

Mr. Speaker, I ask that Jack Thomas' June 20 article from the Boston Globe be included in the RECORD, and I recommend it highly to my colleagues as an example of the type of politicians who valued friendships on both sides of the aisle and whom we can be proud of.

[From the Boston Globe, June 20, 2005]

THE LONER IN WINTER

(By Jack Thomas)

Having finished his cheeseburger and 7-Up at Doyle's Cafe in Jamaica Plain, Kevin H. White, the mayor of Boston from 1968 to 1983, got up from the corner booth and followed his pal of more than 40 years, former state treasurer Robert Q. Crane, who led the way into a back room so they could say hello to the monthly meeting of Romeo, a group of about 30 retired politicians, judges, reporters, and other scalawags from Boston's political past.

At 75, White is still trim, still handsome, and still dapper of dress, and he's still got the square jaw, the wispy white hair, the twinkling blue eyes, and the smile as wide as Commonwealth Avenue.

But for the man who defined politics in Boston over three different decades, these are difficult days.

Having gone through surgery that removed two-thirds of his stomach in 1970 and having survived a heart attack in 2001, he lives with a pacemaker. White always loved talking politics, but even simple conversation is a challenge now for two reasons. First, he is deaf in his right ear, and second, Alzheimer's disease is robbing his mind of those colorful memories of the days when he ran the city from the big office overlooking Faneuil Hall and, in the judgment of many, lifted Boston out of the doldrums and helped establish its reputation as one of America's favorite cities.

As Alzheimer's takes its toll, The Loner in Love With His City, as White was called, is even more of a loner these days and reluctant to speak publicly. But he girds himself and trails Crane into the back room, then brightens to hear applause from the gaggle of men, old and gray, who once had a say in running Boston a generation or two ago.

White shakes hands with former attorney general Robert Quinn and with Bernard "Bunny" Solomon, aide to governor Foster Furculo in the 1950s and now a trustee at Northeastern University, and then White stands in back, alongside Crane. "There are a couple of people here I want to introduce," says Bobby Hannan, a political reporter for the Boston Herald 40 years ago. "It's good to see Mr. Kevin White we're pleased to see you and your smiling face."

Most of the men put down their salad forks to applaud again.

"And," says Hannan, "former treasurer Bob Crane."

"You may not realize it," says Crane, never at a loss for blarney, "but this is the best luncheon you'll ever have, and the reason is that your guest is Francine Gannon," he says, pointing to one of Boston's wilier politicians, who served as an aide to congressmen Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill and Joseph Moakley and now to Senate President Robert E. Travaglini.

"Mr. Mayor," Hannan says deferentially, "would you want to say a word of greeting?" White winces.

He's unsure how to respond, uncertain what to say.

For an awkward instant, the room is quiet, until Crane leans in to White and says softly, "Say you're glad to be here."

White brightens, takes a step forward, smiles, and says in a strong voice, "I couldn't be more pleased to be here."

More applause. Do they cheer because he survived so many challenges in politics or because he just survived a challenge of old age?

A moment later, smiling and waving, White follows Crane from the room, out of the cafe, and into a car for the drive back to his home on Beacon Hill, where the surroundings are familiar, where he feels safer, and where the struggle with Alzheimer's is once again private.

White and Crane are the Romulus and Remus of Boston politics. Their friendship dates to the 1960s, when they campaigned together in Western Massachusetts, Crane for treasurer and White for secretary of state, an office he held from 1961 to 1967. The friendship grew through tennis holidays on Cape Cod and golf weekends in Florida and family vacations in Barbados and the Soviet Union, and who can say how many nights of counting votes and all the triumphs and losses and the laughter, too, that finally bring them together, as two old men, in a corner booth at Doyle's on a chilly afternoon in June.

Over White's left shoulder is a snapshot of the three who have served as mayor for nearly four decades: White, Raymond Flynn, and Thomas Menino, photographed under a Pickwick Ale sign. Over White's right shoulder is a copy of the Globe, Nov. 8, 1967, the first day of what would become the New Boston.

