

school. I could understand the theory of what the teachers were saying, but didn't learn what I needed to know—that was in a book. I've always been a hard worker and knew if I could get my foot in the door somewhere, I would do a good job. After identifying a job in manufacturing, I still had to fill out the job application as well as read and sign forms. To this day, I don't know what I signed. I could only hope I would not do something that violated what was in those forms.

I went as far as I could in jobs with the minimum amount of reading or writing involved. My supervisors considered me a valuable employee and never suspected I had trouble reading. I felt I had the potential to do more. When a literacy program for adults started at my local library, I finally had an opportunity to get the help I needed so I could do more.

It wasn't until a few years ago that I discovered the reason why I had so much trouble learning to read and write. I have a language-based learning difference—clinically diagnosed dyslexia and attention deficit disorder. At least now I know what I'm dealing with. It was not my fault—I was smart enough. What I needed was a teaching and learning method that worked for me.

There is a difference between learning to read and reading to learn. I first needed to learn how to read and that has taken time. I've been working on my education for almost nine years and I am still taking classes two nights a week. During the same time, I have had to work to support myself. Like most adults, I do not have the luxury of going back to school full-time because I must fulfill other obligations and responsibilities.

There is no "quick fix" solution—two years and you're finished. It is a long process. It is one we all must agree to commit to. There are many more adults like me who, with the right help, can get better jobs and lead more productive lives. They, too, can begin to "give back" to the system.

Thank you for your commitment to help improve the adult literacy system. Around the country, there are many adult learners equally committed to improving the system in addition to their own education. It's great to know we have people like you working with us to make it possible for adults who cannot read, write, or speak English to get the help they need.

Sincerely,

ELAINE W. RANDALL.●

THE GAMBLING LOBBY VERSUS FRANK WOLF

● Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, Congressman FRANK WOLF is a Republican and I am a Democrat, but we have joined with Senator LUGAR and others in proposing a commission to look at where this Nation is going and the question of legalized gambling.

The most casual observer must recognize that we are headed for some problems.

I was pleased to see the editorial in the Washington Post, "The Gambling Lobby v. Frank Wolf," which I ask to be printed in the RECORD at the conclusion of my remarks.

The reality is that one of the reasons the gambling lobby is so effective is the huge amounts of campaign contributions that are provided.

And, as we know from indictments and convictions across the land, the

gambling gentry do not hesitate, from time to time, to get into illegal activity to promote their enterprises.

I am proud of my colleague, FRANK WOLF, for what he is doing, as I am proud of Senator RICHARD LUGAR and the other cosponsors in the Senate.

The Post editorial follows:

THE GAMBLING LOBBY V. FRANK WOLF

A funny thing is happening with the gambling issue in the House. Rep. Frank Wolf (R-Va.) has been pressing for a useful bill to create a national commission to study the economic and social impact of the spread of gambling, and the bill was making good progress. Mr. Wolf's bill has already cleared the Judiciary Committee and is supposed to go to the floor of the House in early March.

But in the interim, the bill has gone to the House Resources Committee, which claims jurisdiction because the measure affects gambling on Indian reservations. House Resources now plans another set of hearings on the bill, and Mr. Wolf is understandably worried that the hearings might be used to further delay consideration. Given the wide support the bill has—it's hard to argue against a national study of gambling's spread or to pretend there are no national implications to this trend—the danger is that the bill will be killed not directly but by endless delay and amendment.

The American Gaming Association (the gambling industry likes the 17th century drawing room sound of "gaming") insists that it is not opposed to a national study of gambling. But it sees the Wolf bill, as written, as just the first step in an effort by Congress to impose some federal rules on an industry that has so far been largely regulated by the states. It also complains that the commission as set up in the Wolf bill now has no representation from state officials (governors or legislators), even though one of the main purposes of the committee is to provide more objective information to local officials than they usually get from the gambling industry.

These objections strike us mostly as clever ways for the industry to gum up the progress of useful legislation. In particular, it would be foolish to limit the commission's mandate. With the spread of gambling—especially to Indian reservations, whose casinos have ways around state regulation—there may well be a case for some national rules. If any event, it's certainly an issue the commission should debate.

The gambling industry has a great deal of money, has been making large campaign contributions and recently hired some of Washington's most influential lobbyists. We have no doubt that the industry can bring a lot of pressure against Mr. Wolf's bill and construct some ingenious stratagems to weaken it. The issue is whether the House leadership will play along, mouthing kind words about Mr. Wolf's efforts while trying to undermine them. The leaders should not play that game. They should keep the promise and let an undiluted version of the Wolf bill go to the floor on schedule.●

MAIL BALLOT VOTING

● Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, I suppose there is no columnist whose writings I read, and with whom I agree more consistently, than Carl Rowan.

And his recent column about the mail voting experiment in Oregon is no exception.

Every move forward to enlarging the voter franchise has been resisted. That

includes giving voting rights to African-Americans, native Americans and to American women.

And the secret ballot which we prize so much today was not part of our early history.

We have gradually made improvements, despite the objections of many people who were wedded to the status-quo.

I do not suggest that on the basis of the Oregon experiment, we should nationally move to mail voting yet, but I would like to see several States try it, because my instinct is that it is likely to be an improvement over the present system.

I ask that the Carl Rowan column be printed in the RECORD.

The column follows:

A KNOCK AT MAIL BALLOTS IS A KNOCK AT DEMOCRACY

(By Carl Rowan)

The political mentalities of the 1770s and 1950s are bursting out all over now that Oregon has had a successful mail ballot to fill the seat of disgraced Sen. Bob Packwood.

I hear cries that the mail ballot cheapened the election, robbing the vote of the sacred majesty that the framers of our government intended.

I hear complaints that the mail ballot permitted uneducated people "who don't even know the names of their congressmen" to vote.

We're told that it allowed all people to vote without expending the small amount of energy and sacrifice of going to a neighborhood polling place, undermining the notion that "the vote is a precious thing."

This is swallowed by some as the sentimentality of patriotism, but it is, in fact, undemocratic gibberish that ought not override the fact that the Oregon election lifted the percentage of voters to about 65 percent of those eligible, a figure that made democratic participation almost as high as in European countries. It saved Oregon about \$1 million. And it produced results that any Republican could applaud.

So we are to deplore this election as a violation of what "the framers" intended? I remember that the framers counted black citizens as three-fifths of a vote. And women as zero percent of a vote. Naturally, neither I nor my wife is much impressed by a reminder of what the framers believed about the semi-slave status of African-American males, or women.

The framers created a situation under which many states could decree that only the propertied could vote. When that idea and "poll tax" requirements were beaten down, polling places were located where millions of poor, ill minority citizens could not get to because they lacked transportation or couldn't leave their jobs.

Nothing in a neighborhood polling place could be more sacred to deprived citizens than casting their first ballot—primarily because the mail ballot allowed them to do so.

So spare me this balderdash about how this country must return to a respect for what "the framers" intended!

I find especially offensive the complaints that mail ballots were cast by "uninformed, uneducated" citizens. In the 1950s some states had laws requiring "literacy tests" for those seeking to vote. That was implemented in ways where white registrars could deny the ballot to blacks who couldn't answer "correctly" such questions as "How many bubbles in a bar of soap?"

Everyone I've heard deploring the mail ballot would be incensed if anyone accused