

Take, for example, the planks on terrorism, which both excoriate President Clinton for coddling terrorists and pander to the GOP's Ruby Ridge wing: "To take away the liberty of the American people while fighting terrorism is repugnant to the history and character of our nation." How will the anti-big government Republicans fight terrorism while opposing things like taggants to trace bomb-powder? Establish a "blue ribbon" commission. Nothing scares killers like a panel of experts.

Elsewhere, the platform gets similarly caught between its enthusiasm for states' rights and its insistence that they do the right-wing thing. The GOP would "require the original sponsor of [any] proposed federal legislation to cite specific constitutional authority for the measure." Yet the platform cites no such authority for its own calls to nationalize product-liability law and to force legal reforms upon the states: "restore limited liability" to churches "to provide protection against profit-seeking lawsuits," "eliminate the use of junk science" by "opportunistic attorneys" and so on.

Along with scrapping the Education Department, the platform says plainly, "the federal government has no constitutional authority to be involved in the school curricula." But a few lines later comes a truly bizarre call for Napoleonic micromanagement: an exhortation to "requir[e] our public schools to dedicate one full day each year to studying the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution."

Why not a week? For when the Republicans get through with the Constitution, there'll be a lot more of it to study. A cursory count yields calls for six new amendments: to extend Fourteenth Amendment citizenship protections to the unborn; to deny them to the children of illegal immigrants born in the U.S.; to protect "victims' rights"; and, of course, to outlaw the various forms of mutilation and political adornment that might fall under the category of "desecration" of the American flag. Banning abortion and flag-burning are hardy perennials, and victims' rights, too, is becoming a familiar pander. The denial of birthright citizenship, however—a radical shift in our notion of Americanhood—demands vociferous rebuttal from all responsible quarters.

In its economic planks, the platform states, "Research and development is our commitment to the future." It then endorses "de-emphasizing the role of government"—that is, cutting spending—on R&D, which is what the GOP Congress proposed. The next paragraph praises a Dole-sponsored law that expanded federally funded research. The GOP sounds similarly confused on homeownership, which, it declares, "is not something government gives to the people, but rather something they can attain for themselves. . . ." Two sentences later, it reiterates support for the mortgage interest tax deduction, a subsidy the government provides to boost homeownership.

On foreign policy, the platform betrays open warfare between the party's neocons and its America-firsters. "We vigorously support restoring the promotion of democracy worldwide," the preamble announces. How? Not by using economic aid to reward poor countries for breaking with authoritarianism. That, the platform says, is "social welfare spending in the Third World." The multinational disarmament and election-monitoring efforts that have given birth to democracy in Mozambique, Cambodia and El Salvador meet with reproach, too. "Bill Clinton's peacekeeping operations and other global ventures" haven't had "any discernible benefit to U.S. national security." Of course not. Promoting democracy in impoverished corners of the globe isn't an

expression of American interests in any direct way, it's an expression of American beliefs. But the Buchanan wing of the party doesn't think that America should have moral concerns beyond its borders. So the platform's specific foreign policy planks render its preamble meaningless.

Bob Dole has, understandably, tried to bury this mishmash of confusion and dishonesty in the scripted moderation of San Diego. Still, if this is the best statement his party can offer about what it would do in office, what does it say about the policies he would pursue as president?

UKRAINE INDEPENDENCE

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 4, 1996

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 120, a resolution that recognizes the fifth anniversary of Ukraine's independence and applauds the efforts of the people of Ukraine to reform the political and economic system of that nation.

This has been a memorable year for the Ukrainian people. In April, we all recalled the 10th anniversary of the tragedy of Chernobyl. Ukraine is still feeling the effects of that disaster, but together we are making progress to assess the long-term effects of Chernobyl on the people, animals, and land in Ukraine.

Just over 2 months ago, President Kuchma and the Ukrainian Parliament ratified a new constitution for the nation. This historic action will ensure that Ukrainians enjoy all the freedoms that are guaranteed to people who live in a democracy, and will ensure that Ukraine remains on the path of reform of its political and economic system.

Most recently, in August, Ukrainians celebrated the fifth anniversary of their independence. Today, Ukraine is making great strides, and American support for the people of Ukraine has helped immensely.

Ukraine is one of Europe's largest, most vibrant nations. The government and people of Ukraine are making the transformation to a market economy, beginning to privatize state-owned enterprises, establishing the rule of law, and creating a positive environment for trade and investment.

Ukraine stands as a proud member of the community of nations by supporting efforts to stem proliferation of nuclear weapons, by ratifying the START-I Treaty, by representing the interests of the smaller states of the Commonwealth of Independent States, and by providing peacekeeping troops in the former Yugoslavia.

