

SPEAKOUT!

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April 1989

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221
April 1989

"I Disapprove of What You Say, But I Will Defend To The Death Your Right to Say It." --- Voltaire

Welcome to SPEAKOUT!

Its purpose is to do just that. SPEAKOUT! will provide a forum in which people express themselves on community and government problems and propose solutions to same. Through sharing ideas, those people who are quietly watching will involve themselves more directly in common causes — (i.e., public life) and make a difference.

This is a non-partisan newspaper with straight-forward, informative and sometimes amusing reports. My monthly editorials are my own views, but designed to encourage differing responses. This is a paper for mainstream Americans who have common sense.

If you are "hot-and-bothered" about

- Schools
- Crack
- Zoning
- Toxic Wastes
- Teenage Pregnancy

or any other conundrum, send your articles to SPEAKOUT!, P O Box 161, Novelty, OH 44072, with your name, address and phone number.

Music Street Publishing Co. reserves the right to shorten and edit the submitted material as necessary.

Revenue will come from two primary sources: subscriptions and advertising. We need your \$20.00 for a one-year subscription of 12 issues.

"Unless we change our direction, we are likely to end up where we are headed."
Chinese Proverb

My personal bias is to set priorities and to set goals that individuals collectively can accomplish. "What is a man profited if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" [The Bible, Matthew XVI 26] What is the point of it all if we cannot breathe the air or drink the water, if our young are dying of drug abuse? Someone must nurture the children and the old must have care. Must we rape our countryside for cash and short-term gain? We are out of control. We must set our priorities and get to it fast. We can give up or get going.

This is our forum, a citizens' forum. Let's discuss the poor, racism, the homeless, education and other things that bother us. Then we can do something. That is what SPEAKOUT! is all about.

Let us hear from YOU today!

Send your \$20.00 to SPEAKOUT!, P O Box 161, Novelty, OH 44072. Advertisements cost \$10.00 a month for a 2 x 4-1/2" size.

Some Thoughts About Automobile Emission Testing

W Sterling Coleman

I'm a car enthusiast and have been since somewhere in my childhood when I had one of those fake steering wheels that attached to the dash with a suction cup. I used to "drive" beside Dad and check out his every move. Motoring has come a long way for me since those days. Today's motoring has gotten complex and expensive, but we all need to drive to get to many of the places we either need to go or want to go. As they say, "It's your freedom."

To add to our consternation and expense, we now have added emission testing. We just got a new way of getting license plates without standing in line so we now stand in line for emission testing. It doesn't matter how safe your car is or whether it pollutes the air. You just can't have tampered with the emission system.

As I said, I'm a car enthusiast. I have 5-1/2 cars around the place. The 1/2 car is my ultimate answer to auto air pollution—it's an electric! The other five cars are all more or less conventional and all for different jobs like wife, kids, vacation trailering and sometimes just a ride in the country. They span the years from 1975-85. My insurance bill looks like my mortgage payment. But emission testing really "tests" me. One car sits in the garage because it had a V6 and now has a V8. Would you believe, changing the engine constitutes tampering! The local emission station won't even look past the "underhood test".

If you think I'm a polluter no matter how my cars run, think about this.

Continued on Page 4

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Capital Gains Tax—Sop to the Rich or Common-Sense Economics?

by Werner D. Mueller

President Bush and Treasury Secretary Brady have proposed lower taxes on capital gains.

The Bush proposal calls for taxing capital gains on certain assets such as marketable stocks, bonds, small closely-held businesses and land, at 15%. It would phase in over a three-year holding period.

The Brady proposal calls for a sliding scale—the longer an asset is held, the lower the tax rate: details to be negotiated.

Proponents of lowering the capital gains tax rate argue that: (1) "We can't afford not to" (economically); (2) to do so is "fair" and not to do so is "unfair"—in part because "fairness" requires a form of indexing for inflation; and (3) lowering the capital gains tax rate would not de-

crease revenues or increase the budget deficit—but in fact would increase revenues both short-term and long-term

Enemies argue the opposite, that (1) we can "afford" not to lower capital gains tax rates because the 1986 Tax Act lowered tax rates enough, (2) it would be "unfair" to give favored tax treatment to capital gains because that would help the rich greatly, help the middle class little, and help the poor not at all; and (3) to lower the capital gains tax as suggested would lower government revenues long-term

So—which side is right? The writer will state his opinions, you, the readers are invited to state yours!

Continued Next Page

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

The current no-smoking fad is a Commie pinko plot.

First and foremost is the fact that we soon face an energy crisis and more soft coal will be burned. The result will be smoke pollution. If, as the Commie pinkos advise, we raise a generation of non-smokers, that new generation will be denied pollution preparation and the results will be fatal. Thus, those of us who are anti-Communist must push smoking for the health of our nation.

Second, the pinko campaign to end smoking will drive our young people into much worse vices. Everybody knows young people will seek out some vice, and, with smoking gone, they will seek out real bad ones. The Commie anti-smoking drive will turn our youth into degenerates.

Finally, and worst of all, the Commies are trying to undermine our pollution system with their anti-smoking drive. What will happen to smoke-filled rooms at conventions, caucuses and compromises? They will disappear. Politicians working in a clear room will see things differently and we will be in serious trouble.

Goodness knows how bad things are now, and the change will only make things worse. Light up, America, and live!

E Pluribus Smokum

* ANNOUNCEMENT *

First annual

(Thank God We're Still Alive!)

