

2494-90

JUL 25 AMSD

BYRAN IT WASNT SMART FOR YOU TO RUN DOWN NIXON AND THINK BARNIE V
FRANK IDS OK. YOU KNOW WELL AS I SENT YOU ALLTHOSE PAPERS AND
YOU KNOW YOU JUST LAU HED ABOUT IT AND THAT IS NOT RIGHT , NIXON AS BEEN
THE ONLY LNE THAT THE DEM ARE FIGHTING GR HIS FREEDOM BUT YOUNEER SAY A
ANYTHING ABOUT THE TRUTH. AND KENNEDY IS THE LOWEST OF SLL PEOPLE

THE LAST ONE WAS HE WA IN A PLACE OF BUSI ESS AND ALREADY DRUNK AND SAI
IS SOME OF THES WOMEN VROM ,ASS, AND THE POLICEMAN TOLS HIM TO LEAVE T
THRM ALONE BUT HE HAD TO HAVE HIS WAY SO HR TOOK HIS WISKEY GLASS AND THR
THREW IT ON THR POLICEMANS FACE , SO THE POLICE MN ARRESTED HIM
A D THE T V MLNITOR KENNEDY TRIED TO HAVE HIM LOOSE HIS JOB BUT IT DIDNT
WORK AS THR MABS BOSD SAID HE MAKES ME TO MUCH MONEY N T V AND NEWSPAP
PAPERD SO THST WAS ONCE THE KENNEDY NAME DIDNT WITK.

ABOTHER THING YYOU SLL MADE FUN OF NIXON LIBTARY AND THS T STINKS
NOW JESSIE HE LM THE FRASON THEY WABNT TO GET RID OF HIM AS HE ID ZGAINST
THE DIRTY ART, ZND XSO ANM I ON CROSS F IRE THE OTHER NIGHT A MOVIE STAR T
TOLD AND THAT DUMB MICHEL KEINSLEY HE IS THE DUMBETST ODFASNYBODY I K
HE IS RKGHT NOW IGNOR ANT, HR JUST WANTS TO BE THE SHOW AND HE DAID I
IT WS OK TO HAVE SEX PUT UR IN IN SOMEBIDYS MOUTH, AND ALL THE DLRTY.
NOSW 30 THOU SSANDS FOR CHILD PERFONOGRAPHY AND 50 THOUDANDS FOR PUTTING
DOPE IN CHRIST ARM. HOW NICW YOU BETTER GET THE BOOK ON A C L U YOU WILL
SEE THEY ARE HA VING CHILDREN WITH SEX WITH ANIMALS THR ADDFRESS

1705 /WASHINGTON LEGAL FOUNDZTION

17 05 N STREET N W

WASH D C 20036

2
A L THE MONEY THEY SEND TO ART DIRY ART CSN SUPPORT A LOT OF J FAMILY
FAMILIES, THERE CANT BE ANYTONE DIRTIER THAT BARNIE FRANK ABD JKENN
HE IS THE LOWESTT IOF ANYTHJNG YOU MI GHT VVALL A MAN.

THERE ISNT A KENNEDY MAN THAT IS LIVING WITH A WIFEM EVEN EDWARD IS SEPA
SEPARATED TAKKS ABOIY HIS BOYS, BUT HE IS STIL SINGLE.

WHY DONT YOU ALL TELL THE TRUTH.

YOI TEMEJVER ONE THING I ,AY NOT BE HE RE AS DI ZSM 0, BUT JU ST REMEMB
IF THE DEM KEEP ON WE WONT HAVE A CONGRESS OR MAYBE NOT A COUNTRY. CAU
BRX BECAUSE PEOPLE LIKD THE KENNEDY AND OTHETE WONT GIVE A DAM.

I JUST SENT A BUNCH OF THINGS TO FFRED BZRNES, AND NOW I AM GOING TO WRU
WRITE THE ONES THST WAS ON YESTERDAY BEFOUR BARNES ILL HAVE TO TEKLL
THEM WHST THEY DONT KJOW, ABD I HOPEBERNABERANETSETSEWASSTASSHEE D

DESERVES IT HE KNRW WHAT HE WAS DOING JUSY L KE KENNEDY. I ~~REMEMBER~~
WHEN HE WAD LICING WITH HID WIFE SHE WENT TO THANK H IM FOR HRER FUR COA
COAT AND HE DAID FORGET IT I JUDST RENTED FOR THE EVEHING. I HOPE HE SUFFE
AS MUCH AS HE DID HER, I DESPIZE THAT MAN HE ISNT A MAN HE IS THE LOWEST
OF A SPECIES OF WHAT WE MIGHT CSLL A MAN. SEE WHRN I WAS ITTLE IN WESTERN
KANSAS OUT BY HAYS I REMEMVBER A MAB LIKE HIM BUT I WS LITTLE BUT THE MEH

