

in politics in Washington, D.C. got to know Steve.

The reason I am talking about Steve today is because I think that Steve Green represented the very best of one of the most important aspects of this democracy, and that is journalism.

Steve was a guy who was in the middle, in the heart of a lot of the very fundamental, earthshaking events in the last 34 years in Washington, D.C., and he was in the middle of the Watergate scandal. He covered a lot of national stories that had a great deal of importance to this country and to this town.

After he left the position of bureau chief for Copley, he went on to become the editor who covered the Pentagon and the United States military, a very, very important issue, especially for those of us from San Diego.

Throughout this stint of covering very important issues, issues which often revealed the sordid side of politics, like the bribery scandals and, to some degree, the Watergate scandal, Steve Green was a real person, was a real human being.

He was a guy who had a great sense of humor, a great sense of evenness, a great sense of decency. And those people, people with good hearts, are very important to this democracy, especially in a position in the center of journalism in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Speaker, I got to know Steve when he was covering the San Diego congressional delegation, and you noticed in Steve's stories, Steve was a guy who got all the details. You could not pull the wool over his eyes. He knew what was going on, and he always kind of knew the story behind the story.

He also wrote those stories in a way that was very even, very fair-handed, without an agenda, and I think with a little sense of humor also, and with a sense of civility.

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With this entire city searching for civility and, of course, the President asking for it and using that as a trademark for this new administration, it is guys like Steve Green in Copley Press who really manifest that civility, because they do it in writing evenhanded stories and portraying to the great public out there what is really happening in Washington, D.C.

While sometimes there are sordid sides and bad sides for the story and stories that reveal some of the darker parts of human nature, he also liked to write a story that would reveal the better sides of human nature and justice and triumph in the end and the good things about America.

To be able to cover this period in which a lot of journalists turn to cynicism when looking at Washington, D.C. and this great Capitol, this people's House, to remember Steve Green sitting here in the Speaker's lobby with his pencil and his paper out taking an interview after a vote on the floor or

after something happened, and doing it in his evenhanded manner, his optimistic manner, always looking for the good aspect of the story was something that was very important to myself and to the other Members of the congressional delegation.

So Steve passed away, Mr. Speaker. He leaves a great legacy for Copley Press and for anybody who wants to be a journalist and cover the great national theater of action which is in Washington, D.C. with the Congress and the President and all of the aspects of a new administration like the one that is in place right now.

In fact, Alison, his daughter, sent me a few notes on Steve's life the other night, and I could tell from her conversation that she is kind of a chip off the old block. But he leaves Ginny. His widow is a wonderful lady. We all wish all the best to Steve's family.

EDUCATION BUDGET AND VALUES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TOOMEY). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ETHERIDGE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about education, the budget, and something those of us in North Carolina call North Carolina values.

Mr. Speaker, we have often heard that the projected budget surplus, assuming it materializes like predicted, is the people's money. Of course it is. It is the people's money. We agree on that. It should be spent on the people's priorities. The budget must reflect the values of the American people. It must affirm their long-term dreams and help them meet their daily needs.

This Congress should invest in a better future for the American people. We must build the human infrastructure. We need for an economy that creates the opportunity for prosperity for all Americans who are willing to work for it.

We must invest in long-term research in science and technology and engineering that will yield a long-term benefit but may not be seen as benefiting a short-term political gain. But it certainly will produce a strong economy down the road.

We must invest in education and lifelong learning so that Americans will have the most skilled work force in the world and continue to exert global economic leadership. We must repair the torn farm safety net so that farm families will have the opportunity, not only to survive, but to thrive.

Unfortunately, this House today passed along party lines a budget full of missed opportunities and misplaced priorities. Do not get me wrong. I strongly support responsible tax relief for working families in America. But this budget will run our economy in the ditch, and it will turn us to the days of large budget deficits, economic stagnation, high unemployment, and, yes, inflation.

I come from North Carolina, and we say North Carolina values call for balancing your budget every year and responsible policies. But this budget sends us on a river boat gamble with America's future.

