

thought-provoking attempt to discuss the discontent felt by the American people regarding the Bush Administration.

He mentions a point in time when Americans will realize that, “their good will and patriotism have been abused, and put a stop to this drive to destroy much of what is best in our country”. Krugman rightly calls this hope of his, “The Great Revulsion”. With Bush’s poll numbers in constant decline, are Americans finally getting the picture, he asks? Bush, at the time after the September 11th attacks in New York and Washington, D.C., scored with the American people at a solid 70 percent approval. However, Bush’s numbers are only at a declining 33 percent today according to the latest Fox News poll.

Some of the reasons for Bush’s poor numbers are because of failure to adequately respond to the enormous need caused by Hurricane Katrina, the prescription drug debacle as Krugman called it and the disaster in Iraq. With the recent resignation of Scott McClellan as President Bush’s Press Secretary, there is a sign that something terribly has gone wrong. It certainly is not surprising to see so many jumping ship from the embattled administration.

The piece also acknowledged the stark reality that the Bush Administration has no real policy on Social Security. His idea about privatizing Social Security was one issue that the American public put up strong opposition to and it failed. The American people are realizing the potential power that they have. There indeed is a need for a “Great Revulsion” to wake up this nation from its deep sleep of blind faith in President Bush and his Republican leadership team.

I enter into the RECORD the article published in the New York Times by Paul Krugman for its push to make the American people aware of their strength. To instill within them the understanding of the wrongs committed by the Bush Administration and his supporters. Krugman is calling for a move toward accountability, if not from the Congress, then from the American people as November approaches.

[From The New York Times April 21, 2006]

THE GREAT REVULSION

(By Paul Krugman)

“I have a vision—maybe just a hope—of a great revulsion: a moment in which the American people look at what is happening, realize how their good will and patriotism have been abused, and put a stop to this drive to destroy much of what is best in our country.”

I wrote those words three years ago in the introduction to my column collection, “The Great Unraveling.” It seemed a remote prospect at the time: Baghdad had just fallen to U.S. troops, and President Bush had a 70 percent approval rating.

Now the great revulsion has arrived. The latest Fox News poll puts Mr. Bush’s approval at only 33 percent. According to the polling firm Survey USA, there are only four states in which significantly more people approve of Mr. Bush’s performance than disapprove: Utah, Idaho, Wyoming and Nebraska. If we define red states as states where the public supports Mr. Bush, Red America now has a smaller population than New York City.

The proximate causes of Mr. Bush’s plunge in the polls are familiar: the heck of a job he did responding to Katrina, the prescription drug debate and above all, the quagmire in Iraq.

But focusing too much on these proximate causes makes Mr. Bush’s political fall from

grace seem like an accident, or the result of specific missteps. That gets things backward. In fact, Mr. Bush’s temporarily sky-high approval ratings were the aberration; the public never supported his real policy agenda.

Remembering, in 2000 Mr. Bush got within hanging-chad and felon-purge distance of the White House only by pretending to be moderate. In 2004 he ran on fear and smear, plus the pretense that victory in Iraq was just around the corner. (I’ve always thought that the turning point of the 2004 campaign was the September 2004 visit of the Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi, a figurehead appointed by the Bush Administration who rewarded his sponsors by presenting a falsely optimistic picture of the situation in Iraq.

The real test of the conservative agenda came up after the 2004 election, when Mr. Bush tried to sell the partial privatization of Social Security.

Social Security was for economic conservatives what Iraq was for the neocons: a soft target that they thought would pave the way for bigger conquests. And there couldn’t have been a more favorable moment for privatization than the winter of 2004-2005: Mr. Bush loved to assert that he had a “mandate” from the election; Republicans held solid disciplined majorities in both houses of Congress; and many prominent political pundits were in favor of private accounts.

Yet Mr. Bush’s drive on Social Security ran into a solid wall of public opposition, and collapsed within a few months. And if Social Security couldn’t be partly privatized under these conditions, the conservative dream of dismantling the welfare state is nothing but a fantasy.

So what’s left of the conservative agenda? Not much.

That’s the prediction for the midterm elections. The Democrats will almost surely make gains, but the electoral system is rigged against them. The fewer than 8 millions residents of what’s left of Red America are represented by eight U.S. senators; the more than eight million residents of New York City have to share two senators with the rest of New York State.

