

Fox News: Your World with Neil Cavuto

Interview with Sue Myrick

Neil Cavuto
17 February 2005
Fox News: Your World with Neil Cavuto
(c) 2005 FDCH / eMedia, Inc. All Rights Reserved.



NEIL CAVUTO, HOST: Well, remember when I said you're lucky that I'm not running for Congress, because my goal would be not bringing home the bacon, actually getting rid of the bacon? That I was so tired of these lawmakers who claim, "Cut the budget, Mr. President, but not in my backyard." That I thought for sure I'd lose with my take the bacon away.

Well, my next guest gives me hope. She's the only one that I can think of among two Gingrich Republicans from the class of '94 to keep on pushing those spending cuts and telling her folks back home that's exactly what she's doing.

Joining us now from Capitol Hill is Republican Congresswoman Sue **Myrick** of North Carolina.

Congresswoman, thank you for joining us.

REP. SUE MYRICK (R), NORTH CAROLINA: Sure.

CAVUTO: I'm surprised you're still in power. What happened? You take the bacon away, and they're OK with it?

MYRICK: Well, I literally ran in '94 saying if you want something to bring home the bacon, don't send me, because that's not why I'm going there. And I've tried to stay true to my word.

CAVUTO: And what have you done, Congresswoman?

MYRICK: Well, you know, basically I don't sign onto any bills that are going to increase spending or sponsor them. The other thing I've done is actually turned down appropriations moneys that they've asked -- said they will give me if I will change my vote on something. I'm just not going to do that.

So -- and, you know, if you do the right thing, it works out OK.

CAVUTO: Ma'am, do any of your district folks say, you know, "Hey, we need this bridge or we need this highway. You need to bring home the bacon"?

MYRICK: No, they do all the time, but I try and be honest with them and let them know, you know, what the possibilities are, that type of thing.

Now, gas tax money, you know, in North Carolina, getting their share, I believe that every state should get their share. It's their money anyway. And of course, the state makes most of those decisions as to where it goes.

But literally, we try -- we just don't do that, because if everybody would do it in the same manner that

we do, very frankly we wouldn't have the problems that we have.

But people tell me all the time, "Oh, I can't turn that down because I wouldn't get re-elected." Well, you can get re-elected again if you do the right thing.

CAVUTO: Yes, five times you've done it. So let me ask you, Congresswoman, what do you think of those in your party who -- who sort of talk the talk but they don't walk it?

MYRICK: Well, it's hard to have courage up here. You know, this isn't a place that inspires courage. That's why I go home every weekend, because the people at home, you know, I see them in the grocery store and they talk to me. And we share ideas. And you know, it keeps me in touch with why I really came here and what I'm here for.

CAVUTO: Well, do you think -- do you think that your Republican colleagues, since they control the whole shooting works down there, don't have courage?

MYRICK: No, listen. I'm real encouraged this year. I believe this is our opportunity for the first time since '94 to really make a difference. Hold the line on spending. Stay within the budget. We're changing the appropriations process. Things look good now, more so than they have in 10 years.

CAVUTO: Let me ask you, Congresswoman, your president has been criticized -- our president -- for not really practicing what he preaches on fiscal restraint. I know he submitted a very stern austere budget, but the fact of the matter is he never vetoed anything, so no -- no program was apparently so offensive that he would write it off. So is he part of the problem?

MYRICK: Well, we've encouraged him to veto. We've encouraged him last year many times to veto. I tried to get him to veto a couple of bills, but he didn't do it.

CAVUTO: How do you feel about that?

MYRICK: This year -- well, this year he says he's going to. You know, he's already flirted (ph) with the veto.

CAVUTO: Do you believe him?

MYRICK: Well, I hope so. I mean, he's got to take a tough line just like we are.

CAVUTO: Do you feel, though, that it boomerangs back on you eventually? That someone in your district or a guy running against you or a woman running against you in the future is going to say, "Our congresswoman hasn't brought home some key prizes for us"?

MYRICK: Well, sure. People do say that. Every time somebody runs against me, they say that. But, you know, I try and be honest with the people at home. I came here to do what they said they wanted me to do.

CAVUTO: OK.

MYRICK: And hey, if I don't get re-elected, there's another world out there.

CAVUTO: Great perspective, Congresswoman. A real pleasure having you. Appreciate it.

MYRICK: Thanks.

CAVUTO: Congresswoman Sue **Myrick**.....See, they do make them.