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Toxic-Dump Weiner Roast

April 9, 1989, 5 Pm

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JOHN FOSTER 338-4734

Capital Gains Tax—Sop to the Rich or Common-Sense Economics?

(1) "We Can't Afford Not to." (Economic Argument)

The proponents win on this one. We all agree that we as a country need new "start-up" companies, new technologies, newer, better and less expensive products; and modern state-of-the-art plant and equipment. These things translate into new jobs (most of our new jobs!), more exports, lower trade deficits, a bigger economic pie, more tax revenues, and less budget deficit. How do we encourage this benevolent cycle?

We can start by creating a better climate for long-term investment—as contrasted to the demoralizing quick-buck, amoral to immoral, razzle-dazzle going on in and about Wall Street today.

The Brady proposal is ideally structured to reward long-term, productive investment more than speculation that does little more than produce more Boesky's and Milken's. Our whole economy is in desperate need of focusing on the long-term—as do the Japanese.

Germany and Japan focus on the problem by burying their class animosities in this area. Their tax laws provide a zero tax on most capital gains.

Capital flows where it is best treated. Favorable treatment of capital gains will attract capital to equity investment, where it will stimulate the "benevolent cycle"—as risk-free investment in money market funds will not.

(2) "Fairness"

Let us give each side a point on this issue.

a) To proponents (of a special capital gains tax):

Let us grant that some favored treatment of capital gains is neces-

sary to prevent a confiscatory tax on a non-gain—the inflation factor. In so doing, we help not only "the rich," but every owner of stocks, bonds, mutual funds, small businesses and land.

(b) To enemies (of a special capital gains tax):

Why fight over benefitting "the rich"? If to do so offends many voters, let us give Democrats such as Senator Bentsen and Representative Rostenkowski the political price they want and have asked for.

"You cannot help the wage earner by pulling down the wage payer. You cannot further the brotherhood of man by encouraging class hatred. You cannot help the poor by destroying the rich."

Abraham Lincoln

In exchange for lower capital gains taxes that would indisputably benefit "the rich", as they contend, offer in return an increase in the top rates of tax on other income—structured so that it would be paid by the wealthiest segments of the population, who would be the prime individual beneficiaries of the lower capital gains tax rates. To the so-called rich, such a candid, upfront swap would probably be welcomed, in part for reasons of patriotism getting a result they know would benefit the whole country.

(3) Government Revenues/ Budget Deficit

The Treasury projects increased revenues from a lower tax rate on capital gains—short-term from more transactions, and long-term from a bigger economy (\$4.9 billion more tax revenue projected for 1991 alone).

Congress predicts lower revenues after a short spurt in increased trans-

actions (by \$4 billion a year).

Who's right? No one knows. But the Treasury's reasoning was right (more, not less revenues), and Congress's reasoning was wrong, twice in recent history: after 1978 (tax rate cut from 49% to 28%), and again after 1981 (tax rate cut from 28% to 20%). After both cuts in the capital gains tax rates, tax revenues from realized capital gains went up, not down. So—judge for yourself.

Conclusion

Our wise, born-in-a-log-cabin President Abraham Lincoln reflected about these issues as they appeared in only slightly different form over 130 years ago, in these words:

"You cannot help the wage earner by pulling down the wage payer. You cannot further the brotherhood of man by encouraging class hatred. You cannot help the poor by destroying the rich."

Let's ask our career politicians to think about Abe Lincoln's observations and stop their political posturing long enough to get on with it. "IT" means favoring capital with the friendly climate of a lower capital gains tax rate, and asking "the rich" to pay the political price of this benefit in the form of a higher maximum tax rate on other income.

Werner Mueller is a retired lawyer who lives on a mini-farm in Geauga County. He acquired fame as the husband of Margaret R. Mueller.

ORIGINS by Fennec

The term "Kluck" meaning fool, came from the name of von Kluck, a German general in WW I, who wheeled his army the wrong way in the execution of the Schlieffen Plan in the invasion of Belgium, and thereby lost the war.

Some Thoughts about Automobile Emission Testing

Continued from Front Page

The car I drive most, just got its annual oil change and grease job. It had been 1,200 miles since the same time last year. On a yearly basis I'll match pollution stats with most anybody. Which says if the Government wanted lower pollution levels, all they need to do is up the gas mileage requirements. Think of it—less gas burned, less air polluted. And you get lower driving costs, less reliance on foreign oil, and lower national debt. A 70-mile-per-gallon car is feasible now.

*We got out of lines for license plates only
to get into lines for emission testing!*

Forget about me—what about you if you drive a new car? It's quite likely it has front-wheel-drive and a computer-controlled fuel injection system. Ever try tampering with it? You'd have to be nuts! You probably can't make it run much better with anything around your garage. Even a professional mechanic can't do much for today's cars without a shop full of specialized equipment. And wait till that car gets older and needs parts. How many will you find

that aren't special-order? Today's cars generally start well, run efficiently, meet emission standards and have pretty good drivability for their size, weight and horsepower. This is a big improvement over the early emission years of 1975 - 85.

So why the emission testing now? Beats me. I don't believe the inspection stations are getting rich, not at \$5 or even \$10. Do you want to do something about it? At least we can watch and see if the air gets cleaner. If it doesn't, and I don't believe it's going to get better (or worse) as a result of this testing, then we have a real credibility problem with the Federal EPA and we ought to heat up our Congresspeople.

*W Sterling Coleman is a car buff
and a shade-tree mechanic*

S A S I

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"Men are never so likely to settle a question rightly as when they discuss it freely."