DIDNT WAIT THEY GIT HIM AND OPERATED ON HIM SO HE DIDNT HURT SNYMOTE. GI
AND ALSO I WEHT TO SCHOO WITH XCHARLIE HSUGJEY THROUGH SCHOOL AND HE BECAM
BECME A DOCTOR UNTIL: HE RUINED A BU NCH OF BOY SVOTTS,

HOW WOULD Y U LIKE TO HAVE ONE OF THOSE BOYS YOUR SON.

ALSOI CALLED THE NUMBER THAT WASO N THE T V FOR PEO LE TO CALL

ABOUT DIRTY FILTHY ART AND THE NUMBER WAS 900 6820_ 9797

ANDI CALLED AND GAVE MY ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NO.

JUST REMEMBER THE LORDS KNOWS EVERY MOVE YOU MAKE AND KENNET BET

BETTER BE DASSAYING HIS HAIL MARYIES BEV OUT IT IS TO LATE

NIXON WILL BE DOWN AS ONE OF THE BEST RESIDENTS. YOU STILL TALK ABOUT
WATER GATE HOW ABOUT THESE OTHERS THAT KILLED YOU GOT THEN AS I SENT THE
GEORGE HANSON WAS PUT IN PRISON FOR NOTHING AND I SAID TO FOLEY WHO
WHO IS NEXT THEN CAME BUSH SON BUT THAT IS TO KEEP THEM FROM THE S AND
ON DSH RSTHETS THE OTHER DAY ON CHANNELS HE TOLD OR TALKED ABOUT DIXON WAS
WAS THE BODD AND HE WAS HAVING A PARTY SO HE HAD SOME PROTECTS ON FOR THE
THE MEN AND THE OTHERS WERE THERE TINNER WERNER HOWDE JACK WREN AND ATT
THEY SAID THAT THEY MADE 577 THOUSANDS AND THE ATTORNEY SAID IT WAS OK

AS LONG AS THEY DIDN'T GO ACROSS THE BORDER,

THEY EXPECT THE FEDERAL TO PAY FOR IT BUT THEY GOT IN TROUBLE SO
WRIGHT AND TONY HAD TO HELP THEM OUT.

NOTHING THE CHAIRMAN FOR FINDING OUT ABOUT THE S AND L HAPPENS TO BE
A BONE OF THE S AND L. SO THEY GOT OR MADE,

WHY THEY DON'T LIKE HRLM ID BE IS BECAUSE HE IS AGAINST DIRTY ART: FILTH
PAT ROBINSON SAID WHAT ABOUT CHILDREN SEEING SEX ON THE ART, THE MOVIE S

STAR THAT WAS PUTTING ON THE PROGRAM AND HE SAID IT WAS OK FOR
THE ART TO PAINT WHAT EVER THEY WANT TO DO, SO ALL THAT DIRTY MONEY
MONEY COULD HELP A LOT OF FAMILYS,

I JUST WANT YOU TO KNOW WHERE YOU STAND MAYBE YOU DON'T GIVE ADAM

MAYBE YOU ARE A KENNEDY LOVERL

ANOUT 2 YRS AGO ON THE RADIO ON A CALIF STATION SA SAUD TEE JOHN ROCHE

ROCKFEKLLER WAS ~~ARESTED~~ FOR IMBELESMENT AND I DAID HR ID A DEJ AND IT

IT WONT BEETREPEATED AND IT NEVVER W S TOLD AGAIN. SEE HOW IT WORKD

Man, 82, Gets Prison Sentence for Cocaine

Fort Lauderdale News
& Sun-Sentinel

POMPANO BEACH, Fla. — A Pompano Beach man convicted last month of dealing cocaine was fined \$50,000 and sentenced to 3½ years in state prison on Friday — 12 days before his 83rd birthday.

Frank Wilcher, a grandfather with a bad heart, arthritis and other maladies, became one of the oldest inmates in Florida's state prison system.

