

pillars of the Pueblo Library District. They donated funds to construct several libraries, including the Frank I. Lamb Branch and the Frank and Marie Barkman Branch.

Frank and Marie were the leading advocates for Pueblo's library system over the years and were active in the community in many other ways. Mr. Barkman served as the President of the Library Board for more than twelve years. He was also active in Rotary and was a supporter of the YMCA and the El Pueblo Boys Ranch.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I would like to pay tribute to a man that has given so much to his community. The City of Pueblo will miss his friendship, leadership and service.

THE EVIL PEN

HON. JACK METCALF

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 31, 2000

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, I submit for the RECORD the following article:

THE EVIL PEN

(By Balint Vazsonyi)

[First published August 31, 1999, in *The Washington Times*, under the title "Guiding the pen."]

On August 23, Frank J. Murray presented an exhaustive special report in the *Washington Times* on the subject of executive orders. Early on, he quotes Paul Begala, 5-star general in President Clinton's personal army. "Stroke of the pen, law of the land. Kind of cool," says Mr. Begala.

Indeed.

During the early 1980's, on a concert tour of Hungary, I found myself commenting to a friend about the general easing of the political atmosphere, plenty of food, people saying more frequently what they really thought—all in stark contrast to other colonies of the Soviet Socialist Russian Empire, such as East Germany or Czechoslovakia.

"Don't be fooled," my friend retorted, "the pen that can wipe out a man's very existence is still there. Right now, the pen is held by a more decent hand, that's all."

One of the many ways of defining fundamental differences between socialism and America is to point out that the U.S. Constitution does not provide such a pen to any individual.

Nevertheless, Mr. Murray's research shows generous use of just such a pen by all recent presidents. While Presidents Kennedy and Carter hold a comfortable lead, President Ford is not far behind, and Bill Clinton's average falls between those of Presidents Reagan and Bush.

So why the sudden concern?

Because the pen is now held by a hand that is unrestrained by any of the considerations which informed and guided American presidents since George Washington. The hand is attached to a body whose heart, brain, and other parts have made mockery of the oath the mouth had recited—not once but twice—before taking office.

A review of executive orders currently in force cannot fail to alarm the most placid and trusting soul among us. "They include," writes Mr. Murray, "vast powers to seize property, commodities, fuel and minerals; organize and control the means of production, including compulsory job assignments for civilians; assign military forces abroad; institute martial law and force civilian rela-

tion; seize and control all forms of transportation and restrict travel; seize communications and health facilities; regulate operation of private enterprise; require national registration through the postal service, or otherwise control citizens' lives."

True—many of these were first issued by others and only confirmed, renewed and consolidated by Mr. Clinton. But the end result is that, for all practical intents and purposes, Mr. Clinton can declare himself dictator of America with yet another stroke of the pen. He can choose to do so at, say, 3:00 a.m. so that we wake up to a country of which we are not longer citizens, but prisoners.

The reality, of course, is that no sane person would have thought past presidents—such as Carter, Reagan or Bush—capable of imposing their personal rule upon the United States of America.

But it is also a reality that no sane person could think Mr. and Mrs. Clinton incapable of imposing their personal rule upon the United States of America.

No one before presumed to say that the American people cannot be trusted to make proper use of the money they had earned.

No one before has placed an ever-growing circle of fortifications between the People and the People's House.

No one before has populated an entire administration with purely political appointees. Unlike the age-old system of patronage, as practiced by both major parties, a cadre of operatives now runs the executive branch. Their primary qualification is the contempt they share with the presidential pair—contempt for the American People and their Constitution. Previous administrations expected loyalty. The present one requires obedience, even from legislators.

The practice of giving police powers to one citizen over another is an import from the worst regimes in this, or any other, century. In a heartbeat, it can turn decent, ordinary Americans into commissars.

All of the above is happening because we are letting it happen. Congress lets it happen. The courts let it happen. The Founders knew better.

Yet many in our midst will recite the mantra according to which "a lot of time has passed since the Founding . . ." "They didn't even have electric light, knew nothing about moon shots—how could they have foreseen the world for which they were providing guidance . . ." "We must treat the Constitution as a living-breathing document and change it as needed . . ."

But the miracle of the American Founding was precisely that they knew. Without electricity, without computers and space flights, they knew. They wrote provisions so one person could not dictate. They made certain America's future would not depend on whether "the hand" was decent or not. They had seen how quickly rulers become corrupted.

They knew the mortal danger of the evil pen.

Apparently, we don't.

A TRIBUTE TO OFFICER JAMES DRESS

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 31, 2000

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, during our recent recess, a constituent of mine performed an heroic act which saved the life of a fellow law enforcement officer and earning him a place

as one of the genuine heroes of our Hudson Valley region.

James Dress of Tappan, NY, is a rookie officer of the 49th Precinct in New York City, and is also chief of the South Orangetown Ambulance Corps in my Congressional District. Two days before New Year's Day, Officer Dress arrived at the scene of a shooting in which an undercover detective was seriously wounded. Utilizing his experience as an EMT, Officer Dress realized that the wound was too serious to await an ambulance. He and a fellow officer performed emergency procedures on the undercover policeman and rushed him themselves to Jacobi Medical Center, where he was admitted in critical condition with extensive internal injuries.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating Officer Dress and I am pleased to insert into the RECORD at this point a profile on Officer James Dress, which appeared in the "Our Town" newspaper soon after his act of heroism:

[From Our Town, Jan. 5, 2000]

A "HERO" LABEL 12 YEARS IN THE MAKING

(By Arthur R. Aldrich)

Not every NYC rookie cop gets the "hero" label pinned on him after only a few months on the job. Some complete their careers quietly doing their jobs with little public recognition. But when the moment came for action, James Dress of Tappan was prepared. He had been preparing since 1987.

Dress is chief of the S. Orangetown Ambulance Corps, elected to his third term as head of the unit. He joined the corps in 1987 while still at Tappan Zee High School, learning first aid riding the rigs as a youth corps member. While still at TZ, Dress took and passed the 120-hour EMT certification course to qualify as a full-fledged corps member.

Even while he completed his college work at SUNY Oneonta, Dress returned to Tappan and rode the rigs as often as he could. At Oneonta, he was among the founders of the student Medical Response Team, usually first on the scene at campus emergencies, and trained to administer first aid.

"I was looking at corporate law for a career," Dress concedes. But at Oneonta he switched his major from political science to business economics and marketing.

But under all his other career ambitions was lurking a desire for law enforcement. "I took the tests in Rockland for police officer," Dress says, "and came in as a finalist for appointment in Orangetown." All the while he continued to volunteer as an EMT and answer calls with the S. Orangetown Corps.

But Orangetown never appointed Dress; instead, he took the New York City Police exams, qualified, and was graduated from the Police Academy in April, 1999.

Instead of landing in a corporate law office, Dress found himself on the streets of the Bronx, a rookie assigned to the 4-9 Precinct in Baychester. His unit concentrates on quality of life crimes; but of course, performs all other police duties as well.

Assigned to the 5:30 p.m. to 2:05 a.m. patrol, Dress was riding with his sergeant, Ed Warren, in a patrol car at 12:35 a.m. on Wednesday, December 29, when he responded to a call of a shooting. Pulling up at E. Gun Hill Road and Sexton Place, the officers discovered a man lying on the sidewalk and a small crowd.

According to Dress, he determined the man on the sidewalk had been shot in the stomach. Others in the crowd had also been injured by gun shots, but less seriously.

"I put in a rush call for an ambulance," Dress says, "and began first aid." But when