

spiffy auto bodies, salvaging battered but functional cars.

After he sold Mission Pak in 1946, Page delved into developing, building industrial and commercial parks and leasing space to the defense and aerospace industries and the federal government. Packaging was even important in real estate, he decided, in the form of fine landscaping to enhance complexes. By the time he was ready to create his museum, Page was already retirement age—so old that some county officials feared he wouldn't finish what he started. But even in his later years, Page walked miles each day, saying a person should take care of his body as one does a fine watch. He bought a motor home and made it his Hancock Park field office, arriving at 7 a.m. daily for three years to supervise the construction of the museum. He studied architectural firms and hired two young men, Willis E. Fagan and Franklin W. Thornton, who proposed a "burial mound," half underground, that would conserve energy and preserve the park's green space. He hired an expert from Brigham Young University and others who had worked on Disneyland attractions to develop steel-rod and wire methods of presenting the prized fossils so that they would not be just "bones, bones, bones." And with a promise of free plane fare, rent and a television set, he lured a Pennsylvania couple to Los Angeles to paint murals of La Brea as it had appeared when the skeletons belonged to live animals roaming the area.

He examined the most comfortable materials—carpet to walk on, not marble—and limited the museum to something that could be easily covered in about an hour. When solving a problem required money, Page gave that as well as his expertise. When his \$3-million building threatened to remain empty because of county officials' penury, he donated \$1 million more for the exhibits. He even rescued one discarded skeleton of a dire wolf from the trash at the Museum of Natural History. And he paid for the expensive wrought-iron fence constructed a few years after the museum opened to prevent nighttime motorbike riders from scaling the sodded sides of the building, preserving the slopes for children (not to mention adults) to roll down during the day.

Page remained a hands-on patron years after his museum dream was realized. He knew where a photographer could get the best angle for a shot of a giant sloth and could tell at a glance if a plant in the atrium was sickly. And avid benefit-goer himself, Page opened his museum to charities for fund-raisers and found that the well-heeled loved dancing around the imperial mammoth and the 9,000-year-old woman and among the dire wolves, saber-toothed cats and condors.

Although experts initially questioned the self-described museum buff's credentials for creating the facility, they eventually had to admit that Page knew—or at least was willing to learn—what he was doing. Along with the 5 million visitors to the museum in its first 10 years were scores of museum directors from around the world, eager to inspect what the amateur had wrought. "The thing that made me feel awfully good," the dapper, slightly built Page told *The Times* in 1982, "[was that] they said, 'George Page, we have never been in a museum with things displayed so well.'" The philanthropist is survived by a son, John Haan of Carpinteria, and two grandsons.

## FLORIDA LEGISLATURE HAS GONE TO FAR

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 15, 2000*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I commend Bruce Ackerman, a professor at Yale Law School. Mr. Ackerman, in his December 12, 2000 *New York Times* editorial, points out that the Florida legislature, if allowed to name electors on its own authority would establish a "devastating precedent." His argument is very straight forward and clear: "it is absurd to believe that the United States Constitution would allow one state legislature to usurp a national election." Article II of the Constitution grants Congress power to set the day on which electors are selected. This is why in 1845 Congress established a level playing field among the states by requiring them to hold elections on the same day. Not since 1845, Mr. Ackerman points out, has a state legislature "tried the trick that Florida's legislature is now attempting—intervening to swing the election to its favored candidate." I strongly agree with Mr. Ackerman's argument that the Florida State legislature's attempt to choose its own electors is illegal under Article II of U.S. Constitution. I submit the following article into the Congressional Record.

[From the *New York Times* OP-ED Tuesday, December 12, 2000]

AS FLORIDA GOES

(By Bruce Ackerman)

While the Supreme Court may ultimately determine the fate of this election, Florida's Legislature is determining the destiny of future presidential contests.

The constitutional issues raised by the Legislature's impending action to name a slate of presidential electors for Gov. George W. Bush are far more important than whether Mr. Bush or Vice President Al Gore gets to the White House. If the Legislature is allowed to name electors on its own authority, it will establish a devastating precedent.

In the next close presidential election, what is to prevent party leaders in a swing state from deciding the election once the Florida strategy has been legitimized? The dominant party in such a state could simply string out a final tally until the end and then rush into special legislative session to vote in a partisan slate of electors at the finish line. If one state legislature succumbs to this temptation, another legislature—controlled by the opposing party—may well follow suit, creating a partisan battle far worse than what we have already witnessed in Florida.

The Florida Legislature may believe it has the power to name the state's electors. But it is absurd to believe that the United States Constitution would allow one state legislature to usurp a national election. An examination of two provisions in Article II of the Constitution shows why.

One provision grants state legislatures power over the manner in which electors are chosen. A second grants Congress power to set the day on which these electors are selected. The first provision appears to give the Florida Legislature the right to name its own slate. Many legislatures exercised this power during the early decades of the Republic. And as far as the Constitution is con-

cerned, there would be no legal obstacle if Florida's Legislature decided that in future elections it would deprive its citizens of the direct right to vote on Presidential electors.

But the Florida Legislature is perfectly happy to have its citizens vote for President. It simply wants to preempt the Florida Supreme Court's effort to figure out who won the election last month. And in trying to act retroactively, the legislature violates the second constitutional provision, which grants Congress power to set a uniform national day for choosing electors.

Acting under this power in 1845, Congress established a level playing field among the states by requiring them to hold elections on the same day—which is why we all go to the polls on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November. Before 1845, states competed with one another for influence by setting their election dates as late as possible, thereby swinging close elections by voting last. But since then, nobody has tried the trick that Florida's Legislature is now attempting—intervening to swing the election to its favored candidate.

This effort is illegal under the statute established by Congress in 1845. Congress has allowed one narrow exception to its insistence on a uniform election day: It allows a state legislature to step in only when the state has failed to make a choice of its electors.

That is not the case in Florida. The state made a choice when Gov. Jeb Bush signed a formal notification that the state's 25 votes go to a slate of Republican electors. Since Florida has not failed to choose, its legislature cannot, under federal law, intervene further.

Even if the Florida courts ultimately find that Mr. Gore wins the state's electoral votes, Florida will not have "failed to choose." They will simply have determined that the voters chose him rather than Mr. Bush.

Florida's legislative leaders may want to end the election chaos by fiat. But the vote that occurred on Nov. 7 was properly cast by Floridians on the same day their fellow Americans cast their ballots. If Florida's Legislature is allowed to overrule that vote, other states may ponder the same power play four years from now.

## TRIBUTE TO REVEREND PATRICIA BRUGER

**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 15, 2000*

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the deeds of a remarkable person from my district, the Reverend Patricia Bruger of Dumont, New Jersey, who was recognized on Wednesday, October 25, 2000 because of her many years of service and leadership. It is only fitting that she be honored, for she has a long history of caring, generosity and commitment to others.

Reverend Bruger was recognized for her many years of leadership in Paterson, which I have been honored to represent in Congress since 1997, and so it is appropriate that these words are immortalized in the annals of this greatest of all freely elected bodies.

Born and raised in Washington, DC, Reverend Bruger is a graduate of the University of