Meanwhile, a combination of accidents and design has left likely Democratic voters bunched together—I’m tempted to say ghettoized—in a minority of Congressional districts, while likely Republican voters are more widely spread out. As a result, Democrats would need a landslide in the popular vote—something like an advantage of 8 to 10 percentage points over Republicans—to take control of the House of Representatives. That’s a real possibility, given the current polls, but by no means a certainty.

And there is also, of course, the real prospect that Mr. Bush will change the subject by bombing Iran.

Still, in the long run it may not matter that much. If the Democrats do gain control of either house of Congress, and with it the ability to issue subpoenas, a succession of scandals will be revealed in the final years of the Bush Administration. But even if the Republicans hang on to their ability to stonewall, it’s hard to see how they can resurrect their agenda.

In retrospect, then, the 2004 election looks like the high-water mark of a conservative tide that is now receding.

IN HONOR OF THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 75th anniversary of the opening of the Empire State Building, one of New York City’s most recognizable landmarks and an iconic fixture of the City’s skyline. This landmark building, located in my district, stands as a testament to the indomitable spirit of New York and the capacity of mankind to achieve the extraordinary.

The Empire State Building, designed by the architectural firm Shreve, Lamb and Harmon, officially opened on May 1, 1931. Construction required 60,000 tons of steel and more than seven million man-hours, providing thousands of jobs in the midst of the Great Depression. Renowned pictures of the workers dangling above the city remain among the most striking photos of the era. Upon its completion, the Empire State Building became the tallest building in the world, measuring a staggering 1,454 feet.

Although taller buildings have since stripped it of its title, the 102-story structure continues to delight and amaze, and following the attacks of September 11, it is once again the tallest building in New York City. The Empire State Building has also become ingrained in the popular culture by its presence in such movies as King Kong, and An Affair to Remember. Last year, 3.7 million people flocked to the observation decks for their breathtaking views of New York.

True to its gritty roots, the Empire State Building remains a working building: Every day, more than 20,000 people report to work there, passing through the Art Deco lobby that portrays the Empire State Building as the eighth wonder of the world and the center of the universe. At dusk, the world famous tower lights come on to commemorate national holidays and special events of importance to New Yorkers.

The heart and soul of New York City is embodied in the Empire State Building. From those who fell in love there to those who have returned with their children and grandchildren, everyone recognizes the Empire State Building as an unparalleled emblem of the American spirit. I am proud to honor the Empire State Building on the occasion of its 75th anniversary.

CELEBRATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF ZION UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF WEST WALWORTH

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 150th Anniversary of Zion United Methodist Church of West Walworth, Wayne County, New York. For 150 years, the Zion United Methodist Church has offered a place of worship and services to the area in and around Wayne County.

Through its rich history, the church has served the community by providing a place to make great memories that range from baptisms to weddings. To honor the church's 150 year celebration Zionist Methodist has planned various events such as a church picnic, pot-luck suppers, and culminating with a special gala dinner in the fall.

This yearlong celebration will truly be a remarkable experience to the Zion Methodist congregation and all those who participate. A true prominent staple to the area, I wish the Zion Methodist Church of West Walworth many more years of service and success.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES VERMEULEN

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate James Vermeulen, Sr. upon his nomination to the Plymouth Community Hall of Fame.

Having served as President of the Plymouth Kiwanis Club, and currently serving as a Kiwanis Foundation board member, Vermeulen has striven to help children. But he has done much more. Vermeulen has held the post of Director for the Salvation Army, in which capacity he has endeavored to assist all who are less fortunate than he. Indeed, every December, Vermeulen is instrumental in raising money through the Salvation Army's bell-ringing project. Whether serving with the Kiwanis Club, Salvation Army, or simply helping a neighbor in need, Vermeulen has demonstrated exemplary compassion and leadership.

Let us commend James Vermeulen, Sr. for his dedication to bettering our community and our country, and for his induction into the Plymouth Community Hall of Fame.

TRIBUTE TO IRVING GREENBLUM

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Irving Greenblum for his induction as a laureate in the 2006 Laredo Business Hall of Fame, and for his incredible dedication to the City of Laredo, Texas.

Irving Greenblum was born in 1929 in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, and moved with his family as a young boy to the City of Laredo. He graduated from Martin High School in 1946 and later graduated from the University of Texas in 1950 with a degree in Latin-American economics.

Mr. Greenblum has admirably served the community of Laredo, Texas, through his membership and work in several civic, social, educational, and governmental organizations such as the Banco BCH, Laredo Philharmonic, Children's Museum, San Antonio Manor Home for the Aged, Ruth B. Cowl Rehabilitation Center, Congregation Agudas Achim, and the DeMolay Masonic Children.