. Lord Macauley 1800-1859

SPEAKOUT!

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June 1989

"Unless We Change Our Direction, We are Likely to End Up Where We Are Headed" . . . Chinese Proverb

Budget Problems Threaten Lake Erie Fishing

"Because of insufficient funding, the Great Lakes Fishery Commission has proposed cuts in sea lamprey control of 40% for Lake Michigan, Huron and Ontario and total elimination of control on Lake Erie, according to Kenneth R Fritz, Executive Administrator, Fish Management & Research

"Abundance of predatory sea lamprey will begin in these lakes in 1990, and will double within 10 years. The result by the year 2000, will be 50% reduction in angler use and expenditures. The combined annual economic activity from the Great Lakes sport and economical fisheries is estimated to be \$4.6 billion. This will be reduced by as much as \$1.4 billion annually and 34,000 jobs may be lost in the Great Lakes basin.

Angler expenditures in Ohio waters of Lake Erie totalled \$347 million in 1988"

Solution Raise dollars to eradicate the lamprey pest

How? A road relay from Conneaut to Cleveland - joggers, runners, bicyclists, walkers, skate boarders

Organizers would be: Sport store leaders, Chamber of Commerce and civic backers

Goal \$1,000,000

Committee Chairman - Youth of the communities

Date - October 1989 (when the fall leaves are magnificent)

We need teams of:

- Much marrieds
- Divorced Dads
- Big Bellies (fisherman)
- Single Sweeties
- Grocer Greens
- Stalwart Stuffies (bankers)
- Moms
- Hunter Hulks

Margaret Mueller

Contact SPEAKOUT! if you can help! Everyone can participate in this Lake Erie Road Relay.

SCHOOLS and "SOCIAL CAPITAL"

From the *Wilson Quarterly*, Spring 1989.

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Two years ago, in a controversial study comparing 1,015 public and private high schools, Coleman, a University of Chicago sociologist, found that private schools, particularly Catholic schools, frequently outperformed public schools.

Less widely noted at the time were differences among the private schools. The "independent" private schools Coleman studied had one thing in common with the public schools: high dropout rates (close to 15 percent). By contrast, Catholic high schools had only four percent dropout rates. (Likewise, other religious schools had very few dropouts.) The rates for Catholic schools were virtually the same whether the students themselves were Catholics or not.

"The Creation and Destruction of Social Capital: Implications for the Law" by James S. Coleman, in *Notre Dame Journal of Law, Ethics & Public Policy* (No. 3, 1988), Notre Dame Law School, Notre Dame, Ind. 46556

Why should this be so?

Coleman believes that the explanation lies in something he calls "social capital." Financial and physical capital are familiar concepts. During the last 30 years, economists have recognized the importance of "human capital"—skills and education. Social capital, says Coleman, "exists in the relations between persons."

The chief source of social capital (e.g., trust, shared values and standards) is the family: the bonds among and between parents and children. But the "community surrounding the school" is also a source of social capital. Sometimes, it seems to provide enough to compensate for weak families. Catholic school students from one-parent families, unlike their public school counterparts, have the same (low) dropout rate as their classmates from two-parent families.

Until recently, Coleman believes, public schools were backed by enough community "social capital" to function well. But non-working mothers were the backbone of these communities, now that many have taken jobs, the communities (and families) have weakened. Indeed, says Coleman, the United States has been depleting its "social capital" for two centuries, ever since men began leaving their farms for jobs away from home.

Families and communities have no monopoly on the production of "social capital," according to Coleman, nor are the schools the only institutions where it matters. "Social capital" is vital to the functioning of business, for example, especially in Japan.

What can be done to replenish America's "social capital?" Schools can actively organize parent "communities", corporations can grant parental leaves and take other measures to strengthen families. But it may be, Coleman says, that other institutions—perhaps the large corporation—will have to perform some of the functions that families once did.

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ORIGINS

By Fennec

Abdul Hamid I of Turkey was kept in total isolation from society for the first forty-nine years of his life to prepare him for the throne. As a result, when he became Sultan he was at least unprepared, and at worst, insane. But he ruled for fifteen years (1774-1789) until he died.

SPEAKOUT! says:
"Hurrah for Ashtabula and St. Johns
The citizens saved the school!"

THE BUCK STOPS HERE!

LETTERS to the EDITOR

As Spring draws nigh I remember spending endless afternoons in the 7th grade classroom with a little whispering and note passing. Once in a while someone would get careless and Sister would thunder down the aisle like a black and white locomotive. Look out!" THWACK! Justice was swift, and certain.

(Lord, Please don't let her call up my folks!) We had been taught that values were absolute and eternal, that authority reached us through a chain of command that stretched all the way back to almighty God. Work was necessary and rewarding, education was the key to more desirable work. We knew that there was injustice in the system, but that was the way it was.

Somewhere in the years between my watching out for Sister and my students watching out for me the schools leaped from despotism to "democracy". In many cases suspicion and antagonism fouled communications between school and home. Values changed. Ethics came to depend on the situation. Students sued schools for graduating them without reading or math skills. Indeed, some school are no longer safe places to be, let alone study.

As attitudes toward schools and schooling have radically changed I suggest:

1 Examine our expectations for schools.

What should they do? What are we willing to pay for?

What is educating and what is simply day care?

