

and a grateful community for sharing her with us.

TRIBUTE TO FATHER HILARY CONTI

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2000

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the deeds of a remarkable person from my district, Father Hilary Conti of Clifton, New Jersey, who celebrated on Saturday, October 28, 2000 fifty years of service and leadership in Clifton and round the country. It is only fitting that he be honored, for he has a long history of caring, generosity and commitment to others.

Father Hilary Conti was recognized for his many years of leadership in Clifton, which I have been honored to represent in Congress since 1997, and so it is appropriate that these words are immortalized in the annals of this greatest of all freely elected bodies.

Paul Karieakatt chronicled the history of Father Conti's service. As he noted, this year marks the 50th anniversary of Father Hilary Conti's priestly ordination. For fifty years he has engaged himself in the vineyard of the Lord, as a monk and as a priest. This is a truly special achievement.

Father Hilary was born in Fabriano, Italy on May 12, 1925 to Natale and Carmela Conti as their sixth child. Although it was filled with hard work, Father Conti enjoyed a beautiful childhood. On one occasion during WWII, all he had to eat was a discarded carrot. he worked as farmer, and fondly recalls those early days. In his own words he said, "My father went to look not for the lost sheep, but for the lost shepherd. It did not take him too long to find me."

Father Conti joined the monastery as an aspirant on September 29, 1938, made his novitiate in 1943 and his simple profession on October 1, 1944. On October 28, 1950, he was ordained a priest at St. Scholastica in Detroit, Michigan. As a student he helped to found *Inter Fratres* magazine.

Father Hilary taught for a short time at Mercy High School in Detroit. He has always been an active and involved leader. The time spent working in Michigan instilled in Father Conti the attributes necessary for him to become a stellar force in the community. It was the small steps in the beginning of his career that taught him the fundamentals that would make him a role model to the people that he now serves.

Later he took upon an even greater challenge and pioneered the establishment of a small monastery in Clifton. It is known as the Holy Face Monastery. It nourishes spiritual needs of the soul, gladdens the heart and inspires all those who visit. Of the works of art at the Holy Face Monastery the Shrine of Our Lady of Tears is Father Hilary's favorite. His late close friend, Mr. Canepa, created this masterpiece.

To describe in his own words his accomplished life, Father Conti wrote, "I planted many oak trees and saw them growing big and tall; now I am 70 years old, so I am pre-occupied about the future of the monastery." This shows his enduring love and relentless

commitment. Many people come to the monastery to search for the meaning of life, healing, peace and consolation.

Father Hilary has traveled around the country conducting seminars and talks explaining the Holy Shroud of Turin and its spirituality. He has also worked in Rome with many scientists, doctors and theologians on the shroud. He recently produced a video that explains the spirituality of the shroud.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Father Hilary's fellow monks, supporters, the Holy Face Monastery, the City of Clifton and me in recognizing the outstanding and invaluable service to the community of Father Hilary Conti.

EUROPEAN UNION

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2000

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, Benjamin Franklin once wrote in Poor Richard's Almanac, "Don't throw stones at your neighbors, if your own windows are glass." This sage advice written in 1736 is still current today and certainly applicable to those across the Atlantic who have focused on the problems in Florida and mocked the United States electoral system. While the closeness of the vote in Florida resulted in exercise of a constitutional process in the U.S. that has not had to have been used before, the challenges ahead for the European Union as it tries to integrate new members and address its own internal voting system are just beginning and may be far more difficult to resolve. In that regard, this Member recommends to his colleagues I submit the following editorial published by the Omaha World Herald on December 9, 2000, on this subject into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

IF THE SHOE FITS, EU SHOULD WEAR IT

The Florida vote-could mess has triggered a month-long eruption of contemptuous tut-tutting from European leaders and commentators. Finger-wagging scolds from London, Paris and other centers of European enlightenment have taken particular aim at the Electoral College.

One columnist grumped in The Times of London: "What moral authority would a man have to hold his finger over the nuclear trigger when he owed his office not to a majority but the byproduct of a bankrupt electoral college?"

A German writer made do by simply calling the Electoral College "idiotic."

Scratch those European criticisms hard enough, however, and you uncover what could be called, at best, inconsistency and at worst hypocrisy.

It turns out that one of Europe's most revered institutions, the European Union, has long governed itself by the very principles associated with the Electoral College. That is, the decision-making process for the EU, an association of 15 European countries linked by close economic and political ties, is structured so that small countries are given tremendous added weight and, thus, influence.

The best illustration is shown by comparing the EU's largest member, Germany, to its smallest, Luxembourg. Germany, with 82 million inhabitants, has a population some 205 times that of Luxembourg's of

400,000 (which, coincidentally, is about the size of Omaha's municipal population).

If the seats that Luxembourg and Germany have on the Council of Ministers, one of the EU's governing bodies, were assigned in proportion to the two countries' actual populations, Luxembourg would control two seats and Germany would control 410. Instead, Luxembourg has two seats and Germany has 10.

The advantage given to smaller states is even greater in another EU institution, the European Commission. There, the five largest countries each have two seats, while the rest have one. That arrangement resembles the situation in the U.S. Senate, where small states are each accorded precisely the same number of seats as big states.

