

and his will, so he pushed himself. By sheer determination, he overcame obstacles to which most men would succumb.

How hard did he work? Well, not only did he farm the soil, he maintained a large cow-calf operation, and in 1952 he started milking some cows, too, to make enough money to pay the bills. He not only tried, he succeeded, and work hard he did. In fact, he never missed a single milking of those cows until he took one day off 14 years later. Even more impressive than his unflinching work ethic was this, he never complained. He never even talked about wanting to take it easier, take a vacation, sleep in just one morning. He had a job to do and a purpose for his work. He showed up every single day, and he did it. Falling to sleep night after night completely exhausted, he would rise well before dawn the next day to do the same all over again.

Secondly, Madam Speaker, as I already mentioned, soon my parents will celebrate their 63rd anniversary. The years and the hard work have taken a toll on them both. Mom broke her hip a couple of weeks ago, and is recovering in a hospital back home. Dad's memory is not quite so crisp any more. Lately he struggles to remember my name. It is a terrible disease, and a tough thing to witness. But he remembers who he loves and is even more devoted and tender to my mom than ever.

In 63 years, and I lived next door to him for most of those years, I never worried once where he spent the night or if he loved my mother. A wise person once said the greatest gift a father can give their children is to love their mother. Well done, dad, I never doubted. Once again, you provided me a perfect role model for my own marriage.

Madam Speaker, my dad gave me a third gift by his profound example. Regardless how deep the snow was, how much hay we had to bale, I knew right where we would be at 8 Sunday morning, in the third pew on the left of that same little Catholic church in which he was baptized. Giving back to God was simply nonnegotiable, because he knew he was blessed and wanted to say thanks.

Faith, family and the value of hard work, he taught me the most valuable lessons of life, and I am eternally grateful.

Madam Speaker, at a time when good examples seem hard to find, leaders often shun the responsibility to be role models. When real heroes are usually found only in history books, I have had the privilege of spending most of my life side by side with one of the all-time best. I think of my dad as a truly great American because he embodies the spirit of America, to try when the odds are against you, to love and have faith unconditionally, to dream big dreams and chase them and sacrifice for them, and to love this land, America, where the spirit inside your soul has the freedom to be as big and endless as this great Nation herself.

Madam Speaker, it is for those reasons I ask to have this tribute entered into the record of the 108th Congress of the United States of America commending the life and contribution of Joseph C. Beauprez of Lafayette, Colorado, on the occasion of his 85th birthday. Happy birthday, dad.

MARTIAL LAW CONCERNS

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

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, I come to the House floor tonight to talk about an issue which I think is of grave concern to this country.

I recently read an article published in the Sydney, Australia, Morning Herald entitled "Foundations Are in Place for Martial Law in the United States."

The author is a man named Ritt Goldstein, an investigative reporter for the Herald, and he said that recent pronouncements from the Bush administration and national security initiatives put in place in the Reagan era could see internment camps and martial law in the United States.

When President Ronald Reagan was considering invading Nicaragua, he issued a series of executive orders which provided FEMA with broad powers in the event of a crisis, such as the violent and widespread internal dissent or national opposition against a U.S. military invasion abroad. They were never used.

But with the looming possibility of a U.S. invasion of Iraq, recent pronouncements by President Bush's domestic security chief, Tom Ridge, and an official with the Civil Rights Commission should fire concerns that these powers could be employed or a de facto drift into their deployment in the future.

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On the 20th of July, the Detroit Free Press ran a story entitled "Arabs in U.S. Could Be Held, Official Warns." The story referred to a member of the Civil Rights Commission who foresaw the possibility of internment camps for Arab Americans. FEMA has practiced for such an occasion.

FEMA, whose main role is disaster response, is also responsible for handling U.S. domestic unrest.

From 1982 to 1984, Colonel Oliver North assisted FEMA in drafting its civil defense preparations. Details of those plans emerged during the 1987 Iran-Contra scandal. They included executive orders providing for suspension of the Constitution, the imposition of martial law, internment camps, and the turning over of government to the President and FEMA.

A Miami Herald article on the 5th of July, 1987, reported that the former FEMA director's, Louis Guiffrida's, deputy, John Brinkerhoff, handled the martial law portion of the planning.