2 Define a teacher as one who teaches. A student as one who studies. Why should anyone else be in the classroom? When student misbehavior becomes a problem, refer the offender for further training to those who supposedly trained him in the first place - his parents. "go straight to the home! do not pass go! do NOT COLLECT 200 DOLLARS!" If the student suffers from a personality disorder, other children should not be exposed to him. If he is simply a brat, why should those who created him be free of him all day? Expel as needed.

3 What knowledge indicates a competent 3rd grader? a competent 9th grader? a complete graduate? Can we test yearly for proficiency, both written and oral? Are we brave enough to hold back those who fail?

4 Let us consider the concept of rights. Do students have the right to an education? I think not. I am willing, however, to consider the right to an equal opportunity for an education. Let's teach our young then, that each of us must take responsibility for his education.

Mark Twain said, "God made an idiot. That was practice. Then he created a school board." Perhaps so, what did Twain imply about those who are elected or are reelected to the school board?

Our society created the conditions and allowed them to develop.

The buck stops here . . .

with you and me!

Michael Furlan

Dear Editor

In response to your "Gun Control" article, *Speakout!* - May 1989, may I speak out in the interest of truth, to dispel a fallacy that there is 'no inherent right' to own a gun without restrictions.

In 1965, the U.S. Supreme Court held that the Ninth Amendment contained a myriad of *UNWRITTEN*, common-law rights (*Griswold v Conn*, 381 U.S. 479). The right to self-defense, is one of those 'common-law rights'. Owning a handgun, is the means of exercising that right. The 'handweapon' in use today, is the handgun.

The 'waiting period' you refer to is actually GUN REGISTRATION - a very dangerous tool, in the destruction of our liberties, because it is the first step in gun confiscation.

Also, you conveniently ignore FBI statistics, showing that the highest crime rates, are in the areas with the roughest gun control laws, namely New York City and Washington, D.C. You see, criminals aren't afraid of unarmed people.

Claire Kelly North Olmstead

Dear Editor

Is it not amazing how a term like "assault rifles" can suddenly become the object of hysterical screeds by journalists and politicians who hate guns, but tolerate criminals?

If I recall our history correctly, one of the "assault rifle" of 1776 was the Brown Bess flint-lock musket, deadly in the hands of a patriot resisting onerous taxation and other abuses by a distant government. Readers should recall that one of the more immediate reasons for the American War for Independence was the fact that British troops were moving out from Boston into the countryside to seize the weapons and powder of American colonists.

We contended quite well with George III in those days, but contending with budding tyrants like Howard Meizenbaum and some of his colleagues is quite another matter, for they are more dangerous to our freedom, as they know little of American history, are indifferent to the opinions of the founders of our nation, and care even less for the liberty of our fellow citizens in the century.

One of the reasons for the senseless proliferation of gun laws is clearly that leg-

The

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(CAPTION ?)

LETTERS (Continued)

ors find it easier to legislate against
eful citizens, thereby creating the im-
pression that they have taken effective ac-
tion, and they do this because they lack the
fortitude and courage to enforce existing
laws enacted to punish criminals who steal,
murder and terrorize

**GUNS, GUNS, GUNS,
WHAT'S THE FUSS ABOUT?**

There is just one word to describe legis-
lators' weakness when facing criminals and
their audacity in attacking the rights of good
citizens **Cowardly!**

The result is more and more foolish laws,
and less and less respect for the law

*Milton R Norris, Investment Banker
Canfield, OH*

Dear Editor

Answer to the Drug Problem —

Fight fire with fire, let dope of-
fenders live together and try to survive in
their own society Build a concrete block
in the middle of a wasteland

There will be 100 occupants of the
same sex fed bread and water for a seven-
day cure These drug addicts will be given
one blanket during their stay Those who
quit cold turkey, after one week, will be
returned home

Major Koch of New York is run-
ning out of space for drug offenders and is
presently housing them on boats in the
Hudson River He would pay a good price
for this seven-day-cure drug program be-
cause he is desperate

As James Kilpatrick said, "I be-
lieve deeply in constitutional rights and the
rule of law, but disillusion seeps in I am sick
of societal attitudes that coddle the venom-
ous spider and disclaim the innocent fly"

Tony Zupanic, Hartsgrove, OH

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JOHN FOSTER 338-4734

TAXES: Price of Civilization, or Politicians' Expense Account?

Our great turn-of-the-century Chief Jus-
tice of the Supreme Court, Oliver Wendell
Holmes, once explained that he did not mind
paying taxes taxes were "the price of civi-
lization"

As to local taxes, we can see and agree
that this is true Our County Treasurers ex-
plain this quite simply when they mail us our
real estate tax bills In percentage of our tax
dollar, and again in the form of a circle
divided into pieces-of-the-pie, they tell us
what percentage of our tax dollar goes for
schools, for libraries, for police and fire pro-
tection, for roads, for general administra-
tion Truly, local taxes for such purposes are
"the price of civilization", and our County
Treasurers act the part of responsible agents
of government by accounting for our tax
dollars before they ask for more

But how about our Federal and State
Income Taxes, and our Federal and State
Representatives? Clear, taxpayers are mys-
tified about what happens to their state in-
come tax dollars, and downright bitter about
what happens to their Federal Income Tax
dollars Votes for pork-barrel dams and
highways are swapped for votes for posi-
tions on committees and votes for more
pork-barrel dams and highways Millions
of dollars are expropriated for a religious
school in France, and the justification from

Washington is, "Oh, that's just peanuts"
Part of a mountain of peanuts!

