

were rapidly shoving aside the corner grocer, local banker, and independent drug store. Automobiles were complex and dangerous, manufactured by giant corporations with deep pockets to protect themselves. Banks had the most sophisticated accountants and lawyers to draft their loan agreements. Sellers of everyday products—soaps, produce, meats, appliances, clothing, cereals, and canned and frozen foods—packaged their products with the help of the shrewdest marketers and designers. The individual was outflanked at every position.

Sensing that mismatch, the Great Society produced a bevy of laws to level the playing field for consumers: auto and highway safety for the motorist; truth in packaging for the consumer; truth in lending for the homebuyer, small businessman and individual borrower; wholesome meat and wholesome poultry laws to enhance food safety. It created the Product Safety Commission to assure that toys and other products would be safe for users and the Flammable Fabrics Act to reduce the incendiary characteristics of clothing and blankets. To keep kids out of the medicine bottle we proposed the Child Safety Act.

The revolution in transportation led to the creation of the National Transportation Safety Board, renowned for its work in improving air safety, and the Department of Transportation.

In numbers of Americans helped, the Great Society exceeds in domestic impact even the New Deal of LBJ's idol, Franklin Roosevelt, but far more profound and enduring are the fundamental tenets of public responsibility it espoused, which influence and shape the nation's public policy and political dialogue to this day.

Until the New Deal, the federal government had been regarded as a regulatory power, protecting the public health and safety with the Food and Drug Administration and enforcing antitrust and commercial fraud laws to rein in concentrations of economic power. With the creation of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the other alphabet agencies, FDR took the government into deeper regulatory waters. He also put the feds into the business of cash payments: welfare benefits, railroad retirement, and Social Security.

Johnson converted the federal government into a far more energetic, proactive force for social justice—striking down discriminatory practices and offering a hand up with education, health care, and job training. These functions had formerly been the preserve of private charities and the states. Before the Johnson administration, for example, the federal government was not training a single worker. He vested the federal government with the responsibility to soften the sharp elbows of capitalism and give it a beating, human heart; to redistribute opportunity as well as wealth.

For the public safety, Johnson took on the National Rifle Association and drove through Congress the laws that closed the loophole of mail order guns, prohibited sales to minors, and ended the import of Saturday night specials. He tried unsuccessfully to convince Congress to pass a law requiring the licensing of every gun owner and the registration of every gun.

Spotting the "for sale" signs of political corruption going up in the nation's capital, Johnson proposed public financing of presidential campaigns, full disclosure of contributions and expenses by all federal candidates, limits on contributions, and eliminating lobbying loopholes. He convinced

Congress to provide for public financing of Presidential campaigns through the income-tax checkoff. But they ignored his 1967 warning: "More and more, men and women of limited means may refrain from running for public office. Private wealth increasingly becomes an artificial and unrealistic arbiter of qualifications, and the source of public leadership is thus severely narrowed. The necessity of acquiring substantial funds to finance campaigns diverts a candidate's attention from his public obligations and detracts from his energetic exposition of the issues."

#### FEAR OF THE L-WORD

Lyndon Johnson didn't talk the talk of legacy. He walked the walk. He lived the life. He didn't have much of a profile, but he did have the courage of his convictions, and the achievements of his Great Society were monumental.

Why then do Democratic politicians who battle to preserve Great Society programs ignore those achievements? For the same reason Bill Clinton came to the LBJ library on Johnson's birthday during the 1992 campaign and never spoke the name of Lyndon Johnson or recognized Ladybird Johnson, who was sitting on the stage from which he spoke.

The answer lies in their fear of being called "liberal" and in their opposition to the Vietnam War. In contemporary America politicians are paralyzed by fear of the label that comes with the heritage of Lyndon Johnson's Great Society. Democrats rest their hops of a return to Congressional power on promises to preserve and expand Great Society programs like Medicare and aid to education, but they tremble at the thought of linking those programs to the liberal Lyndon. The irony is that they seek to distance themselves from the president who once said that the difference between liberals and cannibals is that cannibals eat only their enemies.

Democratic officeholders also assign Johnson the role of stealth president because of the Vietnam War. Most contemporary observers put the war down as a monumental blunder. Only a handful—most of them Republicans—defend Vietnam as part of a half-century bipartisan commitment to contain communism with American blood and money. Seen in that context, Vietnam was a tragic losing battle in a long, winning war—a war that began with Truman's ordeal in Korea, the Marshall Plan, and the 1948 Berlin airlift, and ended with the collapse of communism at the end of the Reagan Administration.

Whatever anyone thinks about Vietnam and however much politicians shrink from the liberal label, it is time to recognize—as historians are beginning to do—the reality of the remarkable and enduring achievements of the Great Society programs. Without such programs as Head Start, higher-education loans and scholarships, Medicare, Medicaid, clear air and water, and civil rights, life would be nastier, more brutish, and shorter for millions of Americans.

#### TRIBUTE TO DR. BRADY JOSEPH JONES, SR.

#### HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 18, 1999

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to note with great

sadness the passing of Dr. Brady Joseph Jones Senior, one of the great community leaders of Dallas, Texas.

Dr. B.J. Jones was born in Longview, Texas on August 30, 1915. He graduated from Prairie View College in 1939, and he later earned his doctorate from Meharry Medical College in the area of Dentistry in 1953.

Out of dedication to delivering services to the low-income families, he chose to keep his practice in the heart of South Dallas. He cared for patients in this area with compassion and success. He was a pioneer dentist and a giant in our community.

During his career, he was a charter member of a group of Black Professional who introduced the idea of investment and saving throughout the Black Professional community. He advocated education, self-sufficiency, and responsibility.

Dr. Jones was a loving parent. He was the proud father of a dentist, a psychiatrist, and an educator, who is an art enthusiast with most of her studies being done at the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles, California.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. B.J. Jones inspired his children, his peers, the Black community and all who knew him.

With his passing, I have lost a dear friend, many members of our community have lost a mentor, and the citizens of Dallas have lost a great leader. He was truly an inspiration, and he will be missed. God bless him and his family. We commend him to you, dear Lord, in your eternal care.

#### HONORING DOUGLAS WAGNER MORAN

#### HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 18, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the birth of Douglas Wagner Moran. Douglas, the first child of Mary and Michael Moran of San Francisco, California, arrived on Friday, October 15th, 1999, at 7:45 a.m., weighing in at a healthy 7 pounds three ounces and an impressive 21½ inches. Mr. Speaker I request my colleagues in joining me in offering our heartiest congratulations to the Moran family and share their happiness in being new parents.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH

#### HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 18, 1999

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the 80th anniversary of the Second Baptist Church located in Romeo, Michigan. In late 1918 and early 1919, a group of devoted Christians began holding prayer meetings in their homes. In 1920, Katherine Board, Jennie (Green) Barton, George Green, Arthur Board, Katie Watkins, Virgil Watkins and Susan Armstrong met to discuss the idea of starting a