

90 MAY 15 PM 12:01

Margaret R. Mueller  
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May 10, 1990  
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Mr. Bradley Litchfield  
Office General Counsel  
Federal Elections Commission  
999 E. St N.W.  
Washington D.C. 20463

AOR 1990-9

Dear Mr. Litchfield,

Thank you very much for sending me the thorough report from the FEC about my printing SPEAKOUT'. After studying the document, I thought the best way to be able to continue printing SPEAKOUT' during the campaign was to put it on a sole proprietorship basis instead of an incorporated status so that in the event that any future issue of SPEAKOUT' were deemed to be in the nature of expenditures or contributions within the meaning of the Act, no claim could be made that the expenditures or contributions were unlawful because made by a corporation. My reading of the report you sent me is that the Commission does not regard the costs of any of the previous editions of SPEAKOUT' which it reviewed to be expenditures or contributions covered by the Act.

Would you please give me an advisory opinion on a new question. Should the costs of printing and circulating under the sole proprietorship the May edition of SPEAKOUT', a copy of which is enclosed, be reported as an expenditure or contribution covered by the Act? Or does the Commission regard the May edition of SPEAKOUT' to be an exercise of my rights under the First Amendment not covered by the Act?

Thank you for your consideration of the above questions.

Yours truly,

*Margaret R. Mueller*

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FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION  
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# SPEAKOUT

Vol 2, No. 2

Founded March 1989

May 1990

A Non Partisan Forum

## Something Has Happened In Western Society

**M**ore than looking back at "the good ole days" comes the reflection that something has really happened. Adherence to the truth and respect for the law have eroded. As Philip Dunne said, "I think that something more insidious and powerful than the mere passage of years is at work in Western society. This republic in particular is based on the mutual trust of free men and women and on the sanctity of law as the supreme authority of the land.

The family unit is fragmented so our children run the streets and pick up the lowest level of behavior. The churches and synagogues have lost believers eroding our faith. Our empathy embraces, "It is someone else's fault not the individual's." We do not believe our "public servants." Superficiality has risen to the top. What a sorry scenario and what to do about it?

Perhaps we should look at priorities - The basic unit of a free society is the family, from that unit to the neighborhood, to the city, to the state and to the nation. It follows that national policy should be directed toward



*Margaret Mueller*

**“Adherence to the truth and respect for the law have eroded.”**

strengthening families to help them stick together for the benefit of the children and the grandparents. Instead we have approached the problem by providing financial supports encouraging parents into the marketplace instead of providing financial support so that one parent could afford to stay home. It is more than the middle income career man and woman can deal with to create a home for their children and for themselves while exhausted and running like gerbils in a cage for money to live on.

We must change Madelaine O'Hair's law that says we cannot have a prayer in our public schools. The prayer may be from any religion, but the reading of a profound passage makes children think about something bigger than themselves, and that there are truths which everyone must strive to live by in a free society.

And a crime is a crime. There should be quick and fast punishment for people who break the law instead of months and years of litigation. Crimes against decent citizens cannot be explained away because of the criminal's unhappy childhood.

*Continued on page 2*

# Something's Happening

Continued

"Public servants" have come to the crossroads. It is no longer whether they are Republicans or Democrats. It is whether this country will endure. The greed and lust for power of our "public servants" has reached the nadir. We will go broke unless the 3 trillion dollar debt is addressed now. The waste of the taxpayer's dollar must stop. After all, the one thing we want in the future is a strong and principled nation for our children to inherit. ■

*Editor's Note: Ideas for the above were prompted by "The Effects of Superstrings on Victorian Morality" by Philip Dunne, Harvard Magazine March/April 1990*

*No man is half as smart as he wants a woman to think he is.*  
—Sam Ewing.