Here are two suggestions

(1) May the I R S and the Ohio Treas-
urer of State explain where our Federal and
Ohio Income Tax dollars were spent just as
clearly and timely as our County Treasurer
explains where our real estate dollars were
spent—when they ask for more, and

(2) May our State and especially our
Congressional representatives state just as
clearly and succinctly how they voted and
how they stand on each and every category
of expenditure They could do so at tax-time
as part of their tax-payer-paid newsletters
They should also prepare their staffs to an-
swer taxpayer questions about how they
voted on each and every tax measure and
expenditure

Then we, the citizen-taxpayers, might
form our own opinions about what taxes are
"the prices of civilization" and what taxes
cover our politicians' expense accounts

Werner D Mueller

*Werner Mueller is a retired tax and
estate planning lawyer*

Items to Remember

**June 3rd
The 3rd Annual Lake Erie
Waterway Clean-up
and
Treasure Hunt
9 am. till Noon.**

**Trash collection registra-
tion sites include
Port of Conneaut,
Ashtabula(Jack's Marine),
Fairport Harbor - Coast
Guard Station,
Lake County Yacht Club
and others**

Next SPEAKOUT! meeting will be
Friday, June 9th - 7 30 PM
Long John Silvers - Routes 306 & 20
Mentor, Ohio
Interested Contributors—join us!
RSVP 338-5040

*The opinions herein expressed
are not necessarily those of the
editor or the publisher.*

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ideas and stimulate healthy de-
bate among the people in North-
eastern Ohio.**

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- Free Gift Wrapping



ADDITION ADDITION

Did you know that the Department on Aging is not just a name to many people but is an agency that really and truly serves the needs of Seniors

Some facts and figures will reveal the extent to which the Multi-Purpose Senior Center reaches and fulfills legal, physical, social and psychological needs of Seniors. These services are available to every Senior within Geauga County. The many services offered by the Center are advertised weekly in all local newspapers and monthly through the Senior Newsletter.

Some of these are

Phone & personal contacts Telephone reassurance calls
 Newsletters mailed monthly Escort trips for handicapped
 Social programs & group activities, Transportation for Lunch
 Supportive services (legal, health, etc.) and Chore services

Daily sign-in sheets show a steady increase in use of the Multi-Purpose Senior Center

1987		1988	
January	1,022	October	1,236
February	1,183	November	1,594
March	1,026	December	1,393
Totals	3,231	Totals	4,223
Approximate	12,800		18,000
Visits per year		Up over 40%	

A study of the facts and figures reveals a picture of a growing successful organization. One can see the need for the requested additional space.

We need you and your support to make this happen!

The Planning Committee has recommended to the County Commissioners that a 5,000 square-foot addition is desperately needed to house the Senior Programs for the foreseeable future. The cost for this much needed addition to our existing building is approximately \$216,000 to the County. A request for a State grant will be forwarded on June 1, 1989. However, a certain proportion of the estimated cost is the responsibility of the Seniors. The Senior Citizens Center Board has accepted that challenge and the Senior Clubs throughout the County have organized a county-wide fund drive.

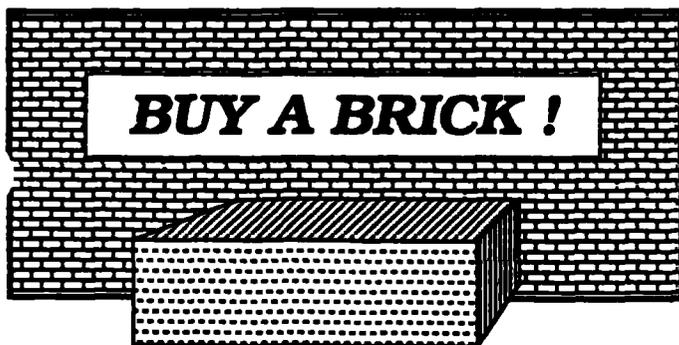
You can invest in your future

Buy a brick - Let's build a building!

Everyone can invest in this. A brick is only \$50 and you'll get a brick certificate. Call Maryann Juh (You) at the Geauga Senior Citizens Center 564-7131 or 285-2222.

Sections of this article were written by George Huxel, a member of the Geauga County Senior Citizens Group

BUY A BRICK!



Fennec

The New Woman

The New Liberation gives women a voice
 Abortion and marriage are now a choice

What was certainly right and ethical once—
 Is now believed completely by only a dunce

Formerly free, only families and music to compose,
 We can now boldly even marriage propose

We are allowed in protest with other women to combine
 In order to be termed "common law wife", once "concubine"

We may now have to pay what we used to receive—
 Alimony in big gobs for prospective husbands to perceive

That may be considered a bad legal rub
 But now we can walk alone right into the pub

And now in men's clubs we go through the front door
 And listen to their twaddle, though quite a bore

The phone company must hire us to climb a pole
 Even though we'll fall off and lose our soul

We always knew that the best weapons are words
 But to believe these legalisms is for the birds

In this country we're a huge numerical majority
 But the slippery courts have made us a real minority

If we give birth to a child, we get some sickness pay
 And the trembly courts don't dare say us nay

We really have as many new rights
 As the ordinary marriage has annual fights

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Have You Met ... ?



Have you been wondering what makes this country unique? We have a nation run by law not by dictators and we have individuals like seeds in fertile soil, who seize our limitless opportunity I met one the other day in Middlefield

Why is this man different?