The EU gives its smallest members one more advantage, allowing any country, regardless of its size, to exercise a veto on decisions involving taxation and foreign policy.

In short, if Europeans deride the Electoral College's rules as "idiotic," they should say the same about those of the European Union.

In recent days the EU's governing rules have been under negotiation as part of the organization's plans to expand its membership to former members of the Soviet bloc and other candidate nations. Representatives from the EU's smallest members have put up quite a fight to defend the prerogatives they've traditionally enjoyed, and protesters have demonstrated on behalf of the same cause, although it appears some watering down of the small-state advantages will ultimately result.

If European commentators want to understand many of the arguments behind the Electoral College, they don't have to look to America. The debate over those principles is taking place in their own back yard.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE GEORGE C. PAGE

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2000

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, the City of Los Angeles recently lost a generous philanthropist, Mr. George C. Page. Mr. Page was the founder of the George C. Page Museum of La Brea Discoveries and was a generous donor to Children's Hospital and Pepperdine University. I would like to take this opportunity to honor the contributions Mr. Page made to our community, and note in particular how influential his museum has been on the education of children of Los Angeles. I'd also like to submit for the record a copy of an article the Los Angeles Times ran on November 30, shortly after Mr. Page's death.

[From the Los Angeles Times, Nov. 30, 2000]

OBITUARY: GEORGE C. PAGE; PHILANTHROPIST
FOUNDED LA BREA MUSEUM

(By Myrna Oliver)

George C. Page, who hitchhiked to Los Angeles as a teenager with \$2.30 in his pocket, made a fortune with his Mission Pak holiday fruit gift boxes and land development and then donated millions to house treasures of the La Brea Tar Pits, which fascinated him, has died. He was 99. The founder of the George C. Page Museum of La Brea Discoveries in Hancock Park, he was also a major benefactor of Children's Hospital, Pepperdine University and other institutions that aid young people. He died Tuesday night in

Carpinteria, Pepperdine spokesman Jerry Derloshon said Wednesday. An eighth-grade dropout whose two children died as infants, Page, along with his late wife, Juliette, vowed to use what he earned to help children, first to survive and then to get an education.

He gave his money and name to the \$9-million George C. Page Building at Childrens Hospital; the George C. Page Youth Center in Hawthorne; the George C. Page Stadium at Loyola Marymount University; numerous buildings at Pepperdine, including two residence halls and a conference room; and programs at the USC School of Fine Arts, as well as the \$4-million La Brea museum.

But it was the museum, which opened April 15, 1977, that captured Page's passion and became his permanent monument. "This is so living, so immediate," he told *The Times* in 1981, stretching his arms wide to indicate the distinctive burial-mound structure. "It's like giving flowers that I can smell while I'm still here." The saga of George C. Page, how he wound up in Los Angeles and how he made the money to put his name on those donations, all started with an orange. The piece of fruit was given to him by his teacher when he was a 12-year-old schoolboy in his native Fremont, Neb. "I was so awed by the beauty of that piece of fruit that I said, 'I hope someday I can live where that came from,'" he recalled.

So at 16, he headed west. He lived in a \$3-a-month attic room in downtown Los Angeles, ate Hershey bars and 10-cent bowls of bean soup fortified with crackers and ketchup. He paid for all that—and saved \$1,000 in his first year—working days as a busboy (which he first thought meant driving a bus) and nights as a soda jerk. Come Christmas, the youth decided to send some of California's beautiful fruit to his mother and brothers in Nebraska. Innately adept at packaging, he lined the box with red paper and decorated it with tinsel. Thirty-seven other roomers in his boardinghouse offered to pay him if he would fashion similar packages to send to their Midwestern relatives. He was in business. Page launched Mission Pak in 1917, pioneering the now-ubiquitous marketing of California fruit in holiday gift packages in an era when fresh fruit was rarely seen during the frozen winters back East.

Working alone, he bought the fruit, wrote the advertising copy and found new ways to "appeal to the eye to open the purse." One marketing tool was the jingle that became a part of Southern California history: "A gift so bright, so gay, so light. Give the Mission Pak magic way."

On an occasional day off, Page played tourist—going to ostrich races in Pasadena or marveling over the oozing pools of asphalt known around the world as La Brea Tar Pits. Why, he mused, must a person travel seven miles to see the bones removed from those pits, poorly displayed as they were, at the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History in Exposition Park? It was more than half a century before Page could realize his vision of properly showcasing the 40,000-year-old fossils. In that time, he learned a great deal about packaging, business and getting things done.

Visiting France when he was 21, Page encountered newly invented cellophane and began importing it to enhance his gift boxes. During World War II, he became an expert in dehydration, distributing dried fruit and other foods to the armed forces and then to the public. He started a company to make spiffy auto bodies, salvaging battered but functional cars.