## SPEAKOUT

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# Education Update

*Summaries of the Education planks in the Republican and Democratic Presidential Platforms.*

## Republican

- Parental involvement; the right to educate children at home.
- Choice and competition among schools, such as state-sponsored voucher programs.
- Accountability of performance among students, teachers, and administrators.
- Values in school, including abstinence education as the first line of defense against AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases, and to reduce teen pregnancy; opposition to any programs in public schools that provide birth control or abortion services.
- Quality for all individuals with the federal government empowering low-income families to choose quality and demand accountability in education.
- Action to reduce the deplorable dropout rate.
- Emphasis on help for handicapped children and others at special risk; encourage leadership through special programs for gifted and talented students.
- Performance testing for students and teachers.
- Merit pay, career ladders, and rewards for superior teachers.
- Making use of volunteerism from the private sector
- Expansion of school curricula to include history, culture, geography, and the languages of other nations.
- Excellence in the teaching of geography to equip students for competing with other nations.
- Improved discipline, with schools becoming models of order and decorum.

## Democratic

- Significant increase in federal funding.
- Preschool education for all children at risk.
- Teacher training and enrichment programs, such as a new National Teacher Corps to recruit teachers, especially from minorities.
- Guaranteed college education for everyone.
- Equalized financing among local school districts within each state to ensure equal access to education.
- Increased funding for compensatory reading, math, and other services to low-income children.
- Greater emphasis on bilingual education and help for historically black and Hispanic institutions.
- Better education for those with special needs.
- Efforts to end illiteracy.

*(Excerpted from Education Update, Fall, 1989)*

*SPEAKOUT provides a forum for people to speak out on community and government problems with their own solutions to the problems.*

*This is a non-partisan newsletter with straight forward, informative and sometimes amusing articles. My monthly editorials are my own views, but designed to encourage differing responses.*

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

# AMERICAN EDUCATION

BY FENNEC

**W**hat is wrong with American Education? This is a question reverberating throughout America, and it has brought into consideration three other questions. What can we do about it? What will it cost? What do we want?

Here follow a few suggestions for the alteration of the present American educational system:

- 1 The immediate abolition of all busing. It was the immemorial custom in America and everywhere else, that the child go to the nearest school. Busing is futilely costly; it disturbs the children and tires them; it isolates both the bussed children from their ordinary environment and the local school as the meeting place for the community.
- 2 There is an ancient Greek notion of two types of people, and two types of knowledge: the "perceiver," emotional knowledge and the "deducer," logical knowledge. To enhance each's reception process of knowledge, different methods should be used.
- 3 More use of the Montessori method where tangible examples for teaching the subject are used. When teaching American revolution history, show an actual gun of the period, a wig, a model home or log cabin.
- 4 Institute a twelve month school year in junior high school, high school and college. The present system of nine month schooling, three month summer vacation is a legacy from an agricultural society that needed the children on the farm in the summer.
- 5 To help preserve the private and Catholic school systems -- make all books and a percentage of the tuition federally tax deductible.

*Most politicians are like great contortionists. They can straddle a fence and have their ear to the ground at the same time -- John Drybread*

## Selected Environmental Publications

Dozens of books and magazines addressing a wide range of environmental issues, from grassroots activism to political implications, now are available. Here are a few of these publications, most of which can be found at local bookstores.

**Buzzworm: The Environmental Journal**  
\$18/yr(6 issues)  
Box 6853  
Syracuse, NY 13217-7930  
*Magazine reports on the condition of worldwide environmental conservation.*

**"50 Simple Things You Can Do to Save the Earth"**  
By The Earth Works Group  
\$4.95

Earthworks Press 1989  
*This book is a practical guide to taking an active role in protecting the earth*

**Garbage: The Practical Journal for the Environment**  
\$21/yr (6 issues)  
Box 56519  
Boulder CO 80322  
*Magazine offers articles and tips on combating pollution on a personal level from the supermarket to the kitchen.*

**"Great Lakes, Great Legacy?"**  
Conservation Foundation  
1250 24th St. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20037

(202) 293-4800  
*Report documenting the threat to human health in the Great Lakes region because of toxic*

**"Making a Difference"**  
By Zero Population Growth  
1400 16th St. NW, Suite 320  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
(202)332--2200  
Publication listing 150 ways individual s can directly get involved in helping the planet.