He looks like everybody else, but he has a flash in his eyes He stands the way others do, but I sense a spring inside him ready to let go He smiles like others but his whole self smiles He is ready to take on the world—you feel it as you laugh with him at his grandiose plans

He is an entrepreneur. You can't keep him down It does not matter whether he is "successful", now he knows he will be

He is Rocky Ciofani, who lives in Middlefield His house is tired and worn out, but he refused to pay rent to anyone when he could have a home of his own which he could fix-up as he went along He would not live in a trailer either — had to have his own place He is a self-taught mechanic, a steel erecting contractor, operator of a hydraulic crane and an ironworker He gets all excited about his job with Amway, a network marketing system for home cleaning products This company has had a 20-30% growth rate from 1959 to 1983, he enthusiastically reports

He is what has made this country great, why thousands of people all over the world clamor to come here for opportunity under law and freedom

SPEAKOUT! is proud to present **ROCKY CIOFANI**
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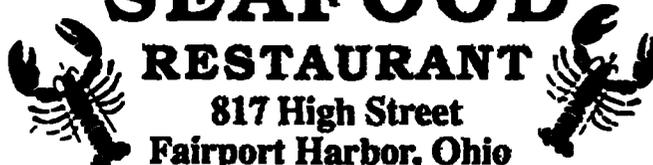
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SPEAKOUT!

Vol 1, No.4

Founded March 1, 1989

July 1989

"Unless We Change Our Direction, We are Likely to End Up Where We Are Headed" . . . Chinese Proverb

COALITION to END the PERMANENT CONGRESS

Editorial

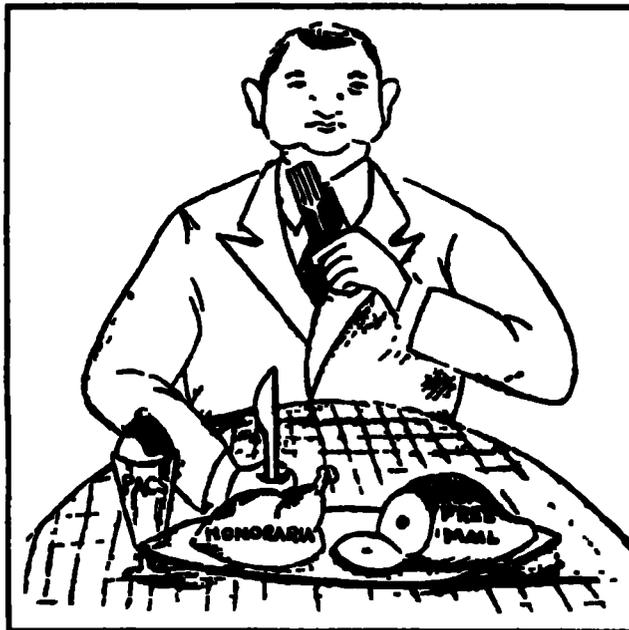
By Margaret Mueller

Something happened in Kansas City on May 20 Republican and Democrat "challengers" who ran for Congress in 1988 met to form a Coalition to End the Permanent Congress. Over 100 people from all over the country (thirty states) were present — 42 challengers, two Libertarians and the Press (*Associated Press, Wall Street Journal, New York Times and Washington Post*). Speakers were authors of books directed at the problem Philip Stern, author of *The Best Congress Money Can Buy*, Brooks Jackson, author of *Honest Graft*, and the Honorable Nancy Kassebaum, U.S. Senator.

Philip Stern said 99% of incumbents in 1988 won re-election. There is more chance of an incumbent dying in office than of losing his or her seat in Congress. The Congressman's job today is a job for life — and then he cited John Dingell of Michigan as having been in Congress since 1955 (34 years). Before that, Dingell's father had been in Congress from 1932-1955 (23 years). His son, now a state Senator in Michigan is dubbed a "Congressman-in-waiting."

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88% of PAC (Political Action Committee) money went to incumbents, and he wondered why PACs gave \$459,000 to John Dingell when he was unopposed for re-election. This provides an enormous campaign surplus for him to take into retirement, he surmised. 274 PACs gave to both can-



didates in seven Senate races. 62 PACs made post-election switches. Half of the House incumbents received more than 50% of PAC money from people who could not vote for them because they were headquartered outside their district. Whom, then, does the candidate represent? he queried.

Ben Senturia, of the Study Group on Electoral Democracy, quoted the oft-repeated comment of Congressman Richard Cheney of Wyoming,

"If you think this Congress, or any other, is going to set up a system where someone can run against them on equal terms at government expense, you're smoking something you can't buy at the corner drugstore."

Brooks Jackson said that to level the playing field we have to call for a Constitutional Amendment to limit the terms of Congress.

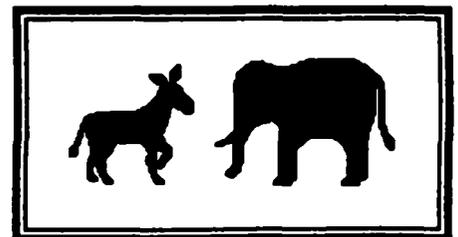
What was accomplished by this non-partisan meeting? A national organization was formed with a structure. The center is in Kansas City (where the founder, Democrat Lionel Kunst, lives) with the country divided into 18 workable regions. A platform was created calling for a Constitutional Amendment preventing any individual from serving more than twelve years in the Senate or in the House of Representatives. PACs are to be outlawed and honorariums banned.

The action plan is to educate the grassroots voters to the abuses of the electoral system and to encourage candidates to run who support the platform.

The Coalition will petition the States for the Constitutional Amendment at the same time they petition Congress to enact legislation to limit the time to twelve years for any representative in Congress.