Mr. Speaker, as a Ukrainian-American, I am especially proud of the close ties our two nations have. Our two peoples have so much to share with each other. This weekend in Macomb County, MI, we will be celebrating the fifth anniversary of Ukraine's independence and its new constitution. We will also be exploring bilateral investment and trade opportunities in Ukraine with Ambassador Yuri Shcherbak. It will be my great honor during these events to receive the Shevchenko Freedom Award for contributions to Ukrainian statehood.

Mr. Speaker, we look forward to a future in which Ukraine and the United States will enjoy even closer ties.

JUSTICE WILL BE DONE

HON. JOHN T. MYERS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 5, 1996

Mr. MYERS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, justice sometimes is slow in coming, but usually does prevail. This is the issue in the case involving "Baby Richard." This little boy, whose only offense was being born to a mother who did not want him, was taken from the only parents he ever knew who had legally adopted him at birth. Through the action of a judge and an attorney he was given to a father who did not know he existed at the time of his birth. He was promised that he could see his adoptive brother, but that has been denied to this little fellow.

The following article by Hevrdejs & Conklin, Inc. appeared September 3, 1996 in the Chicago Tribune.

[The Chicago Tribune, Tuesday, Sept. 3, 1996]

ATTORNEY'S LUCK RUNNING SHORT AFTER
"BABY RICHARD" CASE

(By Hevrdejs & Conklin Inc.)

We know many readers were delighted when Illinois Supreme Court Justice James Heiple, who wrote the unpopular "Baby Richard" decision, subsequently got into an embarrassing traffic scrape with police. Now comes word Loren Heinemann, the lawyer who won custody of "Baby Richard" for Otakar Kirchner, (a decision upheld by Heiple), has filed for personal bankruptcy. According to the Chicago Daily Law Bulletin, Heinemann lists \$602,000 in liabilities. He also is defending himself in five unrelated cases of professional misconduct. Do we detect a "Baby Richard" curse at work here?

TRIBUTE TO GERTRUDE "GERT" R. TABER

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 5, 1996

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I have the sad duty today to report to this House the death of a fellow elected official, Gertrude "Gert" R. Taber, from the fifth supervisorial district in my home county of Mariposa, CA. I had the privilege of serving with Gert on the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors, and of knowing Gert as the first lady of Mariposa since I was a young child.

Gert served on the board from November 1979 until her passing last week. She provided the citizens of Mariposa County with 17 years of dedicated service during a time of great change in California, and in Mariposa County. Adapting to change was a starting point for Gert, when she broke the barriers of the board of supervisors as the first woman supervisor in the then 125 year history of that board.

Gert had many accomplishments as a supervisor, mostly for modernizing Mariposa County's government by creating new administrative, personnel, data processing, community services, fire and other departments and

government functions. In addition, she led the charge for improved planning and instituting land use reform; for a comprehensive budget process; for addressing long term space needs of the county; and for ensuring that seniors and children received the best possible services. Gert was always an advocate for those not able to advocate for themselves—for making government work for the people it can best serve.

Perhaps more importantly, Gert gave of herself as a wife to Bud Taylor for 49 years, and as a mother of six children. She was an active community member as a Scout leader, 4-H leader, Key leader, sponsor of youth sporting activities and rodeo events, and as the candy lady to a whole generation of Mariposans.

Gert was an independent, active and caring voice in the community, and Mariposa will miss her.

Mr. Speaker, by honoring Gert Taber, we hold an example for all Americans as contributing members of their communities. For this reason, I am honored to pay tribute to Gert Taber, truly the first lady of Mariposa.

INTRODUCTION OF PRIORITY SMALL BUSINESS PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 5, 1996

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, last year the 104th Congress marked up and passed the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. I was pleased to support that legislation in committee and on the House floor. In fact, I was successful in including an amendment to this new law which makes it a top priority for the Office of Management and Budget [OMB], when collecting information and applying new information technology, to make certain that small businesses selling goods and services to the Federal Government get paid on time.

But this new statute still does not assign nearly enough priority to cutting the redtape and paperwork on the smallest of the small businesses that are most in need of relief. This is because the executive branch generally defines a small business to mean any employer of 500 or fewer employees.

Most businesses in Vermont have 10 or fewer employees. Furthermore, I venture to say that most Americans don't think of a company that employs 499 employees as having the same needs and problems as a company that employs 25 or fewer employees.

We need to focus the attention and limited resources of OMB and other Federal agencies on reducing burdensome paperwork on those it is hurting the most—the smallest businesses that can least afford the time, personnel, and additional costs associated with meeting all of the Federal Government's regulatory and reporting requirements.

