

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair must caution all Members that although factual descriptions of Senate action is permitted, debate may not include characterization of Senate actions or suggest courses of Senate action.

THE WITCH HUNT

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

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, the witch hunt is over and the accused has been found innocent. The charges by the Federal Elections Commission and trumpeted by the liberals regarding Speaker NEWT GINGRICH and GOPAC have been found to be baseless.

In his ruling regarding this case, Judge Lewis Oberdorfer found that there "is no proffer of admissible material evidence in the record that the material and services which GOPAC provided to support Congressman GINGRICH's work as GOPAC General Chairman were ever used by GOPAC or by him to support his reelection campaign."

In other words, the FEC's case held no water.

Mr. Speaker, while this attack on GOPAC and Republicans by the liberal Democrats is not surprising, the fact that the case was summarily dismissed exposes it for what it really is, an effort to change the subject.

Ever since Republicans first won control of the House of Representatives for the first time in 40 years, liberals have tried every trick in the book to derail our agenda for real change.

They have filibustered, fear-mongered, and filed lawsuits. They have convinced their outside activist allies, the trial lawyers, the labor unions, the Naderites, to put every ounce of energy, every bit of money, and every kind of demagoguery, into derailing our agenda.

This ruling by Judge Oberdorfer finally exposes the truth, that this distortion campaign is false and it is malicious.

Mr. Speaker, the American people are not interested in GOPAC. They are not interested in smear campaigns. They are tired of partisanship and bickering. They want the budget balanced. They want lower taxes. They want more opportunities for jobs. They want better schools for our children. And they want us to do the jobs we were sent here to do.

It is time to quit while you are behind. Stop this Ethics Committee abuse and start debating the real issues of the day.

KEEPING YOUR EYE ON THE
PRIZE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from California [Mr. DORNAN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DORNAN. Mr. Speaker, nine Members of this distinguished House of Representatives leave for the Balkans, for Bosnia and several of the surrounding countries, in about an hour and 40 minutes. Although I was able to get to Germany over New Year's Eve and meet with the troops at several locations from the 1st Armored Division that are deploying down to Bosnia, I have been blocked, literally stopped, by Mr. Clinton through his gentlemanly Secretary of Defense on four different occasions, Christmas, New Year's, I repeat, I got as far as Germany, and twice in the month of December.

I would love to be participating in the debate in South Carolina tonight for the honor of the Republican nomination for the Presidency. If they tear at one another's faces and despoil one another's reputations, my presence will be missed, because at every Presidential debate I have literally done everything but beg my worthy competitors to focus on, as Martin Luther King would say, "Keep your eye on the prize," the Presidency on November 5.

The 11th commandment of Ronald Reagan, and he generously offered it to the Democrat family, was "Do not tear yourselves up." You can discuss issues and be substantive on that, but do not try to raise your opponent's negatives, because there are two unintended consequences: Your own come down, and then it depresses the overall voting.

They were anxious to vote in New Hampshire, but in Iowa it was down to 17 percent participation. So I wish I could be there in South Carolina.

It is not this trip to the Balkans, this promised trip that precludes me alone. South Carolina is the only State in the Union demanding over \$1,000, which was the New Hampshire entry fee, to participate in their State primaries. They want \$7,000.

My younger brother, who is a junior high school teacher, he has got to tell all of his young men and women who dream about running for the Presidency some day that there is the entry fee in South Carolina.

It appears that we have learned one thing in this Presidential season, that \$25 million without a message does not get you very far. But a solid message like mine, that I have generously allowed all of the other candidates to appropriate, the message of faith, family, and freedom, and that GOP doesn't mean old anything, it means growth, opportunity and productivity, that those solid messages are not much good without some money.

As our distinguished colleague in the Senate, Mr. PHIL GRAMM, said when he left the race, that he now goes back to his work in the Senate, my statement is simply I never left my work here, Mr. Speaker. I passed at least 12 Dornan amendments in the defense appropriations bill alone. We voted about 302 times more than the other distinguished body during the year of 1995.