The uniqueness of this group was that Democrats and Republicans put aside their partisan politics and came together for a higher value—a deep concern for the country and its representative government.

Coalition to End Permanent Congress
Lionel Kunst (816) 421-2000



Within the scope of general law and the preservation of peaceful order, we must, like it or not, allow freedom of action and liberty of expression. We must tolerate many opinions we are convinced are wrong, and we must endure many actions we believe to be unethical or immoral or simply exceedingly annoying

We must be alert to suppress the temptation of attempting to enact into law our particular opinions and prejudices, and cause other people's ideas to be prohibited by legal enactments. Attitudes different from this general pragmatic definition of the essence of democracy will result in the funeral of democracy

Thomas Hart Benton, a great American Regional artist and muralist famous for his rolling landscapes and crude people, was condemned by the Art Establishment, both dealer and museum variety, as "crude and vulgar" He didn't attempt to deny it, but merely stated, "Of course it's true — I'm an American, and America is crude and vulgar."

Personally, I do not approve of some of the superstitious manifestations in religion or \$40 billion aircraft carriers, or half-billion-dollar planes, or trillion-dollar national debt, or our indulgence as a nation in "police action" wars, or the national law which provides that a child of an illegal immigrant automatically becomes an American citizen if born on American soil

But this is the result of American Democracy — these aspects may not be the will of God, but they are the will of our people and of our democracy!

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Dear Editor

The City of Shaker Heights wants to demolish all the buildings in the Chagrin - Lee - Avalon area.

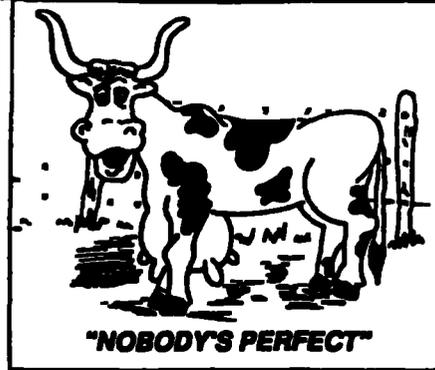
I say "renovate, don't excavate" It is interesting — times never change! They wanted to do this fourteen years ago when I worked at the Shaker Office of Central National Bank.

I'm glad you live in the country — my hometown is Burton and my mom and brother Steve still live there without city aggravation Wish I could join them!

Best wishes. Keep up the good work!

Marie Walzer

*(Former Manager
Central National Bank, Shaker Hts)*



This drawing was submitted along with the following note. (The artist is not known)

Dear Editor— Keep up the good work and may our lord bless your efforts to open many eyes

Sincerely, Dick Jesse, Geauga County

A SPEAKOUT! SCOOP

Whoever has traveled recently along Mentor Avenue has seen the workmen, trucks and scaffolding outside of The Rider's Inn and Tavern in Painesville SPEAKOUT! decided to stop and find out what was going on behind the scenes

Luckily, the owner, Elane Crane, was there to give us the cook's tour. What a magnificent renovation and restoration of the 1812 Inn! The downstairs floors have been sanded down to their original Needle Pine wood Elane said that Needle Pine was indigenous to the Lake County area, but now is extinct. The smaller dining room connected to the bar has a huge fireplace which will warm the diners on frosty Lake County nights. Antique wooden beams with cut-out notches intended for gas lamps appear to hold up the ceiling and give the room an atmosphere of an earlier era's charm and authenticity

During the restoration, a secret wall panel leading to the basement was discovered. Elane's guess is that its many secrets and treasures had been sealed up for 70 years! Found there were storage shelves for customers' sleighs and also the building's original bannister, which has been completely restored for Rider Inn's front stairs In the 1860's this basement was on the Underground Railroad.

The most splendid visual delights are the period wallpapers in every room The bar is enhanced by a warm, grey-green

swirly pattern which is perfect with the adjoining small dining room's fireplace I could just imagine the flames swirling smoke up the chimney. On the landing, the effect of wallpaper called "Proper English" is stunning—green and maroon on a beige background with glistening gold highlights took my breath away Upstairs are two original wallpapers from 1820 and the Civil War period in the "Baby's Room" Uncovered during restoration, these original papers will be protected by Plexiglass so that visitors may view them

In addition to the bar and the restaurant, there will be a Bed & Breakfast operation upstairs, an Antique Store and antiques (for sale) as part of each room's decor. Words cannot describe the honeymoon suite. You simply have to see it.

When will the Inn open to the public? "Soon," says Elane.

Now for the scoop A bar or restaurant can often be judged by its restrooms. There is no question in my mind that Rider's rank with the finest. The bathroom appliances are "Crane" with color-coordinated tile walls, designer wallpapers and antique mirrors. The Men's Room is a statement, to say the least. Around the urinals are privacy shields, and the baby's changing table is in the Men's Room Yes — we said Men's Room —(NOT THE LADIES' ROOM!)

THE RENAISSANCE WOMAN

June Vreeke-Hutt, publisher of *The New Cleveland Woman*, is taking the plunge into the magazine field with *The Renaissance Woman*. The magazine, which will be on the stands June 9th, will be taking a new form in keeping with the changing times.