Wilcher was arrested after police found 36 grams of cocaine in his bedroom, and more than one gram in one of his pockets. State law requires anybody convicted of having more than 28 grams to serve at least three years in pris-

Activist Gay Leaders Debate Exposing Those Who Fight Them

By Benjamin Weiser

WASHINGTON — Joe Tom Easley remembers when gay leaders first began talking about changing the rules by which gay activists have always operated, including the most sacred one — that no one should expose a homosexual who had not come out of the closet, not even a politician who had been taking anti-gay positions.

The issue first arose, the New York gay activist said, at a "war conference" in early 1988 that gay leaders had called to deal with their anger over civil rights setbacks and their outrage at the lack of support from politicians who were known or thought to be gay.

"There was a kind of new radicalism in the gay movement," recalled Easley, "that, simply said, we're going to have to change the rules of the game, that there needed to be a rule that said ... if someone dedicated themselves to fighting the gay community in public while really being gay themselves, then that was enough to take away the protection of the code, the code of silence."

Exposing the sexual orientation of politicians — "bringing them out," in gay parlance — has become a perplexing ethical and moral issue for gay leaders. At a time when they see the gay community under attack, the question of how to strike back has become a much-discussed topic at gay conferences and workshops, and in the gay press.

The debate, which has received virtually no attention in the mainstream media, encompasses two extreme points of view: those who argue that such tactics are legitimate in the fight for gay rights and those who believe that privacy is paramount, even if it involves a gay-bussing politician who is secretly gay.

Early this year, the Advocate, a national gay newspaper published in Los Angeles, reported on the debate and quoted one gay leader, Vic Basile, then head of the Human Rights Campaign Fund, the leading gay political action committee, as saying: "Those who participate in the (gay) community and then vote against it are guilty of hypocrisy — hypocrisy that causes harm to a whole class of people. They are like Jews who put other Jews into the ovens. Their duplicitous, dishonest, harmful behavior ought to be exposed."

On the other side, activists such as Irvin Wald, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, who said, "I do come down on the side of privacy. I don't think that our political movement should be about the business of dragging other people out of the closet. ... I would have resented immensely somebody else sending a letter to my parents or making an announcement."

Those who believe that the old rules no longer apply have carried out their philosophy in the past four years in the past two



Rep. Barney Frank of Massachusetts

years, including last Friday, demonstrators have marched outside prominent politicians' homes or invoked their names in speeches, saying they were closet homosexuals and accusing them of hypocrisy in political acts.

Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., an openly gay congressman who has recently come under strong criticism for a past relationship with a male prostitute who said he conducted business from Frank's home, threatened last spring to name what he said were closeted Republicans who had consistently voted against the gay cause. Frank made his threat after the Republican Party circulated a document that seemed to be capitalizing on rumors — later denied — linking Rep. Thomas S. Foley, D-Wash., who was in line to become House speaker, to homosexuality. The Foley rumors quickly died after the GOP memo blew up in the party's face, and Frank never followed through on his threat.

Frank declined to be interviewed for this article, but his views appeared in the Advocate article published in January. "I have come to believe that there is a qualification in the right to privacy," Frank said. "I make an exception for people who are themselves gay and who practice gay things and who then participate in oppressing other gay people."

The 1988 conference of gay activists at Atrio House in Washington, Va., which Frank attended, was prompted by a series of events: the AIDS crisis; the arrests in October 1987 of nearly 600 demonstrators at the Supreme Court during a gay-rights protest; and the overwhelming congressional vote that month on an amendment introduced by Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., that banned

use of government AIDS funds for educational materials for gay men.

At one point during the conference, someone mentioned a liberal senator who was believed to be gay and had generally supported gay causes until, joining the majority in the Helms vote. "The anger was tremendous," recalled Andy Humm, a New York activist and journalist. "If another friendly vote occurred, the activists decided, they would 'bring out' the politician by affixing a pink triangle, a symbol of homosexuality, to the senator's office door."

But some felt the group had to be cautious. One, Jeff Levi, recalled that "a lot of what our movement is about is the right to privacy, and we can't be selective in whose privacy we are respecting."

The debate, purely intellectual at that point, became real when some gay activists decided it was time to take the tactic public.

Early this year, gay activists in one city organized a demonstration against a Republican senator who had recently cast a vote that they considered anti-gay. The protesters charged that the senator was hypocritical — because, they asserted, he was secretly gay.

The demonstration raised some consternation among gay leaders in Washington, such as Robert Bray, a staff member with the Human Rights Campaign Fund, which contributes hundreds of thousands of dollars to House and Senate candidates who support gay rights. In Bray's view, the senator was a moderate with a mixed record on gay issues, but not someone whom the gay community should alienate. He called the protesters and said it was a mistake to expose a potential ally

to possible ridicule.