After he sold Mission Pak in 1946, Page delved into developing, building industrial and commercial parks and leasing space to the defense and aerospace industries and the

federal government. Packaging was even important in real estate, he decided, in the form of fine landscaping to enhance complexes. By the time he was ready to create his museum, Page was already retirement age—so old that some county officials feared he wouldn't finish what he started. But even in his later years, Page walked miles each day, saying a person should take care of his body as one does a fine watch. He bought a motor home and made it his Hancock Park field office, arriving at 7 a.m. daily for three years to supervise the construction of the museum. He studied architectural firms and hired two young men, Willis E. Fagan and Franklin W. Thornton, who proposed a "burial mound," half underground, that would conserve energy and preserve the park's green space. He hired an expert from Brigham Young University and others who had worked on Disneyland attractions to develop steel-rod and wire methods of presenting the prized fossils so that they would not be just "bones, bones, bones." And with a promise of free plane fare, rent and a television set, he lured a Pennsylvania couple to Los Angeles to paint murals of La Brea as it had appeared when the skeletons belonged to live animals roaming the area.

He examined the most comfortable materials—carpet to walk on, not marble—and limited the museum to something that could be easily covered in about an hour. When solving a problem required money, Page gave that as well as his expertise. When his \$3-million building threatened to remain empty because of county officials' penury, he donated \$1 million more for the exhibits. He even rescued one discarded skeleton of a dire wolf from the trash at the Museum of Natural History. And he paid for the expensive wrought-iron fence constructed a few years after the museum opened to prevent nighttime motorbike riders from scaling the sodded sides of the building, preserving the slopes for children (not to mention adults) to roll down during the day.

Page remained a hands-on patron years after his museum dream was realized. He knew where a photographer could get the best angle for a shot of a giant sloth and could tell at a glance if a plant in the atrium was sickly. And avid benefit-goer himself, Page opened his museum to charities for fund-raisers and found that the well-heeled loved dancing around the imperial mammoth and the 9,000-year-old woman and among the dire wolves, saber-toothed cats and condors.

Although experts initially questioned the self-described museum buff's credentials for creating the facility, they eventually had to admit that Page knew—or at least was willing to learn—what he was doing. Along with the 5 million visitors to the museum in its first 10 years were scores of museum directors from around the world, eager to inspect what the amateur had wrought. "The thing that made me feel awfully good," the dapper, slightly built Page told *The Times* in 1982, "[was that] they said, 'George Page, we have never been in a museum with things displayed so well.'" The philanthropist is survived by a son, John Haan of Carpinteria, and two grandsons.

FLORIDA LEGISLATURE HAS GONE TO FAR

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2000

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I commend Bruce Ackerman, a professor at Yale

Law School. Mr. Ackerman, in his December 12, 2000 New York Times editorial, points out that the Florida legislature, if allowed to name electors on its own authority would establish a "devastating precedent." His argument is very straight forward and clear: "it is absurd to believe that the United States Constitution would allow one state legislature to usurp a national election." Article II of the Constitution grants Congress power to set the day on which electors are selected. This is why in 1845 Congress established a level playing field among the states by requiring them to hold elections on the same day. Not since 1845, Mr. Ackerman points out, has a state legislature "tried the trick that Florida's legislature is now attempting—intervening to swing the election to its favored candidate." I strongly agree with Mr. Ackerman's argument that the Florida State legislature's attempt to choose its own electors is illegal under Article II of U.S. Constitution. I submit the following article into the Congressional Record.

[From the New York Times OP-ED Tuesday, December 12, 2000]

AS FLORIDA GOES

(By Bruce Ackerman)

While the Supreme Court may ultimately determine the fate of this election, Florida's Legislature is determining the destiny of future presidential contests.

The constitutional issues raised by the Legislature's impending action to name a slate of presidential electors for Gov. George W. Bush are far more important than whether Mr. Bush or Vice President Al Gore gets to the White House. If the Legislature is allowed to name electors on its own authority, it will establish a devastating precedent.

In the next close presidential election, what is to prevent party leaders in a swing state from deciding the election once the Florida strategy has been legitimized? The dominant party in such a state could simply string out a final tally until the end and then rush into special legislative session to vote in a partisan slate of electors at the finish line. If one state legislature succumbs to this temptation, another legislature—controlled by the opposing party—may well follow suit, creating a partisan battle far worse than what we have already witnessed in Florida.

The Florida Legislature may believe it has the power to name the state's electors. But it is absurd to believe that the United States Constitution would allow one state legislature to usurp a national election. An examination of two provisions in Article II of the Constitution shows why.

One provision grants state legislatures power over the manner in which electors are chosen. A second grants Congress power to set the day on which these electors are selected. The first provision appears to give the Florida Legislature the right to name its own slate. Many legislatures exercised this power during the early decades of the Republic. And as far as the Constitution is concerned, there would be no legal obstacle if Florida's Legislature decided that in future elections it would deprive its citizens of the direct right to vote on Presidential electors.

But the Florida Legislature is perfectly happy to have its citizens vote for President. It simply wants to preempt the Florida Supreme Court's effort to figure out who won the election last month. And in trying to act retroactively, the legislature violates the second constitutional provision, which grants Congress power to set a uniform national day for choosing electors.

Acting under this power in 1845, Congress established a level playing field among the