We never did recess. For the first time in two sessions, we simply went out of business on the floor here on January 3; constitutionally the second session started at noon January 3. So we were in session the whole year. We actually met in this Chamber about 45 times more than the U.S. Senate.

I have no regrets watching the process from the inside out, making not a single money call. What was the sense of making money calls when I saw I could not compete on the ground, but only in the debate-electronic war and trying to stay very positive with my colleagues at that.

I look at my countdown watch, and I have seven on order to give to the remaining candidates, it says that the election is 250 days away and the inauguration is 326 days. From November 5 to January 20 is 76 days. Mr. Clinton may get to feel the pain that George Bush felt when the voters rejected him after 4 years.

Two-hundred and fifty days is an eternity. The Republican Party is not collapsing. Anybody can still win. There could be a brokered convention. Who knows what can happen and who will come in?

But I offer this to my GOP party, growth, opportunity, and productivity; I offer this theme for the fall: Our team beats Bill's team. To build a team, we are going to have to do something historical. If this bloody infighting, this fratricide continues, we are going to have a very badly wounded standard bearer, and he is going to have to do something historical.

□ 1645

He is going to have to do not only more skillfully than what Ronald Reagan did, and that is name a Vice Presidential running mate. Reagan did that in 1976. It did him no good, because he named a moderate from Pennsylvania that nobody knew. I think our frontrunner is going to have to name five people, the Vice President and four Cabinet officers.

I will close with their names: John Engler of Michigan; the gentleman from Texas, Mr. SAM JOHNSON, as Secretary of Defense; distinguished colleague, Colin Powell as Secretary of State, not Defense, State, and he will not get in trouble with domestic issues; a Treasurer that Wall Street and the common working man will trust and another colleague from here for 10 years, Dan Lundgren for Attorney General, the attorney general of our biggest State. That is the team. The front five. Our team beats Bill's team.

GOOD COMMUNITY FAIR

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NETHERCUTT). Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. HANCOCK] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. HANCOCK. Mr. Speaker, we pretty consistently hear about a lot of negative things that are going on in this

country. In fact, I am sure that a lot of the people that listen to the debates here on the House floor wonder, does anything positive ever get done in Washington, DC?

I am not too sure about Washington, DC, but I want to talk about an amazing thing that happened on Saturday, January 13, in Springfield, MO. Private citizens, with the support and encouragement of local institutions, organized the first ever Good Community Fair—an opportunity for concerned citizens to meet with leaders of dozens of private community groups to find out how volunteering can make our community a better place.

To the pleasant surprise of organizers more than 7,000 men, women, and children showed up at the Findlay Student Center on the campus of Drury College to find out how and where they could volunteer to do their part to make their hometown a better place, to help it be a good community.

They were able to walk from table to table to pick up information about local charitable groups and volunteer opportunities.

They were able to personally visit with current volunteers.

And they were able to sign up on the spot to get involved with the groups of their choice.

This was one of the most impressive spontaneous outpourings of good will it has ever been my privilege to witness.

And these were not people expressing cheap sentiment. They were not there just to find out what others were doing.

The people who showed up that Saturday made concrete personal commitments by the hundreds to help groups like Special Olympics, the Humane Society, the zoo, hospitals, blood banks, PTA, Meals on Wheels, Boys and Girls Clubs, local libraries, a soup kitchen, a homeless shelter, senior centers, neighborhood crime watch groups, and the list goes on.

When Drury College ran out of table space, the Boy Scouts of America made the best of the situation and literally pitched a tent in front of the building and set up their booth outside. Happily, the weather was great as well.

Community groups were actually running out of volunteer applications and informational literature. There was so much interest, organizers say they were overwhelmed. As one who was there, I can tell you, the whole building was packed.

Organizers admitted they had not expected such a turnout. One group leader said they thought only about 300 people would show up. Another said he thought he would spend the whole day with people just walking by his table.

They were both happily surprised. Thousands of people streamed through Findlay Student Center and made specific commitments to get involved.

And the enthusiasm and overall spirit of good will was tremendous. People felt excited about the possibility of making a difference.

