

Hope Baptist Church in 1968 and 10 years later he began a fundraising project to expand the church. They have shown that this is a church with the open door that administers to the needs of the whole man.

The members and supporters of the church have worked diligently for several years to realize their dream. Expansions and overall growth culminated in their final move, on September 13, 1987 into their new edifice.

This church has reached out to the community with a day care center, an apartment complex, a food and clothing ministry, and a minority trade training program. Their support of the community has been stellar and this is part of what makes their success and growth so exciting. As we witness the growing number of churches being burned around this Nation and communities being engulfed by fear it is encouraging to see a mortgage burning instead of a church burning.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating New Hope Baptist Church on their 93rd Founder's Day and Mortgage Burning Ceremony. May God continue to bless the members of New Hope Baptist Church.

TRIBUTE FOR FINNFEST USA 1996

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 1996

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to bring to the attention of the House and the entire Nation of the 14th annual FinnFest USA festival, which will be held in Marquette, MI, on August 7–11, 1996.

FinnFest USA is a national festival, open to everyone, celebrating the culture of Finland and Finnish Americans. It is held annually, hosted each year at a different site, and this year it is being held in Michigan's Upper Peninsula at Marquette.

FinnFest USA traces its beginnings back to September 12, 1982, when Tauri Aaltio, executive director of Finland Society, Helsinki, Finland, hosted a meeting in Minneapolis, MN. At the meeting, 39 representatives from Finnish American organizations from throughout the United States met to discuss the new organization. One of the goals of the organization is to work with new immigrants in the United States and to keep their cultural ties. So Finnish families and those who wish they were Finnish come together to celebrate their ethnic heritage. At this first meeting the Finland Society voted to call their annual festival "FinnFest USA".

The first FinnFest was held the following year on August 7, 1983. The 39 original representatives voted and approved that this annual festival was to be held each year in a different location in the United States. Its bylaws and articles of incorporation were read and approved. The election of the first board of directors was held, and it was decided that there would be nine board members. Three members from each the Western, Midwest, and Eastern parts of the United States.

FinnFest USA provides Finnish Americans an opportunity to meet one another and to broaden and deepen their knowledge of Finland and Finnish American history and culture. This year's event will include music, folk dancing, dances, educational forums, arts and

crafts, exhibits, banquet, and other food events, singing and much more.

The FinnFest USA '96 theme is "Finn Family Reunion: Passing the Torch of Heritage," indicating the festival will be a big family reunion. In recognition of the large number of Finnish Americans who reside in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, FinnFest USA '96 will be making its third appearance in 14 years in the Upper Peninsula. Carl Pellonpaa is president of FinnFest USA '96. Carl is the host of Suomi Kutsuu (Finland Calling), the only weekly Finnish language television program in the United States.

The unique bond between the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and Finland was evident by the recent visit to my Washington, DC, office of the Speaker of the Finnish Parliament, Ms. Riita Uosakainen. I found Speaker Uosakainen to be an outgoing, thoughtful person who truly represents her country, her people and all Finnish Americans in a warm, graceful manner.

I look forward to joining Ms. Uosakainen, Mr. Pellonpaa, all the "true Finns" and the "fake Finns" at the opening of FinnFest USA '96 in Marquette on August 7, 1996.

Mr. Speaker, FinnFest USA and Finnish Americans enjoy a proud history. On behalf of the State of Michigan, the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, and the entire Nation, I would like to declare FinnFest USA Observance Week, August 5–11, 1996, and congratulate FinnFest USA on an excellent festival which is recognized as part of our Nation's and our Finnish heritage.

PRAIRIE GRASS RISING

HON. DANA ROHRBACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 1996

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, President Thomas Jefferson lamented the tendency, even in his day, of politicians to "generalize and concentrate all cares into one body." Throughout our history, from his day to ours, there has been a constant battle between those who would centralize power in Washington and those who struggled to keep it dispersed among the people and in their local communities.

I was proud to have worked for several years for a great man who was in his time one of the Nation's most eloquent voices for the Jeffersonian decentralist tradition, Ronald Reagan. During those years some of his most memorable remarks on this theme were penned by my friend John McClaughry, who served as one of Governor Reagan's speechwriters and idea people.

When Governor Reagan was elected President, John McClaughry sold his cow to pay for the moving expenses from his log cabin on Kirby Mountain, VT to Washington, where he served as White House Senior Policy Advisor in the first 2 years of the Reagan Presidency. I suppose very few White House Senior Policy Advisors in this century, at least, can make such a statement.

John, who has many friends among this body, went home to Vermont in 1982. He was subsequently elected twice by large majorities to the Vermont State Senate, and is now president of the Ethan Allen Institute, a Jeffersonian think tank in Concord, VT.

On June 28 he delivered the keynote address to the National Conference on Decentralism sponsored by the E.F. Schumacher Society at Williams College. I include at this point an excerpt of his remarks on that occasion, which I hope Members and others will find interesting and useful.