The planning was said to be similar to one Mr. Guiffrida had developed earlier to combat a national uprising by black militants. It provided for the detention of at least 21 million American Negroes in assembly centers or relocation camps. Today, Mr. Brinkerhoff is with the highly influential Anser Institute for Homeland Security. Following a request by the Pentagon in January that the U.S. military be allowed the option of deploying troops on American streets, the institute in February published a paper by Mr. Brinkerhoff arguing the legality of this. He alleged that the Posse Comitatus Act of 1878, which has long been accepted as prohibiting such deployments, had simply been misunderstood and misapplied. The preface to the article also provided the revelation that the national plan he had worked on under Mr. Guiffrida was approved by Reagan and actions were taken to implement it.

By April, the U.S. military had created a Northern Command to aid homeland security. Reuters reported that the command is mainly expected to play a supporting role to local authorities. However, Mr. Ridge, the Director of Homeland Security, has just advocated a review of U.S. law regarding the use of military for law enforcement duties.

Disturbingly, and it just really should disturb people, the full facts and contents of Mr. Reagan's national plan remain uncertain. This is in part because President Bush took the unusual step of sealing the Reagan Presidential papers last November. However, many of the key figures of the Reagan era are part of the present administration, including John Poindexter, to whom Oliver North later reported.

At the time of the Reagan initiatives, the then-Attorney General, William French Smith, a Republican, wrote to the National Security Adviser, Robert McFarlane: "I believe that the role assigned to the Federal Emergency Management Agency in the revised executive order exceeds its proper function as a coordinating agency for emergency preparedness. This department and others have repeatedly raised serious policy and legal objections to an emergency czar role for FEMA."

Criticism of the Bush administration's response to September 11 echoes Mr. SMITH's warning. On June 7 of last year, the former Presidential counsel, John Dean, spoke of America sliding into a, quote, "constitutional dictatorship," close quote, and martial law.

The reason I raise this issue is that I come from a State where in 1941 under executive order by the President, 9661, we rounded up all the Japanese Americans in this country and put them in concentration camps. We have set in place the mechanism to do that again and we must not, we cannot sacrifice the Constitution in this rush to war that we are doing in Iraq.

DISTURBING EVENTS IN PUERTO RICAN POLITICS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BLACKBURN). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. ACEVEDO-VILÁ) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ACEVEDO-VILÁ. Madam Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of this body some disturbing events in Puerto Rican politics during recent years. Specifically, I will talk about the corrupt and unethical actions of Puerto Rico's statehood leaders. I would like to start by saying that for many years Puerto Rico enjoyed an impeccable reputation of clean government. I am sad to say that this tradition was tainted by former Governor Pedro Rossello and his administration. During his administration, as Puerto Rico later discovered, there were many corruption schemes and rotten administrators pocketing millions of Federal and local funds. The irony is that the leadership of the Statehood Party, the party led by Governor Rossello for almost 10 years, became the leaders of the first corrupt government in the history of Puerto Rico. A party that claims to admire American democracy, a party that wants Puerto Rico to become a State of the union, was the party that embezzled Federal funds that belonged to our elders, our sick, and our children.

In 1997, the statehooders came to Washington to push for a statehood bill. They used millions of dollars in lobbying and political support to convince Congress that all Puerto Ricans wanted to become a State and used millions to silence the other voices from Puerto Rico. Now we know that this campaign was partially financed by illegal money.

It is amazing that, even today, the leaders of the Statehood Party are unwilling to recognize the depth of the corruption and continue to try to spin the issue as one of political persecution. They have gone as far as accusing the U.S. District Attorney's office in Puerto Rico of promoting prosecutions just for political reasons. They have no remorse.

As a result of the Federal and local investigations of this statehood corruption scheme, during the last months we have witnessed the conviction and indictment of many of the highest-ranking statehood leaders. In this chart, you will be able to see how far corruption went under the Statehood Party's government in the island. This is the Statehood Party's Hall of Shame. The list of corrupt officials and the depth of the corruption are impressive. Here are some of the cases.

In the legislative branch, Speaker Edison Mislá-Aldarrondo, Speaker of the House, convicted.

Jose Granados-Navedo, Vice President of the House, resigned under scandal.

Norberto Nieves, legislator, convicted.

Jose Nunez, legislator, indicted.

Anibal Marrero, Vice President of the Senate, resigned under scandal.

Senator Victor Marrero, convicted.

Senator Freddie Valentin, convicted.

Let us see the executive branch: The personal assistant to the Governor, Angie Rivera, the person that had the key to the Governor's office, convicted.

Marcos Morell, secretary-general, executive director of the party, disbarred by the Supreme Court of Puerto Rico because of conflict of interest doing business with the government.