They could do something themselves—rather than just assuming

someone else would take care of it, or that government would take care of it.

For a brief moment, our problems did not seem beyond our control. Once again, thousands of people realized it was up to them to turn things around.

What I saw that day renewed and strengthened my faith in a lot of things about our country and it made me very proud of my hometown.

Government was there too. A lot of tables at the fair were for different government agencies who need volunteer help, or who just want the public to understand what services they have available. Some were there to get constructive criticism about how they can better serve the public.

The police department, public schools, and city park board—even the city clerk's office—had booths at the fair. And plenty of government officials were on hand.

We had school board members, county commissioners, city council members, State legislators, and, of course, this Congressman.

Fortunately, they corralled all of the elected officials in a holding area called the Government Room. If someone wanted to talk to one of us, they could come visit us in the Government Room. The politicians were there, but we were not the center of attention.

The spotlight was on volunteers and volunteering. And I must tell you, I approved of that arrangement 100 percent.

And, I guess this is as good a time as any to praise the valuable contribution of the news media in this project. I want to specifically pay a compliment to the Springfield News-Leader.

They have started a valuable dialogue in the community. While that sort of thing has the potential to just get everyone talking in circles and mouthing platitudes, this Good Community Fair, was real.

It was an event that I am convinced will make a concrete difference in our quality of life. It was a project that made a difference.

As the newspaper itself put it:

If Saturday's numbers are any indication of a new trend in community involvement, organizers and agency leaders agree, Springfield is headed toward a better quality of life in a hurry.

And the generous coverage by our local paper, and other local media outlets, unarguably helped make it a success.

Having said that, I want to return the focus to the real heroes of this day. The regular citizens of all ages, all walks of life, who took time out of their weekend to see what they could do to help others—people who cared enough about their community to find out if they could do something themselves.

And let me tell you, I honestly believe this is just the beginning. I think the response we saw at this fair will inspire even more Springfieldians to do their part.

This Good Community Fair has the potential to be a regular event, draw-

ing more people each year into the effort to make a difference.

One of the things that convinces me this event was not just a flash in the pan, but the beginning of something long-term, was the large number of young people who took part.

Nearly 400 teenagers from all across town showed up for a two-hour town hall meeting to discuss their concerns about their schools and community. The discussion was led by panels of their fellow teenagers.

While the kids did not come up with any definitive answers to any problems—something, in fairness, adults have also failed to do—the young people showed an understanding and appreciation of those problems and an earnest, honest, and idealistic desire to do something about them.

And, for the most part, their complaints were voiced with a constructive attitude.

If nothing else, adults saw that the teenagers in our community do care and should be a part of any discussion about how to improve our schools, fight crime, create jobs, or meet other vital needs.

We have got quite a few good apples in the barrel. Anyway, I found some encouragement from it all.

Let me share a few specific stories that capture the spirit of all this, from which I think we can all take some inspiration.

Daisy Jenkins, a 79-year-old Springfield woman, showed up that Saturday. Now, understand, Daisy already gives \$3,500 in contributions to 120 different charitable organizations a year. She also generously volunteers her time.

The day before the fair she visited two nursing homes, two private homes, and took a load of supplies to a local school.

This selfless woman came to the Good Community Fair to see what more she could do. Imagine that.

When she was asked why she was eager to add to her burdens, she said: "I don't know. I can't help it. The Lord has been wonderful to me. I asked the Lord, 'I'm comfortable. What can I do?'"

On the same day, 5-year-old Austin Shaw asked his mother to take him to the fair to see how he could help others. Austin is now signed up to cheer up kids his age at the Ronald McDonald House who are sick or have seriously ill brothers or sisters in a local hospital.

"I want to do that with my mom," Austin said.

This generosity of spirit is touching. And there are examples after examples I could give you of other stories. Some I witnessed. Some I read about later. Some were told to me by others. All of them together make up the story of one of the most extraordinary events I have ever attended.

For 5 hours people who care linked up with people who could show them how to get involved in a way that made sense for them.