"White Goes In as Mayor with 5 New Councilors," reads a headline about White's victory over Louise Day Hicks. A photograph of the party at the Sheraton Plaza shows White, then 38, Hicks, Senator Edward M. Kennedy, governor John A. Volpe, and, in the background, Crane.

"I'm always in the background," he grumbles. "All my life, you've been putting me in the back row."

The political wars are in back of White now, and the punch and counterpunch of politics have faded into lore.

How much does he miss it?

"What?"

Crane: "How much do you miss being [in] office?"

White: "I loved every minute I was there but . . ." He pauses.

Crane: "The answer is . . ."

White: "Are you speaking for me or for us?"

Crane: "Us. We're sophisticated enough to know that our day is gone, and that we shouldn't be around bothering people."

Around Crane, White laughs heartily, but in conversation, he often asks Crane and a guest the same question three and four times in an hour: How long have we known each other? Where did you grow up?

How does he feel on a scale of 1 to 10?

"How what?"

How do you feel?

"About what?"

How is your health?

"I'm in good shape. I could beat you at anything," he says to Crane.

But your memory is not what it used to be?

"Well, that's for sure."

"You are forgetful," says Crane.

"Yeah, I am. But I don't travel or do things that would make that something to worry about."

You mean you spend more time with friends than with strangers.

"That's a good line, yeah, much more."

White brightens at a question about his daughter Patricia, who announced last week that she is a candidate for City Council.

How much of a role will he play? "I don't know. If she asked me . . . I take pride in watching her, and I don't want to interfere."

As mayor, White maintained a hideaway office on Tremont Street. During a private

interview late in his final term, he was asked about his legacy.

"The Prudential Center is [Mayor] Johnny Hynes. Center Plaza and City Hall belong to [Mayor] John Collins. But Faneuil Hall?" he said, leaning forward and pointing his thumb to his chest. "Faneuil Hall is mine!"

As he walks around Boston today, what gives him that level of satisfaction?

"I don't think of it much, but if I had to . . . if I thought . . . or if I were walking with you I don't think it's because of anything I've done. I'm not being coy, but I think it's the town, because Boston has a certain . . . what's the word?"

"Pride?" says Crane.

"Pride's a good word," says White.

"Spirit?"

"Spirit?" says White. "Yeah, Boston's got . . . is it charm?"

"Whatever it's got, Kevin, people say you were the best thing that happened to Boston. People walk right by me to get to you, which doesn't set too well with me."

White is embarrassed by the description of himself as the best thing that's happened to Boston.

"I'm not being a con merchant, but I don't think that's really true. A lot of people contribute. Don't you think the people of Boston have a certain . . ."

He pauses, tapping the table in frustration.

"It has nothing to do with me, but Boston has and I can't quite . . . it's a certain . . ."

His face lights up as the word comes to mind. "Boston has a certain panache!"

At times, White and Crane seem as scripted as a Marx Brothers routine.

"I didn't recognize you in this 1979 picture," says Crane, "because you've got your hands in your own pockets."

"Aw, don't listen to him," says White, "honest to God."

How does White spend his time these days?

"Well, I don't see many people."

Among those Crane lists who spend time with White, lurching, golfing, or attending Red Sox games, are Robert Beal, the property owner; George Carney, owner of Raynham-Taunton Greyhound Park; former treasurer John Driscoll; publicist George Regan; Jack Connors, chairman of the Hill, Holiday ad agency; and City Councilor Stephen J. Murphy.

"People say I spend a lot of time with Kevin, but it's time I love," says Crane. "It's time we love, because we're perfectly compatible. We disagree about nothing."

White smiles.

"We really do get along, don't we?"

HAITI—THE NEED FOR BALANCED ENGAGEMENT

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, events in Haiti over the last few months have been quite discouraging to those who seek stability and prosperity in that country.

