

Congressman Richard W. Pombo
 11th District, California
 2411 Rayburn HOB
 Washington, DC 20515
 (202) 225-1947
www.house.gov/pombo

Political Tidbits

Senate backs Ashcroft for Attorney General

Senate has given John Ashcroft the 51 votes needed to become attorney general, ending a sharply divided debate and filling the last slot in President Bush's Cabinet. In two days of testimony two weeks ago during his Senate Judiciary Committee confirmation hearings, Ashcroft pledged to uphold all standing laws, despite his personal points of view.

Sen. Joseph Lieberman, Al Gore's running mate on the 2000 Democratic presidential ticket, stood on the Senate floor Thursday morning and said he would oppose the Ashcroft nomination, even though he has known his former Senate colleague for 40 years, stretching back to their years in college.

Republicans, meanwhile, accused Democrats of subtle prejudices of their own.

Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas, said Ashcroft's opponents were opposed to the nomination because the former senator has been open about expressing his dependence on his religious faith.

"It says 'In God We Trust' on our coins, but it isn't that way in our hearts," Gramm said. The "ugly caricature" presented of Ashcroft, Gramm said, was undeserved.

Reprinted from CNN.com

Norton Confirmed

Despite the negative publicity drummed up by her environmentalist critics, Gale Norton was confirmed as interior secretary Tuesday by the full Senate.

Norton, confirmed by a 75-24 vote, is the first woman to head the Interior Department. Environmental activists claimed she would do away with environmental protections put in place by the Clinton administration.

"Gale Norton has shown a career pattern of opposing environmental protections, which speaks to her ability to carry out the requirements of secretary of interior," said Sen. Paul Wellstone, D-Minn.

Reprinted from CNSNews.com

Bush: Tax deductions for faith-based giving

President George W. Bush proposed increasing tax deductions to faith-based organizations in hopes of triggering billion of dollars in new donations.

Bush visited the Fishing School, a religious-oriented community center in Washington for inner-city children, to give a broad outline of his legislative proposals for giving more federal dollars to faith-based groups that grapple with social problems like alcoholism, homelessness and drug abuse.

"There are so many people in need," Bush said Tuesday to cries of "Amen" from the audience. "The good news about America is there are so many willing to serve. It's the great strength of our nation."

Reprinted from Reuters

Gephardt's balancing act

You might have heard House Minority Leader Richard A. Gephardt's response to President Bush's first-ever national radio address, in which the Missouri Democrat warned that Mr. Bush's proposed \$1.6 trillion tax cut over the next 10 years "threatens our prosperity and could return us to the big deficits of the 1980s."

Well, the congressional vote-tally system of the National Taxpayers Union (NTU) measures the increase or decrease in federal spending that would occur under a congressman's individual floor votes. Wouldn't you know, in the 105th Congress, Mr. Gephardt voted to increase spending by \$162 billion per year.

"Over 10 years, that's \$1.6 trillion," notes NTU President John Berthoud.

Reprinted from the Washington Times

Today in History

1790 - The U.S. Supreme Court convened for the first time in New York City.

1793 - France declared war on Britain and Holland.

1861 - Texas voted to secede from the Union.

1931 - Boris Yeltsin was born.

1942 - Monty Python's Terry Jones was born.

1951 - The first telecast of an atomic explosion took place.

1960 - Four black college students began a sit-in protest at a lunch counter in Greensboro, NC. They had been refused service.

1968 - During the Vietnam War, Saigon's police chief, Nguyen Ngoc Loan, executed a Viet Cong officer with a pistol shot to the head. The scene was captured in a news photograph.

1979 - Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini was welcomed in Tehran as he ended nearly 15 years of exile.

1985 - Glenn Frey (Eagles) appeared on an episode of "Miami Vice" on NBC-TV.

1991 - A USAir jetliner crashed atop a commuter plane at Los Angeles International Airport. 35 people were killed.

1996 - Visa and Mastercard announced security measures that will make it safe to shop on the Internet.

From The History of Today

Be sure to visit my website for the latest events in Washington at:

www.house.gov/pombo

Political Tidbits cont.

The truth about the Bush tax cut plan

While critics continue to describe George W. Bush's tax relief plan as "too radical" or "too big," a historical comparison of economic data released today by the 300,000-member National Taxpayers Union (NTU) draws the opposite conclusion. By virtually any fiscal measure, the Bush package is more moderate than the sweeping tax reductions proposed by either Democrat President John F. Kennedy or Republican Ronald Reagan.