This one event did more for our community than any Government grant or any speech by a politician ever could.

Oh, and let me tell you. The churches were there. If ever anyone doubted that our churches and religious faith must play a central role in any renewal of our communities, they should be rid of that doubt.

From the Greene County Christian Coalition to the Springfield Area Council of Churches, the religious community was represented across the board.

Representatives were also on hand from Victory Mission, The Kitchen, Evangel College, Salvation Army, Easter Seals, Boy Scouts of America, and more—all groups that affirm Godly values.

This was not some antiseptic, morally neutral civic event. People were inspired by Christian decency and compassion. They were responding in droves to the Gospel message of charity and good will. And they were proudly doing it, in many cases, under the banner of faith.

In too many cases today, we have been told such overt religious expression is bad. That public things must be devoid of religious content. Well, let me tell you something. That is a bunch of horse feathers.

The outpouring of good will I saw that Saturday came from the soul. It was not just a civic act. It was a religious act. And I was proud to see the religious community out in force and out in the open, setting the example we are called to set.

Why am I making a point of this? I just felt that part of the story got missed in the coverage back home. And, while I am paying tribute to the event itself, I want to pay tribute to the religious roots which inspire such Godly sentiments.

The Good Community Fair is something which I believe can and should be emulated in other communities across the country.

By whatever name you call it, getting people together to talk about common problems and giving regular people a chance to make a difference beyond voting for just another set of rascals, is a positive thing.

Make sure government is there, so people can have some input in that aspect of their community and so government leaders can benefit from the direct exchange, but make sure the focus stays on the citizens and what they can do to make their community a better place.

This is something any community can do, regardless of size or status.

Springfield, MO, is a good town. We are not a metropolis, but we have some 145,000 souls who live there. Our problems may not be as great compared to what major cities face.

Many of us still think of ourselves as a small town. We clearly are formed by those small town values.

What I am saying is that we are not a city in crisis. We did not wait for our community to be falling apart at the

seams before we did something to make sure we do not head too far in the wrong direction.

If this made sense for us, how much more sense does it make for other cities with greater problems across our land.

Again, I wish to pay tribute to the organizers and volunteers and groups and businesses and everyone else who had a part in making Springfield, MO's Good Community Fair a reality. It was an amazing event, an outstanding success, and the beginning of something very exciting. I am happy I went.

I commend you all for a job well done, and for caring enough about our hometown to make an effort of this kind. Your hard work and effort is surely rewarded by your success.

There is probably not much this retiring congressman can say that will add to that reward, but I felt it was important for me to say something, to let you know just how impressed I was, and to share what you have done with my colleagues and the rest of the country.

I am heartened to see the spirit of volunteerism being renewed in my community. I know it would make President George Bush proud. This is the same idea he was talking about when he spoke of volunteers as a "thousand points of light" in our troubled times.

Well, I saw 7,000 points of light at the Good Community Fair. It was a brilliant sight indeed.

But we must be realistic about this sort of thing.

Just because we cannot end poverty in one act, it does not mean we should not as private citizens help the needy.

Just because we cannot solve every crime or prevent every act of violence, it does not mean we should not do our best to keep our streets and neighborhoods as safe as possible.

Just because Government does not always respond exactly as we like or sometimes seems incapable of functioning effectively, it does not mean we should not vote or get involved in campaigns.

Sometimes, making a difference is incremental. Our Good Community Fair will not make Springfield, MO, a perfect place. It will not solve all our problems overnight. The fine groups represented there will probably never meet every need in our community.

But I would hate to think where we would be without the effort. You must think about the alternative. The real question is: How much worse might things otherwise be?

Progress is positive. We cannot make the perfect the enemy of the good. A good community is never more than a less-than-perfect community that is trying its best to do better. We must not lose heart in that struggle, as communities and individuals

I have less than a year left in the Congress. At the end of the year I will be retiring after serving 8 years in the U.S. House of Representatives. I will

once again be a private citizen. And yet, I do not believe for one moment that my public service is coming to an end.