A year has passed since the forced removal of President Jean Bertrand Aristide, the Nation's democratically elected leader. At the time, members of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), as well as members of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) regional block lamented and criticized Aristide's removal.

Not only was Aristide's removal illegal, but it served to alienate those portions of the Haitian population which supported him, and further

wounded their faith in democracy. This disillusionment and alienation is a cornerstone of the current situation in the country.

Without question, conditions in the Haiti are worse since Aristide's removal, and continue to deteriorate. Since last September, more than 700 people have been killed. At the July General Meeting of CARICOM, Secretary General, Dr. Edwin Carrington voiced the organization's concern over the deteriorating conditions in the country, as it made the success of October elections unlikely.

Indeed, the electoral picture continues to be discouraging. Out of a total of 4.5 million eligible voters only 150,000 have actually registered, with supporters of Aristide's Lavalas Party—a large portion of the electorate—refusing to participate. There is also widespread criticism about the disbursement of promised aid for Haiti from international donors.

A recent editorial in the publication *CaribNews* argues that CARICOM, the CBC, and the Bush Administration should all increase their involvement in finding a solution to the Haitian crisis. While CARICOM and the CBC still remain disturbed by the removal of Haiti's democratically elected government, there is recognition that the situation in Haiti demands our increased engagement.

The Bush Administration has continuously argued that the interim government in Haiti be allowed to prepare for elections, with the collaboration of the UN MINSTAH force. The CBC and CARICOM have waited warily, but the situation is getting worse. The U.S. Administration has seemed to place the blame squarely on Aristide/Lavalas supporters, but that is neither an accurate or fair assessment of the complex mix of factors which combine to create the current Haitian reality. Many groups are responsible for the instability.

However, among most experts, there is very little disagreement that the root causes of Haiti's problems are economic. According to a recent report by the International Monetary Fund, economic conditions in Haiti deteriorated significantly during the early 2000s. The economic deterioration has been exacerbated by the political turmoil and devastating floods of 2004 which led to a contraction of 3.75 per cent of GDP. This has resulted in economic stagnation, high inflation, and widespread unemployment.

Economic and trade development is the overarching need in Haiti, and will remain so, with or without elections in the fall. CARICOM, the CBC, and the Bush Administration are all well placed to ensure that such development takes place. There has been work towards that end already.

Separately, members and supporters of the Lavalas Party must be persuaded to trust the system and participate in the transitional process. The problem is that major stakeholders such as the interim Haitian administration, the UN, and the Bush Administration have no credibility with Lavalas/Aristide supporters. The actions and positions of all three have at times been very counterproductive to national unity. This is another avenue where CARICOM and the CBC can become engaged.

CBC and CARICOM may be the only groups with enough credibility to compel Pro-Aristide supporters to enter the process. I believe there is growing recognition of this fact. In the meantime, it is my hope that the Administration will take a more balanced and objec-

tive approach in helping Haiti to find the peace and prosperity that it deserves.

[From the *CaribNews*, July 5, 2005]

WHY THE BLACK CAUCUS, THE BUSH WHITE HOUSE AND CARICOM SHOULD BECOME ENGAGED IN HAITI

The headlines rarely recall Haiti's glorious past when it defeated France's mighty army in 1804 and emerged as the first Black republic in the Western Hemisphere.

Sadly, they certainly don't call to mind the Caribbean nation's rich cultural heritage.

Instead, they draw international attention on a daily basis to what U.S. Congressman Charles Rangel in an interview with this newspaper on Monday quite correctly called the country's "pain and suffering over such a long period of time."

Some example of recent headlines: "Gunfire erupts as New Haitian Ministers Take Office in Port au Prince." Boniface Alexandre, the country's interim President was delivering a speech at a ceremony installing four new cabinet ministers when heavy gunfire erupted near the Presidential Palace.