**"Save Our Planet"**  
By Diane MacEachern  
\$9.95  
Dell Publishing 1990  
*Recent bestselling book that outlines 750 everyday ways people can help clean up the earth.*

# EDUCATION

By George Crile, Jr.

## *The Role of Education*

**N**o one agrees on what is causing our economic crisis but perhaps our educational system is a contributing factor. We are wasting billions of dollars worth of productivity by unduly prolonging our children's schooling. More and more high school graduates, instead of going to work, go to college and fewer and fewer of these elect to study technology or science. This is to be compared with Germany, one of the most successful economies of the West, where more than fifty percent of boys, at the age of 16, enter apprenticeships in

which they learn skills and trades and at the same time they carry on cultural or scientific studies in night schools.

In the United States we make the absurd mistake of trying to teach arts and languages in college instead of in pre-school or kindergarten. Up to the time of sexual maturity children are geniuses at learning new languages, including that of the arts. After the age of 16 most of them lose these childhood facilities.

History and Culture can be learned from libraries and lectures just as readily at age 60 as at 16. Wouldn't it be

better if the colleges, instead of giving degrees, kept their doors open for students to come and go and learn what they wanted? Then when it came time to apply for a job, an examination could be given that would enable the employer to tell whether or not the applicant had the necessary knowledge and skills. What difference does a degree make, especially since there is such a wide difference in the standards set by different schools? ■

*Reprinted with permission from "Barney's Bedtime Stories" Vol II, by George Crile, Jr 1989*

## Editorial Comment

**SPEAKOUT'** is now taking a different turn. We are going to become ethologists, scientists who study animal behavior. Animals have problems common to humans such as eating, drinking, protecting themselves from predators, reproducing and grooming. One of the more interesting aspects of animal behavior is that "some perform actions that benefit others without any direct benefit to themselves." This evidently helps to preserve the species.

Once upon a time there was a big bear who decided to let a little bear manage the food for all the bears in the neighborhood. This little bear was very pleased with all the responsibility and gleefully took the job. The little bear often had to go to other bear camps to see how they were doing to compare their success with his own. The other bears who did not know him well invited him to stay in their camp and send-back from

them some of their surplus food to his camp. Now he had new bear friends and important ones, too, who knew even more bears. And so the years went by with little bear's camp feeling good that they were being watched over so well by little bear. but soon little bear liked his new importance and went farther and farther away setting up places to live outside of his original bear home. He even put his own little bears into the other camps' schools. Naturally little bear had to let his home know what he

was doing for them so he got bears who had nothing to do to report home, and he sent lots of little messages to tell how successful he was in the bigger world.

Occasionally little bear, now very important, came home and smiled at all the other bears, except that the bears in his home town were getting worried. They had used up all the caves to store their trash in and did not know what to do. A lot of their bears had no work and there was not enough medicine for sick bears. The home bears thought something was wrong and did not laugh so much as they did in the past.

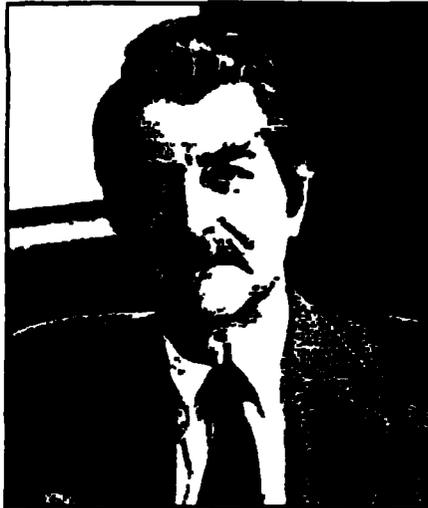
- The moral of this story is that bears who forget where they came from often lose where they've gone.