This bill does just that. It defines microenterprises to be small businesses in America that employ 25 or fewer employees. In addition, it calls upon the Director of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs within OMB to make it a priority to first consider the adverse effects on the smallest of small businesses, when directing and overseeing efforts to cut Federal paperwork and information reporting.

It also makes helping the smallest of small businesses a priority for voluntary pilot projects when OMB, other Federal agencies, and non-Federal entities test alternative policies, practices, regulations, and procedures to reduce the Federal paperwork burden.

We live in a time when the Federal Government must learn to do more with less. Therefore, in setting out to cut Federal regulatory costs and paperwork for American businesses, we should first strive to help the truly vulnerable small enterprises who operate much closer to the margin and whose survival is always in greater jeopardy.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 5, 1996

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, due to inclement weather, I was unavoidably detained and missed two recorded votes. Had I been present, on rollcall vote No. 402, H.R. 447, the Toll Free Consumer Hotline bill, I would have voted "aye." And on rollcall vote No. 403, the Ukraine Independence Act, I again would have voted "aye."

THANK YOU, JIM FINLEY, FOR
YOUR LOYAL SERVICE

HON. JACK FIELDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 5, 1996

Mr. FIELDS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it was with mixed emotions that I announced last December 11 my decision to retire from the House at the conclusion of my current term. As I explained at the time, the decision to retire was made more difficult because of the loyalty and dedication of my staff—and because of the genuine friendship I feel for them. Each one of them has served the men and women of Texas' Eighth Congressional District in an extraordinary way.

Today, I want to thank one member of my staff—Jim Finley, my district administrative assistant—for all he's done for me and my constituents in the 16 years that he was worked in my office.

I met Jim in 1980, when I was first running for Congress and he was working as managing editor of the Baytown Sun. While Jim and the Baytown Sun remained scrupulously fair and impartial throughout the campaign, he and I developed a friendship as a result of frequent meetings. Jim had worked at various newspapers throughout southeast Texas in the preceding 19 years, and had served as the managing editor of the Baytown Sun for the previous 10 years.

I admired his hard work and professionalism at the Baytown Sun, and after the election, I was delighted when he agreed to head up my district office.

As a result of redistricting, Jim now oversees three district offices—in Humble, Conroe, and College Station. Jim's work in managing the operations of my district office was recognized in 1986 when he was asked to come to Washington, DC, to advise newly elected Re-

publican Members of Congress on the effective and efficient workings of district offices. The advice he provided helped many of my colleagues get their own district offices up and running in a manner that effectively serves their constituents.

Jim has represented me at countless meetings over the years I was unable to attend, and has attended virtually all of my 569 town meetings held throughout the Eighth Congressional District.

Jim has long been active in his community. He is a past president of the Kiwanis Club of Baytown, and served as chairman of the committee responsible for the construction of the Kiwanis War Memorial in Baytown. He is a former member, and past president, of the board of directors of BayCoast Hospital. And he is a charter member of the Baytown Go-Texas Committee of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

When he is not working, Jim enjoys spending time with his children and grandchildren: his daughter, Robin, and her husband, Steve Richards, and their children, Katie and Reid; and his son, Scott, and his wife, Jackie Finley, and their children, Devin and Falynn. An avid race fan, Jim worked for many years as a member of the pit crew of Scott's championship racing operation. And come football or basketball season, Jim can usually be found in front of a television set, watching his beloved Arkansas Razorbacks triumphing over their opponents.

Jim Finley is one of those hard-working men and women who make all of us in this institution look better than we deserve. I know he has done that for me, and I appreciate this opportunity to publicly thank him for the dedication, loyalty and professionalism he has exhibited as a member of my staff.

Jim has yet to decide what he wants to do when I retire from office. But I am confident that the skills and professionalism he has demonstrated as my district administrative assistant will lead to continued success in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I know you join with me in saying "thank you" to Jim Finley for his years of loyal service to me, to the men and women of Texas' Eighth Congressional District, and to this great institution. And I know you join with me in wishing him, and his lovely wife, Margie, the very best in the years ahead.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

TRIBUTE TO ODETTE ORAH
LOUISE CHARBONNET

HON. JULIAN C. DIXON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 5, 1996

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to salute Mrs. Odette Orah Louise Charbonnet of Los Angeles, CA, on the occasion of her 100th birthday, which she observed on August 8, 1996.

Affectionately known as Mother, Odette was born in New Orleans, LA, on August 8, 1896. She was the third child born to Thomas and Julia Clayton. As a young girl, Odette teamed with her sister to form a dancing and singing duo known as the Clayton Sisters. The Clayton Sisters performed in New Orleans, as well as in surrounding areas.