Mr. Speaker, the other day I visited Anderson Creek Elementary School in my home county in North Carolina, and I saw the good work they are doing every day to prepare for a bright future in this country for those children. We are blessed with some of the most wonderful teachers and staff and dedicated parents and, yes, bright, hard-working students at Anderson Creek.

They are going like gang busters on a program we call Key to the Future. It is a reading award we give out each year. Here are some of the totals, and I would like to share with my colleagues what good work is being done on the ground out there where teachers work every day.

At Anderson Creek, of the 683 students enrolled this year, 500 one of those students have read more than 100 books on their own with their parents in the evening. In the kindergarten class alone, they read 24,883 books. In the first grade, they have read 37,514 books. In the second grade, the students have read 40,130 books.

As a former county commissioner, State legislator and two-term elected State superintendent, it does my heart good to see local communities throwing themselves into the education effort. It holds so much promise for a bright future for these children and for all the rest of us.

Mr. Speaker, the folks in Anderson Creek demonstrated the kind of priorities that Congress ought to be adopting. We should forgo the short-term appeal of an easy path and choose, instead, the right path. It takes vision and hard work, but in the end, the payoff is well worth the effort.

We missed an opportunity today to put money in the budget for school construction. I will talk about that at another time. But those are the kind of values that the people of North Carolina sent me to Congress to represent, and those are the values this Congress should embrace when making important decisions on the budget, taxes, and appropriations.

Today's vote was, unfortunately, a big step in the wrong direction. But, hopefully, Congress will get its priorities straight and enact policies that honor what I call North Carolina values and reflect the kind of priorities that the American people truly want and expect us to deal with.

CLEVELAND PASSES ISSUE 14; A BOND TO FIX CRUMBLING SCHOOLS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, May 8, the voters of the City

of Cleveland did a great thing. They voted overwhelmingly to pass issue 14, a bond issue needed to fix our crumbling school buildings.

This was our T-shirt. It said "Safe schools for Cleveland's children. The cause is right. The time is now." The voters of the City of Cleveland said that the cause was right, and they realized that the time was now.

It is a day of celebration for the children, for the teachers, for the schools, for the administrators, for the maintenance workers, for the custodians, for labor, for the neighborhoods, for property owners, for businesses, and for our country.

The bond issue was a bond issue for \$338 million. We are very excited about it. Particularly because it made us eligible for a \$500 million match from the State of Ohio to fix the crumbling school buildings of the City of Cleveland.

The voters looked past mismanagement, failure on the part of prior school boards to the needs of the children of the City of Cleveland and the need for safe schools.

I want to congratulate a number of people who participated in this great bond issue yesterday: Mayor Michael R. White, who is the mayor of the City of Cleveland, the first mayor to take over the responsibility for oversight over the Cleveland public school system.

I want to celebrate our new, CEO, Barbara Byrd Bennett. For the past 2½ years, she has brought hope, energy, and optimism to the City of Cleveland at Cleveland schools.

I want to congratulate the school board chair, Reverend Hilton Smith; his vice chair is Maggie Hopkins; and other members of the school board; the president of the Cleveland Teachers Union, Richard DeColibus; his vice chair is Merle Johnson and Michael Churney; the athletic chair, Leonard Jackson; campaign chair, Arnold Pinkney, who has forever, it seems, run campaigns in the City of Cleveland and been quite successful; to his senior advisor on the campaign, Steve Rusniak; and the media manager, Alan Seiffulah.

My co-chairs for the campaign, and I should say that I had the privilege to cochair the campaign for the bond issue. My co-chairs were the Reverend ET Caviness of Greater Abyssinia Baptist Church and John Ryan, the head of the AFL-CIO.

I want to congratulate other organizations that supported Cleveland in this great effort, the Black Elected Democrats of Cleveland, Ohio; the 11th Congressional District Caucus for the New Millennium; the NAACP; Urban League; Growth Association; Bishop Pilla, the head of the Catholic Diocese; the Baptist Ministers Conference; the Southern Christian Leadership Conference; the New Future Outlook League; and an organization called BUILD, Black United In Labor and Democracy.