"Foreign troops likely needed in Haiti for years." A story built on the words of United Nations Under-Secretary-General, Jean-Marie Guehono, who told a news agency "Haiti will need (UN) peacekeepers so long that there's not a credible, effective police and judiciary."

"Haitian refugees rescued from sinking Boat off St. Maarten." Authorities in the Dutch dependent territory rescued 63 migrants from Haiti from a sailboat that was sinking off the island's coast.

Each story paints its own picture of a nation in the throes of yet another disaster, a chapter of anarchy, death and a further descent into further tragic circumstances, if that's possible.

Hence, Congressman Rangel's sensible offer to use his considerable influence on Capitol Hill in a search for a solution to Haiti's apparent intent to destroy what's left of the 200 year old nation.

Yes, he is right to try to bring together the U.S. Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice, and CARICOM leaders who have behaved like Pontius Pilate, washing their hands of a troubled neighbor which seems unable these day to pursue peace and prosperity.

The unfortunate and unnecessary ouster of Aristide and the installation of interim President Boniface Alexandre and stopgap Prime Minister, Gerard Latortue were the handiwork of the Bush Administration which hated Jean Bertrand Aristide with such a passion that it even sided with convicted murderers, drug traffickers and violent criminals to get rid of him.

Having put a gun to Aristide's head and forced him to flee, the President said he was "kidnapped" and taken into exile. Washington has shown little interest in helping the country out of the quagmire.

It has left the mess to the UN to clean up while starving the country of the hundreds of millions pledged by the international community to aid re-development and rehabilitation.

It's a crying shame that the Bush White House, an architect of the Western Hemisphere's Democratic Charter, would turn around and blast holes into the document, thus making the whole exercise nothing more than a sham, a public relations exercise that was empty of any real morality.

Clearly, Rangel, a decent public figure, should pursue his idea of reaching out to CARICOM and to Rice, not to mention Haitians who want to see their country move forward economically.

An astute and experienced lawmaker, Rangel is fully aware that the task would not be easy. But it is worth a try.

He also knows and was the first to point out that he couldn't achieve his goal by working alone. The Congressional Black Caucus, all 43 members in the House of Representatives and the Senate would have to bring their collective influence to the effort.

"I would be glad to get the 43 members of the Congressional Black Caucus to support anything that makes sense to stabilize the government of Haiti," was the way Rangel put it.

Yes, we, like Rangel, are aware that others have tried and failed but we have a special responsibility to be unrelenting in our pursuit of reconciliation.

For without it, we would stand accused of acting like Nero who played the fiddle while Rome was burning.

Rangel and the other members of the Congressional Black caucus have the credibility and the interest to act as honest brokers. CARICOM too must be involved in the search for peace. It may have been justified in criticizing LaTortue for his role in the tragedy now unfolding in his country. And it has already made its point by declining to reinstate Haiti into the community until free and fair elections are held.

But staying on the sidelines while the country moves closer and closer to civil war is not really an option.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER FOUR CHRIS J. SCHERKENBACH TO OUR COUNTRY

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Chief Warrant Officer Four Chris J. Scherkenbach, who died on June 28 from injuries sustained during combat operations in Afghanistan and in service to our country.

Chris was proud to serve in the United States Army for 18 years, and as a Night Stalker was a member of our Special Operations forces for the past 8 years. He had been assigned to B Company, 3rd Battalion, 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne) at Hunter Army Airfield in Georgia.

Chief Warrant Officer Chris J. Scherkenbach's awards and decorations include the Air Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, Army Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terror Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terror Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon and Senior Army Aviator Badge. He was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star Medal and an Air Medal with Valor device, the Master Army Aviator Badge, the Meritorious Service Medal and the Combat Action Badge.

Chris's family describes him as a strong man who had a firm sense of justice, who believed in his mission and stood up for what he knew was right, and who perished doing what he loved.

We should all remember Chris's courage and his ultimate sacrifice for our nation—"Greater love hath no man than to give up his