*Please send in your own animal stories.*



# NATURALLY SPEAKING

By Werner Mueller



Winter birdfeeders should provide sunflower seeds in standard feeders or on flat trays (as contrasted to the hanging feeders used by more agile perching birds, like their relatives the Goldfinches and House Finches), and optional treats could include unsalted peanuts and safflower seeds

Cardinals' worst enemies locally are sharp-eyed Bluejays, which

## CARDINAL: OUR STATE BIRD

steal their eggs and kill their fledglings, especially the first brood before our deciduous shrubs leaf out; and parasitic Cowbirds, which lay a single egg among the 2 to 4 cardinal eggs in the nest. The newly hatched Cowbird, large and fast-growing, will crowd its competitors out of

the nest, and then beg and cajole the male cardinal into feeding it, while the female cardinal sits on her second clutch of eggs.

We can help cardinals raise their first brood of the season by planting clumps or rows of big evergreen shrubs on the quiet sides of our houses or out-buildings, leaving them unpruned until summer, and discouraging Bluejays and Cowbirds from hanging around them during the month of April (Good choices of evergreen shrubs include the large-growing taxus varieties such as Brown, Hicks, and Ward.) Unnatural concentrations of Bluejays and Cowbirds may be avoided by discontinuing the feeding of mixed birdseed as of late March, and by continuing to fill only the hanging-type sunflower and thistle feeders favored by other birds such as Chickadees and Goldfinches. Cardinals have an easier time of successful nesting with their second brood, aided by an abundance of thick, leafy cover.

The only bad habit of cardinals is their tendency to self destruct during the month of March. Every March they splatter themselves against window panes and screens and break their fragile necks. I suspect that they get drunk on some berries whose sugar turned to alcohol at that time of year, just as ruffed grouse get soused each fall on sugar-turned alcohol berries and fly into automobiles. There should be an A. A. for birds!

But by and large our state bird thrives in northeast Ohio, especially when we landscape our properties so as to provide fruit and berries most months of the year, and supplement such natural food with sunflower seed in our birdfeeders December through March ■

*Mueller, a local naturalist, is a Russell Township resident*

The cardinal, also known as the cardinal grosbeak or redbird, is our most conspicuous and melodious member of the Finch family, which includes not only our many species of native sparrow, but also Goldfinches, Rose-Breasted Grosbeaks, Towhees, and House finches. The cardinal is also our state bird.

The bright red plumage of the male cardinal catches our eye as we garden or watch our winter birdfeeder. The morning people among our readers know that his "cheer, cheer, cheer" song is usually the first musical note sounded after the Great Horned Owls and Barred Owls have stopped hooting, but before the sun first appears over the Eastern treetops. Cardinals are also among our most evenly distributed birds in Northeast Ohio. Suburban shrub plantings, and mixed rural habitat that includes brushy fields, hedgerows, and grapevine tangles, provide year-around food and nesting cover to their liking.

Cardinals feast on buds, berries of all descriptions, and winter-hardy seeds and fruits such as wild grapes, weed seeds, and sumac. Their stout beaks are specially adapted to crushing seeds and extracting the fruits and nutmeats from within. They also enjoy eating beetles, caterpillars, and other insects during the summer months, but do quite well without much animal matter during the winter.

Among trees and shrubs in the basic planting plan suggested in this column that attract and provide important food for cardinals are: serviceberries for their June fruits; blackberries for July fruit; elderberries and viburnums such as arrowwood (*viburnum dentatum*) for their August-September berries; dogwoods (Florida, gray, red-osier, silky, and Cornelian "cherries") for their October berries; autumn olive for their November-December apple-like fruits; and Washington hawthorn for their December-January-February berries.

# Coker Says Group Considers Lawsuit Over Franked Mail

By Michael Finn

News-Free Press Staff Writer

**T**he Coalition to End the Permanent Congress, a bipartisan group dedicated to federal campaign reform, is considering "judicial redress" to prohibit incumbent federal legislators from using franked mail in an unfair manner, says the group's national co-chairman.