Finally, I want to congratulate all of the elected officials and organizations who I did not mention in this statement who were willing to sign on to this important issue.

I have to say that, as we debate the budget here in Congress and as we talk about the importance of education and a lack of Federal funding for school construction, I am so happy and even more proud that I come from the City of Cleveland, Ohio where we stepped up to the plate yesterday and voted to fund school improvement in our area.

I want to thank God. I want to thank Cleveland for hearing and responding to the needs of Cleveland's children. The time is right. The time is now.

NEW ADMINISTRATION'S ENERGY POLICY IS TO DRILL, NOT CONSERVATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDermott) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. McDermott. Mr. Speaker, the news magazines of this country often give us warning what is going to happen. If one wants to know what is going to happen in the United States, always look at California. No matter what is happening, if California has got something going on, it is going to be everywhere in the United States in the next 3 years.

Now, if one picks up this week's Newsweek magazine, there is an article by Allan Sloan called "Profiting From the Darkness." It really lays out the rape and pillage of the California electrical consumers over the course of the last few years, last few months actually.

Now, who saves us from this kind of assault on the consumers? Well, the government does. But in January, we put into this country a new dynasty or brought back an old dynasty. George, II of the oil dynasty took the White House; and he brought with him some of his counts and his dukes and so forth. The Duke of Wyoming became the Vice President. He has worked for an oil company, as did the President. The Secretary of Commerce, he came from an oil company. Go right down the line and one can see that the oil dynasty is fully in charge in this country.

Now, the question that has to be raised here is how are we going to deal with the energy problems in this country. Now, there are only three things one can do. Well, there are three major things one can do. One is increase the supply, the second is conserve, and the third is develop alternative energy sources.

Now, the Vice President of the United States met with all the legislators from California, Washington, and Oregon, and Idaho and Montana and told us this is not a Federal problem. It is not a Federal problem. This is a State problem. Whatever happens to

California, that is their problem. Whatever happens to Washington, it is their problem.

When the issue of conservation was raised, he said conservation may be a sign of personal virtue, but it is not a sufficient basis for sound comprehensive energy policy.

Now, his answer to our problems in this country is to drill, drill in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, drill under the Great Lakes, even go down to the President's brother's State, Florida, and drill in the shelf off the coast of Florida. The Governor of Florida told his brother to go on back home and stay out of his local waters. But that is the solution being offered, drill wherever you can, and maybe we can fix it.

Now, the fact is that the American Council on Energy Efficiency Economy estimates that gradually raising the fuel efficiency on automobiles and small trucks to 35 miles per gallon would save a million and a half barrels a day in 2010 and four and a half million barrels a day by 2020.

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That is seven times what could be attained if we drill in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. There is no reason to be drilling. We ought to be raising the conservation standards in this country.

The energy czar the President appointed also says that we ought to have 1,300 new generating plants in the next 20 years. This comes from an arm of the Energy Department that has always pushed coal and gas and oil. But at the same time they are using that study to say we have got to build 1,300 new plants, they conveniently overlook another Energy Department study, called "Scenarios For a Clean Energy Future," which is put out by the Energy Department's national laboratories. This study concludes that efficiency measures alone could obviate the need for building 610 of those 1,300 plants. Conservation alone would cut it in half. In fact, constructing buildings that were more efficient would eliminate the need for 100 plants. Air-conditioning, clothes dryers, water heater changes could save another 180 plants.

But our government is designed to help the oil industry, make it possible for them to drill everywhere. And this spring and summer, as they are now talking about \$3-a-gallon gasoline, when our constituents are riding around in a car and they stop and pay three bucks for a gallon of gasoline, who is the person they should thank? The President of the United States. He wants us to use that. We do not hear anything out of this administration about conservation or about alternative energy sources.

Now, here is a simple little fact: every day in California, seven times the energy that is used in California falls out of the sky in the form of solar energy. Seven times. There is no energy crisis in California, and we ought to be talking about a lot of other things besides drilling for oil.