No, I am not talking about running for some other office, although it has been suggested and many have encouraged me to do so. I have no such plans.

I will still be a taxpayer, a voter, and a concerned citizen in my community. You see, I recognize that you do not have to be a five-term U.S. Congressman to make a difference.

You can be a 79-year-old woman volunteering to do more, or a 5-year-old boy who cares about sick children his age.

You can be a petition carrier, a food server, a snow shoveler, a babysitter, a blood donor, or meal deliverer and still make a difference in people's lives.

That is the message of the Good Community Fair I attended. Regular people can and should make a difference.

Do not wait for government to do it, or someone else to do it. If you want something better for your community, show some leadership yourself.

Working together, citizens can make something happen. It may not all happen at once. Some problems will always be with us, but our challenge is to do our best.

On Saturday, January 13, Springfield, MO, took one small—but very impressive—step in the right direction.

□ 1700

Mr. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman would yield, I want to commend him for the beautiful and inspirational statement that he has just made. I thought about what adjectives I wanted to use, and I almost said remarkable, but I thought beautiful and inspirational would be better because what the gentleman is describing is not at all remarkable in southern Missouri. It is the spirit and the attitude of the people there. And I do not think that we, your district and mine, lying as they do next to each other southwest and southeast Missouri, are particularly unique. I think that this wonderful spirit of voluntarism exists in most places in the country. It just needs to be tapped into and encouraged, and maybe we are old fashioned enough in what we would refer to as down in our neck of the woods to have never lost those qualities that were lost perhaps in many places when government started doing everything for everybody.

We have in Cape Girardeau, MO, my hometown, an organization. It was created by a very, very dedicated public servant, and she is a State representative in Jefferson City representing Cape Girardeau County. The organization is called the Community Caring Council, and it is all the private sector organizations that do volunteer work and, as was true, you said there were a lot of governmental types in Springfield. All governmental agencies that have anything to do with helping people are represented through this Community Caring Council, and the object

of the Community Caring Counsel is if there is anybody in need or got a problem, we have got tentacles in the community that are going to find out about it and know about it and address those problems. And as the gentleman suggested, we are not perfect in all respects, but we do try.

And I think that you have articulated here so beautifully, so well, a spirit that lives out there in the minds and the hearts and the souls certainly of southern Missourians and, I think, of most Americans, and I wish that you could have given your speech here at the beginning of the day when every Member might be present rather than at the end of the day and the end of the week because I think you have delivered a very, very inspirational message here that everyone needs to be familiar with, and I commend you on your outstanding service in presenting to us, as you have, this wonderful activity that went on in Springfield, and I hope it can become a role model for a lot of other places. Thank you, MEL, for what you have done.

Mr. HANCOCK. I thank the gentleman.

The point I am attempting to make, not that I think that, in fact I know Springfield, MO, does not have an exclusive franchise on this, but the fact is that we need to. I am hoping other communities will emulate what they have started there in Springfield, but it is the positive thing that I want to stress.

I have been up here for almost 70 years. I mean it is negative, and I will say that you have to look at the negative side before you can come up with a solution, with positive solutions. You do not want to be blindsided, but this is positive, this is something that people can do.

Now, the ones that count are the ones that do their volunteer work, and probably all they get, they get the thanks in the way they feel inside rather than getting their name in the paper or that unknown person out there, and it just was absolutely amazing. Over 7,000 people showed up on a Saturday afternoon.

Mr. EMERSON. If the gentleman would yield further, let me encourage him. The Community Caring Council, which I mentioned as an entity in Cape Girardeau, has been in existence for some time, and other communities throughout southeast Missouri are emulating that entity, and I dare say that as other communities in the southwest are familiar with that is going on in Springfield, they will want to be a part of it as well because there is not, you know, a lot of difference between the folks in Joplin and Springfield and Poplar Bluff. They all want to be in there doing their part to make this world, this country and our region a better place.

Mr. HANCOCK. Mr. Speaker, is it not great that we live in a country where we do not have to work 14 hours a day just to get enough to eat or 18 hours a day just to get enough to eat?

