

ACT says it "will coordinate with progressive organizations." But it had better not coordinate with the Democratic Party or candidates. There would be nothing morally wrong with such coordination. It should be a fundamental right—indeed, a civic virtue—for groups such as ACT to coordinate with like-minded political parties. But "coordination" is criminal under McCain-Feingold.

House Republicans are now trying to subpoena records of these Democratic groups, more hoping to have a chilling effect on them. This is disgusting—but Democrats deserve it because they have entangled America's core liberty, political speech, in an ever-thickening web of regulations they now are evading.

On Wednesday the Federal Election Commission, which is now in charge of deciding what speech is legal under McCain-Feingold and Supreme Court ambiguities, issued a ruling—many more to follow—of exquisite opacity. The chairman of the Republican National Committee said it "effectively shuts down" groups such as ACT and others. A spokesman for ACT cheerily said the group would continue "to operate robustly and effectively." It is a constitutional obscenity that no one now knows—or, pending many more FEC and court rulings, can know—what political speech is legal in this nation where the First Amendment is no longer even pertinent to protecting such speech.

TRIBUTE TO THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF NORTHWEST INDIANA THROUGHOUT ITS 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor and pleasure that I stand before you today to recognize the many accomplishments of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Northwest Indiana throughout its 50 years of service to the Northwest Indiana community. As the citizens of Lake County, Indiana celebrate the 50th Year Jubilee of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Northwest Indiana, we are reminded of the dedication and valiant efforts that have been made to incorporate education and community leadership in the region.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Northwest Indiana began in the early 1950's when Mr. Paul Guist, Mr. Sid Holub, Mr. Robert Salvaggi and several other Gary businessmen decided that the children of Gary needed a place to go, complete with worthwhile activities, to help keep kids from spending time on street corners. Their efforts led to the incorporation of the Steel City Boys Club of Gary, Indiana on August 17, 1954.

The Boys Club was incorporated in 1954 when it operated in the hallways, auditorium, gymnasium and one room in the old Beveridge School in Tolleston. Its official name became Steel City Boys Club. In 1956, another club opened in the Webster School Gym located in Glen Park. This was the year that the organization also became a United Way Agency. An additional club eventually moved into the basement of the Assyrian Church where it remained until a permanent location at 7th and Adams was established through the efforts of Mr. John Will Anderson of the Anderson Company. Through Mr. An-

derson's gift, the Old Moose Lodge building at 7th and Adams was purchased in 1965. Mr. Anderson and the Anderson Company donated the money and manpower to see that the building was completely renovated and ready for operation in October, 1967. The New Boys Club facility officially opened on October 23, 1967, appropriately dedicated as the John Will Anderson Boys Club.

Another Boys Club was opened in 1969 in the Salesian Prep School in Cedar Lake, and in November, 1976 that club moved to West 133rd Avenue. In 1982, the new Cedar Lake Club was built on Fairbanks Street where it remains today. In 1973, Katherine House and the East Chicago Boys Club merged to form the East Chicago-Katherine House Boys Club and became a unit of the Steel City Boys Club organization. In 1976, the John Will Anderson Club moved to the former Young Men's Christian Association building on 5th Avenue in Gary where it remains today. In 1977, the Steel City Boys Club corporate name was changed to the Boys Clubs of Northwest Indiana. In March of 1979, the Hammond Boys Club was established in the Miller School of Hessville, and today a new building built in 1994 proudly stands on Calumet Avenue. The Lake Station Club was opened in July of 2001.

In 1988, Boys Clubs of Northwest Indiana officially changed its name to Boys & Girls Clubs of Northwest Indiana—as girls were recognized as official club members. In spite of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Northwest Indiana's growth and changes, their philosophy has never changed—to inspire and enable all young people, especially those from disadvantaged circumstances, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring and congratulating the Boys & Girls Clubs of Northwest Indiana, as well as its staff and community leaders on their 50th anniversary. Their many great accomplishments and service to Lake County, Indiana will forever be cherished and commended.

COMMEMORATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Black History Month, I rise to pay tribute to the extraordinary African-American men and women, past and present, who have shaped the rich history of our Nation.

The month of February has been designated as Black History Month to celebrate the remarkable accomplishments of African-Americans throughout history. This year's national theme, "Brown v. Board of Education: 50th Anniversary," commemorates the historic Supreme Court decision declaring that segregation had no place in the laws of a free republic.

Over 50 years ago, in the Midwest town of Topeka, KS, a little girl named Linda Brown rode a bus 5 miles to school each day even though a public school was located only four blocks from her house. The school was not full and the little girl met all of the requirements to

attend—except for the color of her skin. It is hard to imagine that merely 50 years ago, public schools across our country were deeply segregated.

A team of brave lawyers from the NAACP would later appear before the Supreme Court to demand the justice contained within our founding principles—to demand equality for young Linda Brown and for all who had been denied the basic right of equality for far too long.

On May 17, 1954, the United States Supreme Court spoke unanimously and with great clarity when it declared that "separate educational facilities are inherently unequal." This decision continues to have an impact on our country today. Just last year, the Supreme Court upheld the core principles of Brown v. Board when it ruled that maintaining diversity in higher education is a compelling governmental interest. I was pleased to join other Members of Congress in filing an amicus brief with the Court expressing our belief that democratic values are enhanced by the interaction between students of diverse backgrounds and indicating our full support for the efforts of universities to create a more vibrant and enriching learning environment.

The decision in Brown v. Board would also forever change the landscape of the struggle for racial justice and equality in the United States and demonstrate the ability of individuals to effect true change. The congressional district that I represent can certainly recognize the ability of individuals to break through color barriers. Growing up in Pasadena in the early to mid-1900s, a young man named Jackie Robinson was an all-around athlete that would later change the sports world. Robinson won letters in football, baseball, basketball, and track at Pasadena's Muir Technical High School and Pasadena Junior College. Soon after, he would become the first athlete at UCLA to play on four varsity teams.

On April 15, 1947, Jackie Robinson would take the field to play for the Brooklyn Dodgers—a pioneer as the first African-American to play major league baseball. Robinson not only opened the door to pro sports for other African-American athletes, but his remarkable accomplishment would help chip away at prejudices in the minds of Americans and jumpstart the process of dismantling existing barriers throughout our society.

In this month of February, let us not only celebrate the accomplishments of those brave Americans who fought for racial justice, but let us work to keep their vision alive by continuing to break down barriers that exist and working to ensure equality of opportunity for all Americans.

GAYLORD ENTERTAINMENT

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Gaylord Entertainment on their successful completion of the marvelous new Gaylord Texan Resort and Convention Center on Lake Grapevine ideally located in Grapevine, TX. The Gaylord Texan Resort and Convention Center will be tremendous venue for performances by local and national entertainers.