Bernardo Negrón, president of the Federation of Statehood Party Mayors, convicted.

Andres Barbeito, director of the Pensions Administration, indicted.

Luis Dubon, the owner of the Statehood Party headquarters building, convicted.

Angel Luis Ocasio, deputy chief of staff to the Governor, convicted.

Eduardo Burgos, another deputy chief of staff to the Governor, convicted.

Jose Cobian, deputy finance director of the Statehood Party, indicted.

Victor Fajardo, Secretary of Education, convicted.

Oscar Ramos, administrator of the State Insurance Fund, under special prosecutor investigation.

Daniel Pagan, secretary of the Natural Resources Department, indicted.

Although Mr. Rossello has not been indicted, the extension of these corruption schemes leads to one of two possible explanations: number one, he was part of this scheme; or, number two, he is such an inept administrator that he should not be trusted again with the duty of managing a government or any institution.

When I first arrived as a freshman in Congress 2 years ago, I was informed that millions of dollars in Federal funds had been frozen or were at risk of being frozen because of this situation. The task of Governor Calderon and me was to assure compliance with Federal requirements to make the funds once again available. The projects and programs affected include child care, nutritional assistance, title I, Head Start, TANF, the urban train project, housing and E-rate.

After just 2 years, our efforts brought the desired results: the new administration in Puerto Rico implemented measures to comply with the Federal programs' requirements and the Federal Government of Puerto Rico was able to receive the frozen funds.

I want to clarify that the Statehood Party Hall of Shame has nothing to do with the national parties here. It is a cancer in the statehood movement. For example, Pedro Rossello was a well-known and active Democrat, and Edison Mislá-Aldarrondo, the former Speaker of the House, was the Republican Party National Committee man. The common denominator is they belonged to the leadership of the Statehood Party.

When the leaders of the Statehood Party come to Washington to lobby be-

hind the backs of the people of Puerto Rico, I urge you to ask them, where were they when their party leaders were using Federal funds for personal and political purposes?

REMARKS OF CONGRESSMAN ANIBAL ACEVEDO-VILÁ TO BE ENTERED INTO RECORD

Madam Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of this body some disturbing events in Puerto Rican politics during recent years. Specifically, I will talk about the corrupt and unethical actions of Puerto Rico's statehood leaders.

I would like to start by saying that for many years Puerto Rico enjoyed an impeccable reputation of clean government and true public service. Leaders such as Luis Muñoz Marín, Roberto Sánchez, Rafael Hernández Colón, and Luis Ferré, earned the trust and respect of the people for their honesty in the management of the public treasure.

I am sad to say that this tradition was tainted by former Governor Pedro Rosselló and his administration. In 1992 Mr. Rosselló took office with a platform of government reform and ambitious public projects. He governed until the year 2000. During his administration, as Puerto Rico later discovered, there were many corruption schemes and rotten administrators pocketing millions of federal and local funds.

The irony is that the leadership of the Statehood party—the party led by Governor Rosselló for almost 10 years—became the leaders of the first corrupt government in the history of Puerto Rico. A party that claims to admire American democracy, a party that wants Puerto Rico to become a state of the Union was the party that embezzled federal funds that belonged to our elders, our sick and our children!

In 1997, the statehooders came to Washington to push for a statehood bill. They used millions of dollars in lobbying and in political support to convince Congress that all Puerto Ricans wanted to become a state and used millions to silence the other voices from Puerto Rico. For years many of you in Congress witnessed the costly and aggressive campaign that the Puerto Rico statehood leaders orchestrated to advocate for statehood. Now we know that this campaign was partially financed by illegal money. I wonder how much more of that money was dirty money!

Moreover, Mr. Rosselló disregarded for years pleas by the opposition, by the press, by the civil society in general to investigate his government and his party. Instead of looking into the allegations he decided to conceal the facts, to protect his friend and to defend the corrupt members of his administration. Fortunately the federal authorities did their job in investigating and prosecuting the criminals and the people of Puerto Rico judged the statehood party in the polls.

It is amazing that even today the leaders of the statehood party are unwilling to recognize the depth of the corruption, and continue to try to spin the issue as one of political persecution. They have gone as far as accusing the US District Attorney's Office for the District of Puerto Rico of promoting prosecutions just for political reasons. They have openly said that the Federal Court system and local authorities are part of a conspiracy to criminalize statehood, again showing an utter disregard for the truth. They showed no remorse!

Do not get me wrong, the statehood movement is a legitimate movement and has many