Harold Coker, a Republican

Mr. Coker said the purpose of political advertising is to gain name recognition for a candidate. He said the frank provides an extremely powerful means of keeping an incumbent's name and likeness before the electorate — without cost. He said the frank can mean as much as \$500,000

Mr. Coker said the frank should not be eliminated. He said members of Congress should be able to answer constituents' inquiries, but mass mailings should be eliminated.

During the recent meeting in Washington, the coalition reaffirmed its commitment to limiting federal legislative terms to 12 years and to outlawing the use of Political Action Committee (PAC) money and other special interest contributions to congressional campaigns.

Other reforms supported by the coalition include a ban on all congressional honoraria, enforcement of laws prohibiting the use of congressional staff to campaign for re-election of congressional incumbents, and the right of independent and minor-party candidates to gain easier access to the ballot.

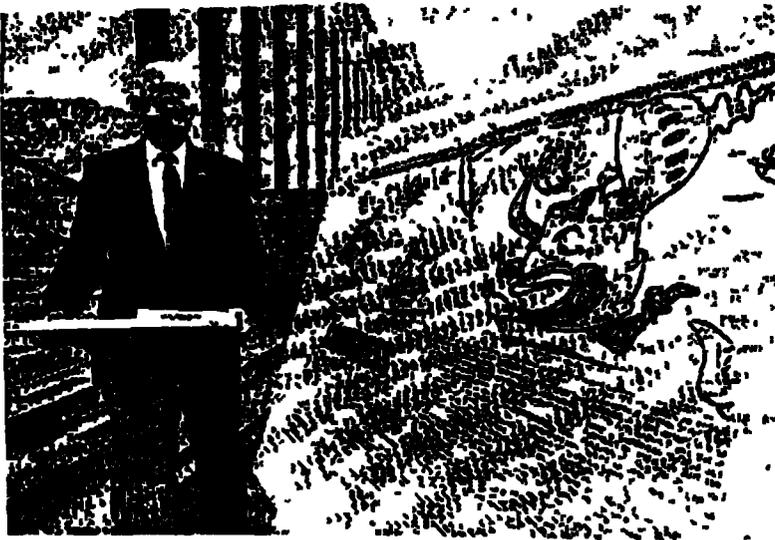
The coalition also says Congress should enact no laws that do not apply to itself and should amend laws that currently exclude Congress.

Mr. Coker said the 44 coalition members from 25 states who attended the Washington meeting "left convinced that we can do something about campaign reform. We are continuing to lift up the problems of America and pointing out the Congress is not solving them."

However, reform will not come easily, Mr. Coker said. But without reform, the democratic process is in trouble, he said.

Noting that six of the seven incumbents who were defeated in 1988 congressional races had "ethical or moral problems," he said the odds of defeating an incumbent who has not run afoul of the law are virtually nil.

"If there's only a 1 percent chance of getting new blood into the Congress, there's a good chance the democratic process will die," Mr. Coker said. ■



**CALL FOR REFORM** — Harold Coker, national co-chairman of The Coalition to End the Permanent Congress, said this morning that Congress is not solving America's problems.

He called for various reform measures to be enacted to give challengers a fair chance of unseating incumbents. (Staff photo by Alex McMahan)

candidate for Tennessee's 3rd Congressional District seat in 1988, was elected national co-chairman during the coalition's meeting in Washington on Monday.

Mr. Coker said the coalition is considering filing a Civil Rights lawsuit based on the unfair nature of the frank which allows members of Congress to send free mailings to people in their districts.

to \$600,000 in unpaid advertising for an incumbent during a term.

"We feel like the challengers are discriminated against like other minorities," Mr. Coker said in explaining why the coalition is considering challenging the congressional frank on Civil Rights grounds.

"I'm not suggesting we're gonna do that," Mr. Coker said. "We are exploring that at this time."