Among the findings:

- As a share of Gross Domestic Product (GDP-the nation's economic output), Bush's plan would reduce taxes by an annual average of 1.2 percent over the next decade. In contrast, John F. Kennedy proposed to slash taxes by 2.0 percent of GDP, and Ronald Reagan by 3.3 percent.
- The Bush proposal would reduce the federal government's total revenues by no more than 6.2 percent per year (not accounting for offsetting economic benefits due to the tax cuts). Reagan's tax bill reduced the total federal bite by 18.7 percent, while Kennedy's plan proposed an overall cut of 12.6 percent.
- In 1981, liberal Democrat House Speaker "Tip" O'Neill offered what he called a "fiscally responsible" alternative to Ronald Reagan's plan that reduced taxes by \$237.4 billion per year (on an inflation-adjusted basis). George W. Bush proposes an annual tax reduction of just \$160.0 billion. "Promoting a plan that would give families relief from postwar record tax burdens and help boost an ailing economy hardly seems irresponsible," Schlecht concluded. "If anything, George W. Bush's detractors - through the use of uninformed and wildly-inflated rhetoric - are the ones behaving like extremists."

Reprinted from the NTU Issue Brief 111, "History vs. Hysteria: Correcting the Hyperbole Surrounding the Bush Tax Cut Plan," by Eric V. Schlecht

Returning Some Sanity to the Abortion Issue

"As a first order of business, President Bush Monday restored an abortion policy that is in line with the convictions and priorities of most Americans. Demonstrating a noteworthy contrast with former President Clinton, Mr. Bush issued an executive order that restricts U.S. taxpayer funding of organizations that perform abortions in foreign countries or lobby to change their existing abortion laws. In doing so, Mr. Bush put back into effect the so-called Mexico City policy, which President Reagan established at a population conference in that city in 1984. Mr. Clinton himself had overturned the policy two days after taking office in 1993.

"The president on Monday took an important step in carrying out the will of America on abortion policy. If Mr. Bush keeps the promises he made during the campaign, he can rebuild America's respect for the miracle of life. He faces a tough fight ahead on partial-birth abortions and other abortion issues, but it will be well worth the president's commitment and effort."

Reprinted from the Washington Times

Media Double-Standard Strikes Again

"Eight years ago, when President Clinton revoked President Reagan's pro-life executive orders, Tom Brokaw, Dan Rather and Peter Jennings all portrayed it as a promise kept. But on Monday, after President Bush kept a campaign promise and reversed Mr. Clinton, the three top network anchors all portrayed the move as a payoff to the right wing, the Media Research Center noted yesterday."

Greg Pierce's "Inside Politics"

Weekly Quote

"...(S)omeone very strange, with very little promise, has taken charge of the leadership of the great empire that we have as a neighbor. That gentleman has arrived there, and hopefully he is not as stupid as he seems, nor as mafia-like as his background makes him appear."

- Fidel Castro on newly-inaugurated President Bush, 1/20/01

Wordsmith

¹tax

Pronunciation: 'taks

Function: *transitive verb*

Etymology: Middle English, to estimate, assess, tax, from Old French *taxer*, from Medieval Latin *taxare*, from Latin, to feel, estimate, censure, frequentative of *tangere* to touch -- more at TANGENT

Date: 14th century

1 : to assess or determine judicially the amount of (costs in a court action)

2 : to levy a tax on

3 *obsolete* : to enter (a name) in a list <there went out a decree... that all the world should be *taxed* -- Luke 2:1 (Authorized Version)>

4 : **CHARGE, ACCUSE** <*taxed* him with neglect of duty>; **also** : **CENSURE**

5 : to make onerous and rigorous demands on <the job *taxed* her strength>

tax·able /'taks-s&-b&l/ *adjective*

tax·er *noun*

Reprinted from the Merriam-Webster Online

By the Numbers

Do you agree or disagree that there should be a \$1.3 billion income tax cut?

The nationwide poll of 601 likely voters was conducted January 14 through January 16, 2001. All telephone calls were made from Zogby International headquarters in Utica, N.Y. For more information on this question and other questions asked on this nationwide poll contact Alan D. Crockett (315-624-0200 ext 240)

	Total	Region				2000 Pres. Vote	
		East	South	Central	West	Gore	Bush
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Agree	47.9	49.7	54.4	48.6	36.6	23.7	70.5
Disagree	40.1	43.0	32.5	39.4	47.9	65.7	14.8
Not sure	11.9	7.3	13.1	12.1	15.6	10.6	14.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

	Work Outside Home		Party			Union	
	Yes	No	Dem	Rep	Ind	Yes	No
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Agree	51.2	35.2	31.7	68.7	44.3	43.7	48.8
Disagree	35.8	48.5	59.3	19.2	39.4	49.5	38.0
Not sure	13.1	16.3	8.9	12.1	16.2	6.8	13.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

	Age Group				Gender		Education			
	18-29	30-49	50-64	65 & up	Male	Female	< HS	HS Graduate	Some College	College +
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Agree	49.1	56.6	48.9	37.3	52.7	43.5	56.6	56.4	50.0	42.9
Disagree	34.7	34.4	40.2	49.1	38.2	41.9	32.3	29.8	34.8	47.6
Not sure	16.2	9.0	10.9	13.6	9.1	14.6	11.1	13.8	15.2	9.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