PRAIRIE GRASS RISING

(By John McClaughry)

When this country was first settled by Europeans in the 17th and 18th centuries, there was little expectation that we would fall prey to indigenous centralized power. That was what most immigrants gladly left behind them in the Old World. The new settlements were small and widely dispersed, on the rim of a great, fruitful and thinly populated continent. There was none of the industrialization that later did so much to promote giant institutions. Indeed, as late as 1783, Mr. Jefferson could write in advocacy of an agrarian America, "let our workshops remain in Europe".

Another important fact was that Americans were never subject to feudalism. Feudalism calls to mind castles and crusades, jousting and feasting, Ivanhoe and Prince Hal. Shorn of those romantic garments, however, feudalism was a deadly serious business. At its heart was feudal land tenure.

Land could not be owned by anyone save the crowned knave called the sovereign. It could only be held, and the holding carried with it all sorts of duties. The most important was to lead armed men to the aid of the superior in the feudal hierarchy when he got into a bloody altercation with another such ruffian, spotted some easy and unprotected pickings elsewhere, or went off to Jerusalem to free the Holy City from the infidels and get in good with the Pope.

Admittedly, feudalism was a strong force for social stability and military security in a tempestuous age. Unfortunately, feudalism stifled liberty, opportunity, and self government. By the time the colonies were settled, it was rapidly dying out in England.

Thus it never took root on these shores, with the minor—at least to us—exception of the great feudal estates just to the west of where we meet today, in the Hudson valley.

Yet another barrier to the rise of centralized power in America was the ideology of what was called in England the Country Party. That system of political beliefs was found in abundance throughout the writings of the great republican and whig leaders of our revolutionary period.

The Country Party was bitterly opposed to the beliefs and practices of its nemesis, the Court Party. It detested a monopoly on religion by the established church. It had an absolute horror of the standing national army and conscription. It despised government run banks and the issuance of paper money, which could be manipulated by rich elites to defraud the honest farmer, artisan and mechanic.

It hated corporate monopolies conferred by corrupt governments, taxation without representation, and the gang of fawning hangers-on who subsisted as parasites at the Court. It demanded that the people of a community be given the power to appoint their own judges and justices of the peace, and the members of the militia be given the power to elect their own officers. It resisted with vigor every effort of the Crown to restrict the historic liberties of the common people.

As Lance Banning has so ably shown in his brilliant book *The Jeffersonian Persuasion*, this Country Party ideology became the ruling beliefs of the early Jeffersonians. And when Mr. Jefferson came to the Presidency in the Revolution of 1800, he acted on those beliefs.

Mr. Jefferson's motto was "equal rights for all, special privilege for none." He cut in half the nation's foreign embassies, laid off half the little army, began to sell off the western lands to homesteaders, repealed all domestic taxes, and abolished the equivalent of the Internal Revenue Service.

Mr. Jefferson's first budget dedicated 70% of the government's revenues to paying off the national debt. The amount remaining for current expenses was less than what was spent by the national government in any year since 1793. He sent out his commissars to "hunt out and abolish multitudes of useless offices." Now there was a true decentralist hero!

But even before the end of his two terms, Mr. Jefferson had been forced to backtrack from this auspicious beginning. He had to reinvite the Navy—without Congressional authorization—to confront the Barbary pirates. He swallowed hard and committed the new nation to the purchase of the huge Louisiana Territory.

Nonetheless, thanks to the wise policies of his Treasury Secretary Albert Gallatin, the national debt was in fact paid off completely in the year 1835.

But as the new nation grew and prospered in the first half of the 19th century, the forces of centralization gathered steam. With the growth of invention came the rapid growth of industrialization. Industrialization required capital. The result was what came to be called Finance Capital, interwoven, often corruptly, into the fabric of the state and national governments.

The greatest impetus toward centralization in America was the War Between the States. This is not the time or place to recount the centralizing effects of President Lincoln's administration, but suffice it to mention conscription, total war against civilian populations, suspension of habeas corpus, arbitrary rule over the conquered states, and the nationalization of money and banking.

On the positive side of the ledger, the war did destroy the Slave Power, but the victors tragically failed to deliver on the empowering promises they made to the new black citizens of the South.

Half a century later the writer Randolph Bourne was to observe pithily, "War is the health of the State". It was proven again in his day, when the Wilson administration laid the modern foundation for the all powerful Federal Leviathan. That era gave us, again, participation in a bloody war, conscription, the income tax, the final nationalization of money, the sedition act, the interweaving of Big Business and government, and the beginning of J. Edgar Hoover and the ruthless invasion of civil liberties.

By the time of the Great Depression the pattern was well established. As Robert Higgs has documented, every crisis called forth more centralized governmental power. This economic crisis, caused largely by grievous mistakes by the new Federal Reserve Board and an oppressively protectionist tariff law, disappeared only with the onset of the greatest war in our history.

As government grew, business used its influence to get government to create new private fortunes. The rapacity of finance capital called forth the organization of what has now become Big Labor. In due course the trend toward giantism has given us Big Media, Big Religion, Big Education, Big Medicine, and a big and all powerful Judiciary.