# Little Known Facts

*Gleaned from Facts from "Honest Graft" by Brooks Jackson  
1988, Borzoi Book, Alfred A. Knopf, Inc.*

**D**emocratic institutions are at stake.  
The average House member had  
\$128,000 left over after the last election.

7 died

7 incumbents were defeated

✚

**P**hony or watered down reforms,

Corruption

Keating Five

Tony Coelho

Jim Wright, (Speaker of the  
House, in Congress 3 years)

Alphonse D'Amato

Durenberger

St. Germain

**PACs**, special interest monies in-  
creased their contributions \$68.7 million  
up 24% Incumbents are increasingly  
dependent on special interest monies.  
The average Democrat incumbent took in  
\$81,380 in PACs.

**"L**obbying groups and members of  
Congress are joined at the hip."

**T**he incumbents spent an average of  
\$389,950 - 3 fold increase from ten years  
ago (\$127,000).

1970 95% of all house members re-elected  
1972 94%  
1986 96%  
1988 98.5%

✚

**C**ongress has become a House of Lords  
evolving into a grant bureaucracy, a re-  
election machine designed to return  
incumbents to office. Congress is  
increasing federal government power  
over everyday citizens and businessmen  
through civil rights, consumer protection,  
pollution, medicare and medicaid.

✚

**B**efore WWII House members had 2  
staff. Now they have 22.

**T**he Congress cannot decide difficult  
issues because it loses votes

**I**n 1974, there were a total of 608 PACs.  
In 1986, 1700 PACs.

✚

**"C**ongress to cost \$2.3 billion in '90"  
(New House news service 3-13-90)

**L**iberal & conservatives call the system  
corrupt.

**T**rus predicament:  
America is becoming a special-interest  
nation where money is replacing votes.  
Congress needs less & less support  
among the electorate as it panders to  
groups with money  
1986 - 33.4% voted (lowest since 1930)  
96% incumbents elected.

**C**onstituents figure voting is a waste of  
time

**P**olitical parties don't even have \$ to  
support candidates.

**"G**reat individual responsiveness,  
equally great collective irresponsibility "

✚

**"T**he longer a nation enjoys stability,  
the more special interest groups it accu-  
mulates, slower its economy grows "  
Marcus Olsen, British Economists

**S**mall groups have more incentive to  
take a larger share of pie for themselves  
than they do to work enlarging the pie for  
everyone

**D**airy farmers, Well financed PACs

**W**ashington Representatives Direc-  
tory lists more than 8,500 groups with  
agents in Washington.

**J**im Wright, Coelho interceded with  
federal regulators to cut insurance fund  
losses.

✚

# Coalition to End the Permanent Congress

## Gordon Humphrey

To the Editor "Vote 'Em Out, but Don't Limit Terms" (editorial, Feb. 26) suggests limiting campaign spending for members of Congress to counter the nearly insurmountable advantages of incumbency. Spending limits are another incumbent protection scheme. The better-known candidate will nearly always win. Say a mayor won the nomination to oppose an incumbent senator. The mayor would have to spend most of the campaign chest on television ads just to approach the incumbent's name recognition. The incumbent could spend much more on campaign organization to turn out the vote.

Spending limits would not touch such advantages of incumbency as easy access to the news media, legions of staff members and well-honed campaign organizations. Incumbents always find ways to protect themselves. And it became worse in the last decade

with a re-election rate of 98.5 percent for House members. The only certain way to break the grip on incumbents is to limit terms.

Senate Joint Resolution 235, which Senator Dennis DeConcini and I have introduced, would

### Congressional Terms Must Be Limited

limit members to two six-year terms in the Senate and six two-year terms in the House. Twelve years should assure us of a Congress with experience and

idealism. You suggest that term limits would give more power to staff members. I have seen very few members of Congress led around by their staffs, instead of vice versa, in my 12 years.

A \$3 trillion Federal deficit with annual carrying costs near \$300 billion, proves Congress is not serving the nation well. It's time to open the doors in Congress and let the fresh breezes blow. ■

*Gordon J. Humphrey,  
U.S. Senator  
from New Hampshire  
Washington, Feb. 26, 1990*

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March 13, 1990*

## SPEAKOUT

P.O. BOX 161  
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