	Total	Race					Religion				
		White	Hispanic	African American	Asian	Other	Catholic	Protestant	Jewish	Muslim	Other
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Agree	47.9	50.2	21.5	47.6	51.0	61.3	50.4	49.5	14.5		46.6
Disagree	40.1	39.0	46.6	46.9	38.9	25.1	34.9	38.2	69.9	100.0	45.3
Not sure	11.9	10.8	31.9	5.5	10.0	13.6	14.7	12.4	15.6		8.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

	Ideology						
	Progressive/ Very Liberal	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Very conservative	Libertarian	NS
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Agree	29.7	26.4	33.5	70.4	80.7	63.3	48.0
Disagree	63.7	65.1	52.3	18.0	6.6	25.2	29.1
Not sure	6.7	8.5	14.2	11.6	12.8	11.4	23.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

	Total	Born Again		Income					
		Yes	No	< \$15,000	\$15-24,999	\$25-34,999	\$35-49,999	\$50-74,999	\$75,000 & over
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Agree	47.9	59.6	37.7	44.4	43.5	44.2	57.7	55.5	41.1
Disagree	40.1	27.3	50.7	30.7	39.1	37.8	37.7	33.6	54.2
Not sure	11.9	13.1	11.6	24.9	17.4	18.0	4.6	10.9	4.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

One Dollar Bill Facts

The one-dollar bill first came off the presses in 1957 in its present design.

This so-called paper money is, in fact, a cotton and linen blend, with red and blue minute silk fibers running through it. It is actually material. We've all washed it without it falling apart. A special blend of ink is used, the contents we will never know. It is overprinted with symbols and then it is starched to make it water resistant and pressed to give it that nice crisp look.

If you look on the front of the bill, you will see the United States Treasury Seal. On the top you will see the scales for the balance - a balanced budget. In the center you have a carpenter's T-square, a tool used for an even cut. Underneath is the Key to the United States Treasury.

That's all pretty easy to figure out, but what is on the back of that dollar bill is something we should all know.

If you turn the bill over, you will see two circles. Both circles together, comprise the Great Seal of the United States. The First Continental Congress requested that Benjamin Franklin and a group of men come up with a Seal. It took them four years to accomplish this task and another two years to get it approved.

If you look at the left-hand circle, you will see a Pyramid. Notice the face is lighted and the western side is dark. This country was just beginning. We had not begun to explore the West or decided what we could do for Western Civilization. The Pyramid is uncapped, again signifying that we were not even close to being finished. Inside the capstone you have the all seeing eye, and ancient symbol for divinity. It was Franklin's belief that one man couldn't do it alone, but a group of men, with the help of God, could do anything.

"IN GOD WE TRUST" is on this currency. The Latin above the pyramid, ANNUIT COEPTIS, means, "God has favored our undertaking." The Latin below the pyramid, NOVUS ORDO SECLORUM, means, "a new order has begun." At the base of the pyramid is the Roman Numeral for 1776.

If you look at the right-hand circle, and check it carefully, you will learn that it is on every National Cemetery in the United States. It is also on the Parade of Flags Walkway at the Bushnell, Florida National Cemetery and is the centerpiece of most hero's monuments. Slightly modified, it is the seal of the President of the United States and it is always visible whenever he speaks; yet no one knows what the symbols mean.

The Bald Eagle was selected as a symbol for victory for two reasons: First, he is not afraid of a storm; he is strong and he is smart enough to soar above it.

Secondly, he wears no material crown. We had just broken from the King of England. Also, notice the shield is unsupported. This country can now stand on its own. At the top of that shield you have a white bar signifying congress, a unifying factor. We were coming together as one nation.

In the Eagle's beak you will read, "E PLURIBUS UNUM", meaning "one nation from many people." Above the Eagle you have thirteen stars representing the thirteen original colonies, and any clouds of misunderstanding rolling away.

Again, we were coming together as one. Notice what the Eagle holds in his talons. He holds an olive branch and arrows. This country wants peace, but we will never be afraid to fight to preserve peace. The Eagle always wants to face the olive branch, but in time of war, his gaze turns toward the arrows.

They say that the number 13 is an unlucky number. This is almost a worldwide belief. You will usually never see a room numbered 13, or any hotels or motels with a 13th floor. But, think about this:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| 13 original colonies | 13 signers of the Declaration of Independence | 13 stripes on our flag |
| 13 steps on the Pyramid | 13 letters in the Latin above | 13 stars above the Eagle |
| 13 bars on that shield | 13 leaves on the olive branch | 13 arrows |
| 13 letters in "E Pluribus Unum" | 13 plumes of feathers on each span of the Eagle's wings | 13 fruits |

And the 13th Amendment.

I always ask people, "Why don't you know this?" Your children don't know this and their history teachers don't know this.

Too many veterans have given up too much to ever let the meaning fade. Many veterans remember coming home to an America that didn't care. Too many veterans never came home at all. Tell everyone what is on the back of the one-dollar bill and what it stands for, because nobody else will.

Submitted from Rich Kotowski