No member may be a member of more than three Subcommittees and no member may chair more than one Subcommittee. No member will receive assignment to a second Subcommittee until, in