

Father Hilary has traveled around the country conducting seminars and talks explaining the Holy Shroud of Turin and its spirituality. He has also worked in Rome with many scientists, doctors and theologians on the shroud. He recently produced a video that explains the spirituality of the shroud.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Father Hilary's fellow monks, supporters, the Holy Face Monastery, the City of Clifton and me in recognizing the outstanding and invaluable service to the community of Father Hilary Conti.

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## EUROPEAN UNION

### HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2000

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, Benjamin Franklin once wrote in Poor Richard's Almanac, "Don't throw stones at your neighbors', if your own windows are glass." This sage advice written in 1736 is still current today and certainly applicable to those across the Atlantic who have focused on the problems in Florida and mocked the United States electoral system. While the closeness of the vote in Florida resulted in exercise of a constitutional process in the U.S. that has not had to have been used before, the challenges ahead for the European Union as it tries to integrate new members and address its own internal voting system are just beginning and may be far more difficult to resolve. In that regard, this Member recommends to his colleagues I submit the following editorial published by the Omaha World Herald on December 9, 2000, on this subject into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

#### IF THE SHOE FITS, EU SHOULD WEAR IT

The Florida vote-could mess has triggered a month-long eruption of contemptuous tut-tutting from European leaders and commentators. Finger-wagging scolds from London, Paris and other centers of European enlightenment have taken particular aim at the Electoral College.

One columnist grumped in The Times of London: "What moral authority would a man have to hold his finger over the nuclear trigger when he owed his office not to a majority but the byproduct of a bankrupt electoral college?"

A German writer made do by simply calling the Electoral College "idiotic."

Scratch those European criticisms hard enough, however, and you uncover what could be called, at best, inconsistency and at worst hypocrisy.

It turns out that one of Europe's most revered institutions, the European Union, has long governed itself by the very principles associated with the Electoral College. That is, the decision-making process for the EU, an association of 15 European countries linked by close economic and political ties, is structured so that small countries are given tremendous added weight and, thus, influence.

The best illustration is shown by comparing the EU's largest member, Germany, to its smallest, Luxembourg. Germany, with 82 million inhabitants, has a population some 205 times that of Luxembourg's of

400,000 (which, coincidentally, is about the size of Omaha's municipal population).

If the seats that Luxembourg and Germany have on the Council of Ministers, one of the EU's governing bodies, were assigned in proportion to the two countries' actual populations, Luxembourg would control two seats and Germany would control 410. Instead, Luxembourg has two seats and Germany has 10.

The advantage given to smaller states is even greater in another EU institution, the European Commission. There, the five largest countries each have two seats, while the rest have one. That arrangement resembles the situation in the U.S. Senate, where small states are each accorded precisely the same number of seats as big states.

The EU gives its smallest members one more advantage, allowing any country, regardless of its size, to exercise a veto on decisions involving taxation and foreign policy.

In short, if Europeans deride the Electoral College's rules as "idiotic," they should say the same about those of the European Union.

In recent days the EU's governing rules have been under negotiation as part of the organization's plans to expand its membership to former members of the Soviet bloc and other candidate nations. Representatives from the EU's smallest members have put up quite a fight to defend the prerogatives they've traditionally enjoyed, and protesters have demonstrated on behalf of the same cause, although it appears some watering down of the small-state advantages will ultimately result.

If European commentators want to understand many of the arguments behind the Electoral College, they don't have to look to America. The debate over those principles is taking place in their own back yard.

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## TRIBUTE TO THE LATE GEORGE C. PAGE

### HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2000

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, the City of Los Angeles recently lost a generous philanthropist, Mr. George C. Page. Mr. Page was the founder of the George C. Page Museum of La Brea Discoveries and was a generous donor to Children's Hospital and Pepperdine University. I would like to take this opportunity to honor the contributions Mr. Page made to our community, and note in particular how influential his museum has been on the education of children of Los Angeles. I'd also like to submit for the record a copy of an article the Los Angeles Times ran on November 30, shortly after Mr. Page's death.

[From the Los Angeles Times, Nov. 30, 2000]

OBITUARY: GEORGE C. PAGE; PHILANTHROPIST  
FOUNDED LA BREA MUSEUM

(By Myrna Oliver)

George C. Page, who hitchhiked to Los Angeles as a teenager with \$2.30 in his pocket, made a fortune with his Mission Pak holiday fruit gift boxes and land development and then donated millions to house treasures of the La Brea Tar Pits, which fascinated him, has died. He was 99. The founder of the George C. Page Museum of La Brea Discoveries in Hancock Park, he was also a major

benefactor of Children's Hospital, Pepperdine University and other institutions that aid young people. He died Tuesday night in Carpinteria, Pepperdine spokesman Jerry Derloshon said Wednesday. An eighth-grade dropout whose two children died as infants, Page, along with his late wife, Juliette, vowed to use what he earned to help children, first to survive and then to get an education.

He gave his money and name to the \$9-million George C. Page Building at Children's Hospital; the George C. Page Youth Center in Hawthorne; the George C. Page Stadium at Loyola Marymount University; numerous buildings at Pepperdine, including two residence halls and a conference room; and programs at the USC School of Fine Arts, as well as the \$4-million La Brea museum.

But it was the museum, which opened April 15, 1977, that captured Page's passion and became his permanent monument. "This is so living, so immediate," he told The Times in 1981, stretching his arms wide to indicate the distinctive burial-mound structure. "It's like giving flowers that I can smell while I'm still here." The saga of George C. Page, how he wound up in Los Angeles and how he made the money to put his name on those donations, all started with an orange. The piece of fruit was given to him by his teacher when he was a 12-year-old schoolboy in his native Fremont, Neb. "I was so awed by the beauty of that piece of fruit that I said, 'I hope someday I can live where that came from,'" he recalled.

So at 16, he headed west. He lived in a \$3-a-month attic room in downtown Los Angeles, ate Hershey bars and 10-cent bowls of bean soup fortified with crackers and ketchup. He paid for all that—and saved \$1,000 in his first year—working days as a busboy (which he first thought meant driving a bus) and nights as a soda jerk. Come Christmas, the youth decided to send some of California's beautiful fruit to his mother and brothers in Nebraska. Innately adept at packaging, he lined the box with red paper and decorated it with tinsel. Thirty-seven other roomers in his boardinghouse offered to pay him if he would fashion similar packages to send to their Midwestern relatives. He was in business. Page launched Mission Pak in 1917, pioneering the now-ubiquitous marketing of California fruit in holiday gift packages in an era when fresh fruit was rarely seen during the frozen winters back East.

Working alone, he bought the fruit, wrote the advertising copy and found new ways to "appeal to the eye to open the purse." One marketing tool was the jingle that became a part of Southern California history: "A gift so bright, so gay, so light. Give the Mission Pak magic way."

On an occasional day off, Page played tourist—going to ostrich races in Pasadena or marveling over the oozing pools of asphalt known around the world as La Brea Tar Pits. Why, he mused, must a person travel seven miles to see the bones removed from those pits, poorly displayed as they were, at the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History in Exposition Park? It was more than half a century before Page could realize his vision of properly showcasing the 40,000-year-old fossils. In that time, he learned a great deal about packaging.

Visiting France when he was 21, Page encountered newly invented cellophane and began importing it to enhance his gift boxes. During World War II, he became an expert in dehydration, distributing dried fruit and other foods to the armed forces and then to the public. He started a company to make