

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SENATOR DOLE'S CALL FOR RECOGNIZING ENGLISH AS AMERICA'S OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 1995

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, many of us in this House—indeed, close to 200 of us—have joined in sponsoring various legislative measures that would declare English as our country's official language. Beyond mere declaration, and depending on the particular proposal, these bills and resolutions contain various mechanisms of implementation and enforcement.

The movement behind recognizing English as our official language, I believe, is growing by the day. I continue to receive communications from my constituents, asking that we, in Congress, take action accordingly, and I am pleased to be a cosponsor of two such English language measures, H.R. 123 and H.R. 1005.

And, Mr. Speaker, it is with this emerging English energy in mind that I take particular pleasure in making available excerpts from a speech by the distinguished majority leader of the U.S. Senate, BOB DOLE, in which he stressed the unifying role of one language. Senator DOLE addressed the American Legion Convention in Indianapolis, IN, earlier this week on Labor Day.

You are Freedom's heroes and American patriots, and I'm proud to be among you. Each of you has answered America's call—whether it was to fight for our freedom, or to defend the peace in which we have prospered for so many years. Each of you knows what it means to wear the uniform of your country, to put your country first and to be willing to bear any sacrifice to keep her free.

Because of you, and those who came before you, we Americans are the freest people on earth. And you know as well as I do how we stay that way; we must remain the strongest country on earth.

That's what I want to talk with you about today. Keeping America strong—in her might and in her heart, in the face of external enemies and in the presence of threats from within. America is still the land of the free and the home of the brave, and a great century of hope and opportunity is about to unfold before us. But to claim that future, America needs your help. For some in America believe our might is no longer needed, and some think our definition of what it means to be an American is out of date.

Of course, neither is true. Can there be any doubt that the world is still a dangerous place? Yes, the Cold War is over. We won one of humanity's greatest struggles against totalitarianism and oppression. But today peace is threatened and dark forces are multiplying in almost every corner of the world.

For the demands of freedom require us to modernize our forces, to maintain our technological edge, and to ensure that America remains the world's one and only superpower. We will never apologize for that. Our goal is not just to be strong enough to turn back a threat. We must be so strong no one

ever again is even tempted to threaten us, at all.

But if we are to return this country to greatness, we must do more than restore America's defenses. We must return as a people to the original concept of what it means to be American. This means tackling subjects the arbiters of political correctness don't even want discussed: For example, English must be recognized as America's official language. Western tradition and American greatness must be taught in our schools. And the Federal government just end its war on traditional American values.

America has always been more than just a place on a map, it has held a claim on our hearts. We are a nation dedicated to a proposition: that all men and women are created equal, endowed by our Creator with certain, inalienable rights. Our forefathers rejected race and religion as the forces to form a nation, choosing instead the ideals of freedom and democracy. It was a radical gamble, and ever since we have held it to be an article of faith that those who would be Americans must first abandon lesser allegiances. As Franklin Roosevelt once said, "Americanism . . . is not, and never was, a matter of race and ancestry."

Succeeding waves of immigrants have been drawn to America by this idea. Lacking the centuries-old, primal bonds of other nations, we have used our language, our history and our code of values to make the American experiment work. We have used them to forge millions of diverse individuals into one people with a common purpose. Language, history and values: these are the strings that bind our hearts to America. These are the forces that have held us together—allowing us to be diverse and yet united, to absorb untold millions of immigrants while coming the closest any country ever has to the classless, upwardly mobile society of our ideals.

But these keys to unity are under attack from our government and from intellectual elites who seem embarrassed by America. What we see as opportunity they see as oppression. Where we see a proud past, they see a legacy of shame. What we hold as moral truth, they call intolerance. They have false theories, long dissertations and endless studies to back them up. But they know so much they have somehow missed the fact that the United States of America is the greatest force for good the world has ever known.

Yes, we have our faults. But part of what makes me so proud to be an American is the constant effort of our people to do better—to make our country right and good and just. Unfortunately some policies and programs born out of that desire have gone awry. Begun for the best of reasons and then hijacked by the Embarrassed-to-be-American crowd, certain Federal programs are untying the strings of citizenship.

LOBBYING

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 1995

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, August 9, 1995, into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

The report follows:

LOBBYING AND SPECIAL INTERESTS

Governing in America has become increasingly difficult in recent years. Part of the problem is that the country is much bigger than it used to be. Since World War II, the population of the U.S. has grown from 130 million people to 260 million. The country has become much more diverse: more than half of all California voters in the 1996 election will be non-white, and some of my colleagues will barely speak a word of English during their next congressional campaign. The country also faces difficult policy issues—from balancing the budget to the challenge of cheap labor abroad. But part of the problem is also the increasing role of special interests in the political process.

Special interests groups have become much more numerous and well-organized in recent years. Washington, of course, has always had lobbyists, and contacting Members of Congress is a basic form of political expression. But we have far more lobbyists now than ever before and they have become very sophisticated and aggressive. Lobbying is one of the biggest growth industries around. There are more than 12,000 registered lobbyists in Washington today, three times more than 20 years ago, but studies show that there are actually close to 100,000 people in Washington who conduct lobbying activities. I used to hear from just a few farm groups on agricultural legislation, for example. Today there are dozens of groups that represent every commodity; not long ago I was visited by people representing Hawaiian Macadamia nut growers. Many lobbyists now also represent foreign governments or companies.

In recent years lobbyists have also greatly expanded their grassroots efforts—trying to persuade ordinary voters to advocate by their letters and contacts with legislators. They use the technologies of the electronic age and can quickly reach and recruit thousands of Americans. With their increasing numbers and influence, lobbyists have become a real power in Washington. They can organize mass demonstrations and flood Members' offices with phone calls, fax messages, and letters.

BENEFITS OF LOBBYISTS

In some ways the growth of these interest groups and lobbying efforts is healthy. I sometimes walk through the halls of Capitol Hill and think I am in the middle of a convention or jamboree. Americans of all persuasions are clamoring to be heard. No single group dominates and freedom of expression is widespread and vigorous.

Lobbyists can play an important role in the legislative process. They help to facilitate the flow of information between legislators and their constituents, and they are well-informed and have detailed knowledge of the issues and Washington politics. They are often skillful in bringing contending parties together and building coalitions. With their growing numbers, they are also able to organize constituent interests and get broad numbers of people involved in grassroots lobbying. Lobbyists often play an integral role in representing less prominent interests by publicizing their causes.

DRAWBACKS

But the current lobbying system does have drawbacks. Sometimes it seems that everybody is represented except the average man

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