She says it is "*The Renaissance Woman for a Renaissance City*" Assuming the magazine will be saying some pretty positive things about the Cleveland Renaissance woman, I did some research to find out about the "original" Renaissance woman in *Kate Simon's* 1988 book, *A Renaissance Tapestry*

The following quotes show how far we have come since then

"The stage on which the Renaissance woman lived is often bathed in the luminous glow of a "Golden Age" (page 139)

"Careers open to women were the three perennials housewifery and child-bearing, the religious life, and whoredom. The little girls of princely houses were, with a few notable exceptions,

taught mainly the feminine arts of embroidering, singing, dancing, playing a musical instrument or two, and being able to handle a few Latin phrases" (page 141)

"Among the many pieces of advice and instructions given a girl by her mother was the important matter of being patient and forbearing, of not, by either 'learning or magics,' attempting to match her husband's accomplishments" (page 145)

"Of the poor, unchronicled woman we know little, her life as unmarked as the vanished hovels in which she and her family lived with their animals and feed." (page 145)

Compare *The Renaissance Woman* as we imagine her today with the Renaissance woman as she was, described in the book *A Renaissance Tapestry*, available at The Chagrin Book Barn, located behind Gamekeepers Tavern in Chagrin Falls. To order your copy for \$8.95, call the owner, Pat Haber, 247-3100

(Permission to reprint granted by Harper & Row)

The opinions herein expressed are not necessarily those of the editor or the publisher.

SPEAKOUT! is a non-partisan newsletter which is intended to encourage lively exchange of ideas and stimulate healthy debate among the people in North-eastern Ohio.

Our aim is to discuss problems, but also propose solutions; i.e., we want to act, not wait for someone else to act. Subscriptions are \$20 per year (12 monthly issues). Advertising space is available. Please send your articles, letters, etc. to:

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Nature:

Bass Myths and Reality

By Werner D. Mueller

The one-acre pond on our six-acre mini-farm stirs and throbs with life at this time of the year. Male bullfrogs and green frogs stake out their territories at pond's edge and bellow forth their challenges to other males and invitations to the lady frogs.

"Red gill" sunfish scrape out their saucer-shaped nesting beds a few feet from shore, "blue gill" sunfish do the same in deeper water. The bass in our case, Kentucky "spotted" bass, build their nests in a few feet of water near a drop-off. (This bass, half-way between a smallmouth & largemouth bass in appearance and habits, has some of the best qualities of both: it fights like a smallmouth and adapts to Ohio ponds as well as, or better than, a largemouth.)

I, a fisherman and an amateur naturalist, do not fish in my own pond. It would be like catching your pet poodle. The fish learn to trust me and follow me around the edge of the pond looking for handouts. An ideal setup to test bass myths!

Myth: *The male bass chases the female away from the nest after breeding and then guards the eggs and young.*

Reality: Not spotted bass! They both guard the eggs for a while, then the female leaves peacefully and the male guards the school of fry.

Myth: *The male bass will not eat while guarding the nest.*

Reality: They gratefully accept handouts of night crawlers and red worms.

Werner Mueller is a retired lawyer & active sportsman-conservationist.

Next **SPEAKOUT!** meeting:

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FREEDOM OF SPEECH QUESTIONNAIRE

Please answer our questions and send us your questionnaire using this self-mailer in the next issue of SPEAKOUT! we will publish the results, both yours and ours.

Let's have your evaluation of the following newspapers:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| The Star Beacon (Ashtabula) | The Aurora Advocate |
| The Gazette (Jefferson) | The Gateway Press (Streetsboro) |
| The Cleveland Plain Dealer | The Record Courier (Ravenna) |
| The Chagrin Valley Times (Chagrin Falls) | The Akron Beacon Journal |
| The News Herald (Willoughby) | The Herald Sun |
| The Geauga Times Leader (Chardon) | |

Where do you live (county and city)? _____

Where do you work (county and city)? _____

Please list the papers you read regularly, whether listed above or not. _____

Please mark with an "X" those papers listed above with which you are familiar

What newspapers do you regularly read? _____

Which is the best in your opinion? _____

Why? _____

Which paper is the worst? _____

Why? _____

Which paper has the best sports section? _____

Who is the better gossip, Mary-Mary (Plain Dealer) _____

or David Jones (News Herald (circle your choice)) _____

Which paper is the most "social"? _____

Which paper is 99% ads and 1% news? _____

Which paper has the most in-depth news? _____

Which paper has the most superficial news? _____

Which paper is the most slanted? _____

Which has the "best" comics. _____

Please send your completed questionnaire to:

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Thank you for participating in our survey. To receive SPEAKOUT! results please complete:

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Origins by Fennec

In England, the position of National Executioner, like so much else in the country, was a hereditary position. The job of hoist-

ing criminals in the air was filled for generations by a family named Derrick. When the

huge modern cranes that quickly hoisted tons of material into the air was invented, the people named it after — Hangman Derrick!

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Senior News Beyond Medicare

- *Big Gaps in charges!*
- *Small gaps in charges!*
- *What are allowable charges?*
- *What does Medicare cover?*
- *What insurance do I need?*

Are these only a few of the questions you've been wondering about? Or perhaps you're familiar with these "Medi-topics" already. Well, how about *Unbundled Services* and "Code Creep?" These and many other Medicare related topics are covered in the *June 1989 issue of Consumer Reports*.

For the Senior — or anyone else who needs to be well informed about Medicare coverage, the article "Beyond Medicare" fills in all the gaps with summaries of coverage and ratings on Medigap policies

Find out what an insurance package costs, what the top rated plans are and where they are sold. The anatomy of a claim. What to watch out for. The insurance hard sell. A lead card sampler. The failure of regulation and What's to be done. .are covered along with much more: What have you got to lose?

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