

eighth "Toys for Tots" program, in cooperation with the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve and sponsored by the city of North Miami Beach. This effort was an enormous success, helping make the holidays brighter for more than 5,000 children.

Our entire community appreciates the efforts of the hundreds of contributors, sponsors, and volunteers. I want to particularly recognize the efforts of South Florida Food Recovery's founder, the Honorable Jule Littman, who has served the city of North Miami Beach with distinction in many official capacities and who continues to dedicate his efforts to helping the neediest people in our community. Congratulations to him and to his entire staff for another job well done.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to share with my colleagues an article on this matter that appeared in the Community Newspapers of Miami. I hope it will inspire more communities to follow the example set by South Florida Food Recover.

[From the Community Newspaper, Dec. 27, 1999]

SFFR JOINS MARINES TO BRING HOLIDAY CHEER TO NEEDY KIDS

(By Bari Auerbach)

More than 20,000 toys and 7,000 leather sneakers were distributed recently to needy children during the eighth annual "Toys for Tots" giveaway hosted by South Florida Food Recovery (SFFR) and the U.S. Marine Corps at Patricia A. Mishcon Park in North Miami Beach.

Santa Claus (alias Bill Lindsay, a SFFR volunteer) helped distribute toys to at least 5,000 children from all over Miami-Dade County. The toys were donated by many corporations and members of the community.

In addition to pony and railroad car rides, there were special treats for hungry appetites including 10,000 slices of pizza donated by Papa John's, 5,000 hot dogs served by such civic organizations as the North Miami Beach Kiwanis Club and the North Bay Village Optimist Club, plus cake, ice cream, cookies, milk in mugs, soda, candy and more.

The North Miami Pops Orchestra played holiday classics, plus favorite characters like Burnie, the Miami Heat mascot, and a purple dinosaur mingled with the children while BellSouth Mobility offered free calls to send holiday greetings anywhere in the U.S.

"This year's Toys for Tots event was bigger and better than ever, thanks to the generous support of many sponsors," said Jule Littman, executive director of South Florida Food Recovery.

"Special thanks goes out to the City of North Miami Beach, City of North Miami, City of Miami, United Way of Miami-Dade, McArthur Dairy, Publix: Costco, 7-11, Papa John's, Flemings, Mahi Shrine Clowns, Bill Seidel Motors, BellSouth, Americare, North Miami Beach Pops Orchestra, North Miami Beach Kiwanis and Feed the Children."

The concept for South Florida Food Recovery originated about 20 years ago when a truckload of cheese was inherited by the City of North Miami Beach and Littman arranged to have the cheese distributed to the needy.

"Much to everyone's surprise, there were many men, women and families with small children who lined the street for the free cheese giveaway," Littman said.

Once the need was recognized, Littman, along with civic minded volunteers and food

administering agencies, started their mission to feed the poor, needy and homeless by bringing together food items and supplies from a variety of industries.

Today, South Florida Food Recovery, a non-profit organization, recovers and distributes food, free of charge, without discrimination to needy people in Florida on a regular basis and to disaster zones in times of emergency.

To inquire about volunteering for future SFFR events or to donate items, phone 305-891-8811.

REMEMBERING A LIBRARY VISIONARY, FRANK BARKMAN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 31, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask that we pause for a moment to remember the life of a great advocate for the City of Pueblo, Mr. Frank Barkman.

Mr. Barkman and his wife, Marie Lamb Barkman, have been financial and personal 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 relocation; 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.