To this centralizing trend, dating back a century and a half, there have been many honorable dissenters. The honor roll begins with Jefferson and Jackson, curiously the alleged patron saints of today's Democratic Party. It drew on the genius of such dissimi-

lar men as Ralph Waldo Emerson and John C. Calhoun, Fighting Bob LaFollette and Louis D. Brandeis. It included the valiant Loco Focos, the early Populists and Western Progressives, the followers of Henry George, the anarchists and cooperators, the homestead movement and the Southern agrarians.

Years ago I remember the thrill of discovering a yellowed copy of the magazine called *Free America*, the journal of the distributist movement of the late 1930s. Its credo might serve us still today:

"Free America stands for individual independence and believes that freedom can exist only in societies in which the great majority are the effective owners of property and in which group action is democratic. In order to achieve such a society, ownership, production, population and government must be decentralized. Free America is therefore opposed to finance-capitalism, fascism, and communism."

To that movement from the past must be now be added many newer voices. They include the many local currency movements represented here this weekend; the communitarians of the American Association for Rights and Responsibilities; the various libertarian groups; the "new Democrats" of the Democratic Leadership Council and the "old rightists" of the Republican Liberty Caucus; the Civil Society Project and the New Citizenship Project; the groups of all races working for neighborhood renewal in our inner cities and rural renewal in the countryside; and even many of the spontaneously formed groups bearing the honorable name of the militia.

To these must be added the names of rising political philosophers like Michael Sandel and Robert Putnam, and technofuturists like George Gilder and Nicholas Negroponte.

Indeed, in the magazines of the cyberworld articles regularly appear showing how the rise of the Internet and readily available cryptography mean the defeat of the institutions of centralized power, just as perestroika laid the groundwork for the rapid dissolution of the late unlamented Soviet Union. That of course is the reason why the government is trying desperately to gain policing authority over the Internet, and to suppress the distribution of crypto systems the government cannot penetrate.

When we survey the sweep of American history, it is easy to become despondent about the march of giantism and centralized power. We mourn the inexplicable absence of a bold leaders to force the issue of centralization and decentralization on the national public. Many of us are doubtless disgusted with the major party candidates for President, both of whom seem committed to preserving and enlarging the central power, albeit for different ends.

I daresay most of us here today share the sentiments of an out of work politician who said, back in 1978, that the real issue is not the opposition of Left and Right. "The real issue," he said, "is how to reverse the flow of power to ever more remote institutions, and to restore that power to the individual, the family, and the local community. Millions of Americans, in both the small towns and great cities of this land, are steadily coming to the same conclusion."

Three years later that man was President of the United States. Although I can think of nothing his administration did to reflect those sentiments, I can assure you that Ronald Reagan sincerely believed in what he said on that radio broadcast. So too, I think, do many millions of Americans subscribe to that incisive sentiment, although they would describe themselves politically in many diverse and conflicting ways.

Out in the western part of Kansas, bordered by waving fields of grain, is an old two

lane highway. Once it was the great Route 66, America's mightiest highway, the mainline from Chicago to the Golden West. No longer do the eighteen wheelers speed over its pitted concrete; no longer do the Harleys and travel trailers push forward to new adventures.

Old Route 66 is abandoned now; the heavy traffic zooms by on I 70 to the north and I 40 to the south. Even the local small town traffic has passed it by. The prairie grass has grown up through the cracks forced open by decades of exposure to sun and wind.

But just as that soft, flexible grass has pushed through the hard, heavy concrete under the hot Kansas sun, the spirit of decentralism, often paved over and ignored, always returns to bring about a new beginning. We may not know quite what form it may take, or what will fertilize its growth; but we know it is there, in the hearts and minds of common people everywhere. All overgrown institutions and centralized tyrannies fear it. It can be and is suppressed, but it cannot be destroyed. We are on the side of history, and though it may not always be apparent, we are winning.

John McClaughry is chairman of the E.F. Schumacher Society and president of the Ethan Allen Institute, a state public policy think tank in Kirby, Vermont. From 1980 to 1982 he was Senior Policy Advisor to Gov. and President Ronald Reagan. He later served as a state Senator and was the 1992 Republican candidate for Governor of Vermont.

TRIBUTE TO HUGH WYATT

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 1996

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, Hugh Wyatt, born and reared in Atlanta, GA, has been involved with the media virtually all his life. At the age of 9, he was submitting articles to local papers. He later founded the Atlanta Inquirer along with such notables as Julian Bond. With the vast amount of knowledge he acquired during his early years, Mr. Wyatt, at age 25, created the Inner-City Broadcasting Corp. with Carl McCall, New York State Comptroller; David Dinkins, former Mayor of New York City; and Percy Sutton, former Borough President of Manhattan. At age 35, he continued to enlighten readers with his editorial columns at two of New York City's major newspapers—the New York Daily News and the Amsterdam News.

In 1986, Mr. Wyatt reached a pivotal point in this life when he founded the Medical Herald, a national newspaper circulated throughout the United States including Hawaii and Puerto Rico. I am pleased to recognize this outstanding journalist and to introduce him to my House colleagues.

SALUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL NATHAN THOMAS

HON. MARTIN OLAV SABO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 1996

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute Lt. Col. Nathan Thomas, a Minneapolis constituent and member of the Minnesota