In addition to his community service, Mr. Greenblum has served on the boards of Inter-

national Bancshares Corp. and International Bank of Commerce. He currently serves as president and founding member of the Laredo Area Community Foundation. For his dedication and hard work in making the Laredo business community stronger and better, he will be honored by the Junior Achievement League in his induction into the 2006 Business Hall of Fame.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the bravery and dedication of Irving Greenblum, and I thank you for this time.

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
NAACP BAY CITY BRANCH

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor the Bay City Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People as it celebrates 50 years as a dedicated champion of civil rights. On June 2, 2006 the members of the Bay City Branch will come together to revere its founding members and renew its commitment to justice for all.

Roy Wilkins chartered the first branch of the NAACP in Bay City in 1918. This was at a time when the NAACP was instrumental in convincing President Woodrow Wilson to publicly denounce lynching. The Branch was disbanded but it was re-chartered in 1938 by Attorney Oscar Baker Sr. and chartered a third time in 1946.

In 1955, NAACP member Rosa Parks was arrested for refusing to give up her seat on a Montgomery Alabama bus and one of the largest grassroots civil rights movements was born. The NAACP was at the forefront of this struggle and Reverend Obie Matthew, Pastor of the Second Baptist Church, organized the present Bay City Branch the following year on October 8, 1956. 50 years later the Branch is still fighting for equality of all citizens.

The Bay City Branch has led the fight against discrimination in housing, education, employment, healthcare, and the criminal justice system. Some of its notable fights were the Migrant Negroes from Georgia Case, the Bay County Skating Rink Case in the 1960s, the Woolworth 5 & 10 Store Sit-in, the hiring of the first African American teachers by the Bay City School District, and the inclusion of a Black History Class in the Bay City Central High School curriculum. The Branch has given away more than 70 scholarships to high school students. They have supported CORY Place, sponsored a summer USDA Food and Activity program for children, and worked with other local agencies to improve the living conditions in Bay City.

The hymn, "Lift Every Voice and Sing," was written by James Weldon Johnson in 1900. In it he wrote, "Sing a song full of hope that the present has brought us; Facing the rising sun of our new day begun, Let us march on till victory is won." Under the current leadership of President Idella White, the Bay City Branch is marching on in the fight to remove barriers to racial equality. The Bay City Branch remains committed to educating citizens about their constitutional rights, and the adverse effects of racial discrimination.

Mr. Speaker, I am asking the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the Bay City Branch of the NAACP for 50 years of commitment to social justice. The members are to be commended for their steadfast fight against racial hatred and I pray that together we will eliminate this scourge from our nation and the world.

TRIBUTE TO MAYOR EDDIE O.
REED

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend Mayor Eddie O. Reed, who is retiring as Mayor of Midwest City after many years of public service.

In this country we are fortunate to have public servants of Mayor Reed's caliber. All too often we take such individuals for granted. Most of the rest of the world is not so lucky, so I take this opportunity to praise a man who as Mayor of Midwest City has been an excellent public servant who has made life better for his community and its people.

Eddie Reed has been Mayor of Midwest City since 1993. As Mayor, he has improved public safety, city streets, and drainage in Midwest City. Indeed, building on the work of his father, who also served as Mayor of Midwest City, Eddie Reed has transformed his city, making it an engine of economic growth in our state. All of his many successes have resulted from his skill at building partnerships and bringing people together.

Mr. Speaker, under Mayor Reed's leadership, many quality of life improvement projects have been completed. These include the Marion C. Reed Baseball Complex, the new Senior Citizens Center opened in 1999, and the renovation of the John Conrad Regional Golf Course. Mayor Reed has also improved Midwest City's infrastructure including a new water tower, a widened Post Road between SE 29th Street and 15th Street, and a reconstructed intersection at East Reno and SE 15th Street.

Perhaps the most important accomplishment of Mayor Reed's, over the course of his distinguished career, was his successful role in the BRAC process. The importance of his work in protecting Tinker Air Force Base, and the impact that has for the economy of Midwest City and for all of central Oklahoma, simply cannot be overstated.

Mr. Speaker, I want to conclude by giving the Mayor the highest compliment anyone can ever give a public servant: After 13 years as Mayor, Midwest City is in even better shape at the end of his term than it was at the beginning. That is the best monument to his achievements. I wish him and his wife, Julie, the best in their new life.

INTRODUCTION OF "NETWORK
NEUTRALITY ACT OF 2006"

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Network Neutrality Act of