

[From the Los Angeles Times, Dec. 21, 1998]
 GOP IN SOUTH SEES A CIVIL WAR IT CAN WIN
 (By Earl Ofari Hutchinson)

"RACISTS LEAD THE IMPEACHMENT BATTLE TO PUNISH CLINTON FOR HIS SOCIAL PROGRAMS AND CIVIL RIGHTS STANDS."

Rep. Bob Barr of Georgia gives us an answer to why so many House Republicans defy public opinion, ignore the advice of GOP governors, reject the advice of party moderates in the Senate and are willing to paralyze the government to nail President Clinton. Barr says that they are fighting a civil war.

Since November 1997, Barr has been the point man for Southern Republicans in calling for Bill Clinton's head. This isn't the usual conservative political rage at a politician they regard as a corrupt, immoral, big-spending, big-government Democrat.

Barr, who represents the mostly white, conservative, suburban 7th District in Georgia, is a big booster of the Council of Conservative Citizens. This is the outfit that issued "A Call to White Americans," has denounced blacks as intellectually inferior, champions the Confederate flag and maintains tight ties to Klansman David Duke.

In House speeches, Barr has slammed the Congressional Black Caucus, opposed hate crime laws and spending on social programs. His Web page is linked to the pages of the most extreme right-wing groups in the nation. His campaign against Clinton is part of the Republican Party's Southern strategy to roll back the civil rights gains and eliminate the social programs of the 1960s.

Although Barr is one of the most extreme GOP race-baiters in Congress, he has got the political muscle to push the South's vendetta. Southern Republicans control 82 out of 228 Republican House seats, by far the largest single bloc in Congress. Clinton's victory in 1992 temporarily derailed the Southern bloc's plan to gut civil rights and social programs. Southern Republicans watched as more than 85% of African Americans voted for Clinton in 1992 and 1996 and provided the swing vote for many Democrats in congressional and state races this November. African Americans regard Clinton more favorably than Jesse Jackson or Louis Farrakhan.

The Southern bloc is distressed that the Congressional Black Caucus has been Clinton's biggest defender against the GOP assault and dismayed that far more African Americans than whites oppose impeachment. These Republicans are disgusted that Clinton has appointed more blacks to high administrative offices than any other president, supported minority redistricting in the South, called for tougher action against church burnings and convened the first-ever White House conference to push for tougher penalties to combat hate crimes.

Barr and his cohorts are enraged that Clinton is the first president since Lyndon Johnson to empanel a commission to talk seriously about racial problems and supported the U.S. Sentencing Commission's recommendations to "equalize" the disproportionate drug sentences given to minority offenders. They are affronted that Clinton increased funding for job and education programs, made numerous high-profile appearances at black churches, conferences and ceremonies on school integration in the South and opposed the anti-affirmative action Proposition 209 in California. They are distressed that Clinton is the first president to travel to and support economic initiatives in Caribbean and sub-saharan African nations.

The faster the Southern Republicans rush to dump Clinton, the greater his popularity will be among African Americans. Many blacks see impeachment as a thinly disguised attempt to hammer the president for

acting and speaking out on black causes, and as a backdoor power grab for the White House in the year 2000—and they're right. But as long as Southern Republicans control such a huge block of congressional votes, they believe that impeachment is the civil war they can win.

Earl Ofari Hutchinson is the author of "The Crisis in Black and Black" (Middle Passage Press, 1998)

TRIBUTE TO SACRAMENTO
 COUNTY ASSESSOR ROGER FONG

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 6, 1999

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today in tribute to one of Sacramento County's most outstanding public servants, County Assessor Roger Fong. Today, as Mr. Fong celebrates his retirement, I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in saluting a great citizen, husband, and father.

As a native of Sacramento, Roger attended public schools in the area. After his exemplary service in the United States Navy, he graduated from California State University, Sacramento in 1956 with a degree in Business Administration.

Roger began his career in the Assessor's office in 1960. For the next 26 years, he held nearly every promotional position in that office. Then, in 1986 he was elected Assessor, a position to which he was returned in 1990 and 1994 by sizeable margins.

During Roger's tenure as Assessor, he has focussed on bringing technological advancements to his office of 156 employees and a budget of over \$12 million annually. He and his staff have maintained current ownership data and property value on more than 380,000 parcels in Sacramento County with a combined value in excess of \$53 billion.

Roger's leadership in the Assessor's office has earned him statewide recognition. In just the past 12 years, his professional tasks have grown immensely as our county's assessment roll has nearly doubled, as has the staff workload.

The professional distinctions which Roger has earned are too numerous to list in their entirety. But they include recognition as the Sacramento County Taxpayer League's "Tax Advocate of the Year"; California State University, Sacramento, "Alumni Distinguished Service Award" recipient; and the Sacramento Chinese Community Service Center's "August Moon" honoree.

Although his professional pursuits have occupied much of his time, Roger has managed to make great contributions locally with his tireless community service endeavors. He has been an active member in the United Way, on the Sacramento Symphony Board, St. Hope Academy Advisory Board, and the Chinese American Council of Sacramento, among other groups.

Roger has also maintained professional relationships with a variety of assessors' organizations. Among these are the Bay Area Assessor's Association, of which he was president in 1994. These memberships reflect Roger's qualities as an incredibly dedicated and hardworking individual who has always put the needs of his constituency above all other considerations.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Sacramento have been the fortunate beneficiaries of Roger Fong's great professionalism over the past 38 years. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in wishing Roger and his wife Florence every future success in their retirement endeavors.

DESIGNATING THE U.S. NAVY SUPPORT SITE IN NAPLES AS THE
 "THOMAS M. FOGLIETTA SUPPORT SITE"

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 6, 1999

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, today I am reintroducing legislation to designate the U.S. Navy facility in Gricignano d'Aversa, Italy, known as the Naples Support Site, as the "Thomas M. Foglietta Support Site." I introduced similar legislation in the 105th Congress, and I am honored to reintroduce this legislation on the first day of the 106th Congress.

As you well know, Tom Foglietta had a distinguished career in Congress representing the Philadelphia area of Pennsylvania. Last year he was appointed our Ambassador to Italy. Ambassador Foglietta's career has been dedicated to public service. He served for 20 years on the Philadelphia City Council. From 1976 to 1977 he represented the U.S. Department of Labor in Pennsylvania. From 1980 to 1998 he represented Pennsylvania's First Congressional District.

During that time Tom Foglietta distinguished himself as a hard working and effective legislator. In the 1980s he emerged as one of the leading advocates in the Congress of democratic reforms in South Korea. As a senior member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations he was an outspoken advocate in the 1990s for advancing America's role in promoting free markets and democratic institutions in the newly independent states of the former Soviet Union.

In addition to his tireless efforts to ensure the United States maintained its stature as the moral and democratic leader of the free world, Tom Foglietta never forgot his constituents back home. He always maintained close ties to the working people of the district. He was always accessible to his constituents and fought hard on their behalf in Congress.

Throughout his congressional career Ambassador Foglietta maintained close ties to the land of ancestors—Italy. Many members of the Ambassador's large family still reside in Italy. Shortly after his election to Congress in 1980, a devastating earthquake struck southern Italy. In typical fashion, Tom Foglietta skipped freshman orientation and other freshman events in Congress to be in Italy to participate personally in the relief efforts.

While in Congress, Tom took notice of the poor living and working conditions for Navy personnel at the Naples Support Site in Gricignano d'Aversa. He worked tirelessly as a member of the Appropriations Committee to improve conditions for Navy personnel serving at the site. Not surprisingly, his efforts were extremely effective and Navy personnel have seen a dramatic improvement in the living conditions at the site.