You know we can spend a little time, and maybe quit watching so much television, and start doing a little volunteer work, and helping out our fellow man a little bit. That is positive, that is not negative.

THE AGRICULTURAL REAUTHORIZATION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from New York [Mr. OWENS] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, we have just passed the Agriculture Reauthorization Act that reauthorizes farm programs, and I think it is very important to take note of an unprecedented development. We had a bipartisan breakthrough of the truth in respect to agricultural subsidies and the agribusiness welfare program in America, and this deserves to be noted. Been a lot of frustration for a long time experienced by those of us who recognize the fact that the agribusiness among all the recipients of Federal subsidies was the one that was most hypocritical. It received great amounts of money for a small number of people, and they made lengthy speeches about getting government off their back and not being a part of a welfare program. So we finally made a breakthrough, I think, in that not any great changes were wrought.

The bill that passed has a lot to be desired; the bill that passed is loaded with agribusiness welfare. The bill that passed is not a great reform measure, as it is touted to be. The bill that passed will probably be vetoed by the President. It pleases only segments of the population. Large numbers of the people are displeased with it.

But the phenomena that took place on the floor of the House yesterday is what I am rejoicing about. I rejoice that truth broke through and there was a real honest discussion of the nature of the welfare subsidies that have fueled the agribusiness for the last three decades. The truth broke through, and there were very close votes. We almost got rid of several subsidies that were terrible and have been going on for some time, and, most important of all, it was not partisan. You know, you could find no pattern of partisan voting. Both sides supported a breakthrough of the truth.

The debate was a real debate in that it was not locked into some kind of ideological dogma, it was not a ceremony where, no matter what you said, one side or the other side was not listening. I think for the first time, for one of the few times on the floor the House, the minds of some Members were actually changed by the course of the debate.

So we rejoice that the agribusiness is now being honestly examined, and the agribusiness and the tremendous amount of corporate welfare that the agribusiness has enjoyed is now up for

scrutiny. The common sense of the American people can be allowed to examine it, and I expect that you will have an escalating amount of concern from ordinary people that common sense is now going to take hold of the situation, and we are going to have a real look at the kind of money that has been poured into the agribusiness empires over the last three decades.

Of course, you know most people do not realize that this bill, which was mainly focusing on cash subsidies and the details of crops and particular commodities, this bill does not even touch the surface of some of the most generous corporate welfare that has been heaped upon the agribusiness. We were not talking about the Farmers Home Loan Mortgages. We were not talking about a whole set of loan programs that feed into the farm economy.

And they say farmers. I think it is a misnomer to call anything related to agriculture now on a large scale farmers. They are not farmers. It is agribusiness. The farmers long ago were moved from the land.

You know when Franklin Roosevelt, the greatest Democrat probably in history, when Franklin Roosevelt conceived of the crop support programs and provided support for poor farmers across the Nation, it was very much needed and very much in order, and for a long time it did serve the purpose of keeping the family farm alive, allowing poor farmers to survive. It was very important.

But long ago the agricultural subsidies ceased to keep family farms alive and provide help for those that needed it most. That ended a long time ago. That is not the case any more. It is a great business, a great corporate welfare program, and some of us have complained about it for years. It has a dual evil. The taxpayers are forced to pay for the agribusiness program subsidies, the corporate welfare, on the one hand. On the other hand, the fact that they pay for them to keep the prices up means that the people in other parts of the country that are not farmers pay higher prices for foods and commodities than they would if they were not propped up with special programs.

We had a command and control structure for agriculture second to none. I think the Soviet Union bureaucrats would probably envy the command and control structure of the Department of Agriculture and how agriculture over the years has evolved into this kind of protective command structure with farmers home loan mortgages and all kinds of goodies being fed to farmers and agribusinesses and establishing their own standards. We had situations were \$11 billion over a 5-year period, \$11 billion in loans, were forgiven under the farmers home loan mortgages program.

□ 1715

When you try as a citizen or as a Congressman to find out exactly what