

eyebrows of our constituents, and lower our esteem in their eyes. And that is inexcusable. But, the true role and influence of special interests on Congress is not determined by these gifts. Rather, the true role and influence of special interests on Congress lies with the financial contributions that Members of Congress receive for their campaigns.

If we use our successes on lobbying reform and the gift ban as a substitute for campaign reform, then we will have failed.

The practice of raising unlimited amounts of money through fundraisers hosted by corporations and lobbyists, distinguishes us from the executive branch. That branch of Government could never justify such an act, and neither should we.

Yet, the majority of Members of this body participate in the never-ending ritual of chasing after special interest money. And despite our success on lobbying reform, despite our success on gift ban, this money chase is the true impediment to the independence of our elected officials. The effort to restrict the gifts a Member may or may not receive is vital but incomplete. With or without gift reform, Congress will continue to be diminished in the eyes of the public until we pass comprehensive campaign reform.

So, Mr. President, I urge my colleagues not to let our efforts on gift and lobbying reform be a hollow gesture but, rather, the predecessor to comprehensive reform and to fully securing the respect and trust of the American people.

I yield the floor.

Mr. CHAFEE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I ask that I might proceed for 2 minutes as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### BABY PEREGRINE FALCON AT THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, a week ago last Tuesday, July 18, the Washington Post had a very exciting article about the return of the peregrine falcons to the Washington area and the birth of a male peregrine falcon baby chick at 75 feet high on a window ledge of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Northeast Washington.

This is exciting news for those of us interested in the Endangered Species Act and the return of some of these species that have been so endangered in our society.

As a matter of fact, one of the things that led to the near demise of the peregrine falcon was the use of DDT and other pesticides which have now been banned. Because of the prevalence of those pesticides, particularly DDT, there were only 100 known pairs of peregrine falcons left east of the Mis-

issippi, but they are making their comeback. I wish to pay tribute not only to the Endangered Species Act, not only to our action in banning DDT, but the work of other areas such as the World Center for Birds of Prey which is located in Boise, ID, where raptors such as the peregrine falcon are brought together and the breeding takes place, and then they are put out in various parts of our country to live in the natural environment.

So this is exciting news. There are plenty of people who trash the Endangered Species Act, but I think it is important to bring to the attention of the public where that act has been successful as in this instance of the return of the peregrine falcon.

I thank the Chair. I thank my friend from Missouri for permitting me to go ahead.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that an article from the Washington Post entitled "And Baby Falcon Makes Three" be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Washington Post, July 18, 1995]  
AND BABY FALCON MAKES THREE—FINDING D.C. TO THEIR LIKING, PEREGRINE PAIR PRODUCE A RARE ADDITION  
(By D'Vera Cohn)

Washington may have no skyscrapers, but now it's got something else that is a symbol of a big city: A rare peregrine falcon hatched here this year, the first in memory.

It's a boy!

Few creatures inspire the awe that peregrines do. They are the world's fastest birds, zooming for prey at speeds up to 200 miles an hour. Kings used the hooded falcons for hunting. And they are still so scarce, after pesticides nearly wiped them out, that only 100 known pairs live east of the Mississippi River.

Peregrines are making a comeback in some cities, but they'd never been known to produce young in the District. They love heights—in the wild they nest on cliffs. Could it be that Washington's stubby skyline didn't present the right circumstances for romance?

Now, it seems, height isn't everything.

A pair of peregrines took up residence this spring on the ledge of a small round window about 75 feet up the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, at Fourth Street and Michigan Avenue NE. In April, church workers spotted a white downy chick.

"The baby in the nest would come to the edge and squawk," said Jan Bloom, secretary to the rector. One of the parents "would get breakfast and come back. . . . We'd see them on the roof pecking at what they'd caught."

Peregrines, the size of large crows, are killing machines. They knock down smaller birds with their strong claws, then finish them off with a bite to the nape.

The people at the shrine didn't give away their secret. But Washington's birding world had an inkling something was going on, somewhere.

For the last two winters, a pair of peregrines had been seen killing pigeons at a church on Thomas Circle in Northwest Washington. This year, one began giving food to the other, the avian equivalent of a bachelor offering a diamond engagement ring. Then, as spring arrived, they vanished.

Every rumor about where they'd gone triggered a search. A brood seen atop a down-

town building turned out to be kestrels. Birders checked Washington National Cathedral, assuming they must be in a tall place nearby. Nothing.

Then, one day in June, Deborah Ozga spotted three birds flying around the National Shrine. She heard the pulsing scream of a bird of prey. Thinking the three were hawks, she returned with binoculars and a bird book.

Ozga, who heads the chemistry and physics libraries at Catholic University next to the church, was stunned when she realized what had flown into the neighborhood.

"I knew that to see them was something pretty special," she said. "This book I was reading said they can see a mouse from a mile and a half away."

She reached Erika Wilson, who tapes the weekly "Voice of the Naturalist" phone report that local birders rely on for good sightings.

"As soon as she convinced me she had peregrines, I jumped in my car and went out there," Wilson said. "I think this is so neat!"

One reason for her joy is that Washington seemed the exception among big cities in not having baby peregrine.

Thanks to a captive breeding program that began two decades ago, the species is recovering so well that federal officials began the process this month of removing the peregrine falcon from the endangered list.

There's been a breeding pair in Baltimore since the late 1970s, nesting on a skyscraper. New York City has more than a half-dozen pairs. Even some smaller cities such as Roanoke have them.

The Chesapeake region—from the Blue Ridge to the bay—has more than two dozen peregrine pairs, according to Craig Koppie, a biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Annapolis.

When he went out to see the birds at the National Shrine last week, Koppie spotted the young falcon catching insects. Then he watched it dive across Michigan Avenue—swooping through morning rush-hour traffic—going after a smaller bird. (Best viewing is in the morning, especially in hot weather.)

All the evidence isn't in, but Koppie believes that the parents are the Thomas Circle peregrines. Despite their name, which means "wanderer," peregrines that live in this region often stay in a territory encompassing a few miles.

Saturday, Koppie used a pigeon lure to trap the young falcon in a net. He banded it for identification, so scientists can monitor how it's doing. He checked it for parasites and pronounced it in good health.

Then, as mother falcon watched, he released the young bird into the air.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be able to speak in morning business for up to 15 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ASHCROFT. I thank the Chair.

#### WELFARE REFORM

Mr. ASHCROFT. The question that this body will soon address in a formal sense is a question that has been titled welfare reform.

In our debate, we will hear a lot about numbers. We will hear about how much the system costs, about the share of the Nation's output that it occupies. But this debate, properly understood, is not a debate about numbers. It is a