But three months later, Bray adopted the protesters' method of attack, and named another Republican senator — a conservative known for strident, anti-gay views — as one of Capitol Hill's closet gays. During a speech to a crowd of gay activists, Bray asserted that the senator was secretly homosexual, which made his voting record "unconscionable."

For Bray, it was not difficult to justify his seemingly contradictory behavior. In his view, the issue was almost entirely a pragmatic one: Politicians "who can be worked with" deserve protection; antagonistic politicians who are secretly gay should be exposed.

In covering demonstrations against politicians said to be secretly gay, the gay and mainstream press faced similar journalistic questions: Should they publish the names of the politicians being "brought out"? Apart from issues of libel, did revealing the names put them on the side of those who believe that exposure is appropriate?

According to activists in each city, local television and newspaper outlets reported only generally on the protests, and did not print or broadcast the personal allegations concerning the politicians' sexual orientation. Gay newspapers were divided on whether to carry stories.

The Washington Blade, the gay newspaper here, did not publish a story because it had no factual knowledge that the politicians in question were gay, according to Blade editor Lisa Keen. The allegation of hypocrisy was "not enough," Keen said, adding that she comes down on the side of privacy. "Privacy is supreme," she said.

The Washington Post has decided not to identify the politicians who were the objects of these demonstrations and attacks, because The Post could not ascertain the truth and thus could not evaluate the relevancy of the allegations against them.

Many gay activists said they believe the issue must be handled on a case-by-case basis. One night several months ago, Bray recalled, he recognized a conservative Republican congressman on the dance floor of a gay nightclub in Southeast Washington. Bray was surprised because he had not known that the congressman was gay and he was not a supporter of gay issues on Capitol Hill.

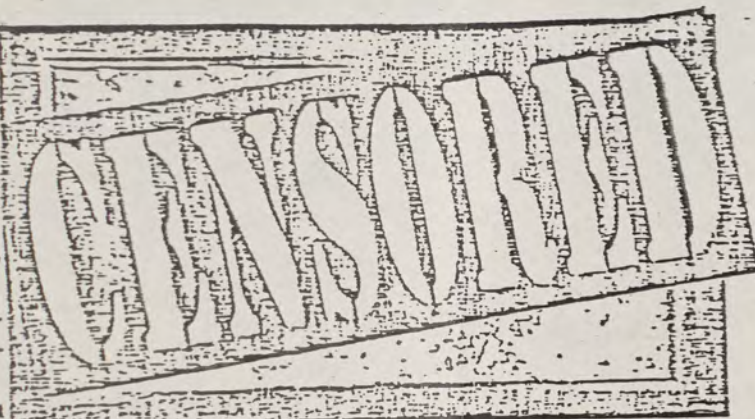
Seeing the congressman as a potential convert to the cause, Bray quickly decided that this was not a politician who should be exposed. Amid the loud music he approached the congressman, introduced himself and explained that the gay community needed his support.

Startled at being recognized, Bray said, the congressman blushed, stopped dancing and, with his boyfriend in tow, hurriedly left the nightclub.

Benjamin Weiser writes for The Washington Post.

OUTRAGED
SENATOR'S
SHOCKING
CHARGE:

YOUR HARD-EARNED TAXES ARE PAYING FOR PORNOGRAPHY



TUNE in your hard-earned tax dol-
ing doled out to support pornogra-
ges an angry senator, who says it's
to halt the scandal.

uns are moral, decent people — and
a right not to be denigrated, offend-
ed with their own tax dollars,"
Jesse Helms, who's trying to do
government financing of "sick art."
funding for sadomasochism, ho-
m and child pornography is an in-
payers."

a tough-talking Republican from
olina, was stunned when he learned
of thousands of dollars were being
to artists like Andres Serrano, who
000 grant for a photograph of a cruci-
ged in a bottle of the artist's urine.
collection of black-and-white photo-
y the late Robert Mapplethorpe —
men engaging in bizarre homosexual
ew an incredible \$30,000 grant from
al Endowment for the Arts (NEA).
llection includes homoerotic, sadoma-
udes of men and nudes of children,"
outraged senator. "They're unspeak-
ayals which I cannot even bring my-

Public funding of art needs an overhaul, critics charge

self to describe on the floor of the Senate."

In fact, some of the "art" is so offensive that
t can't be shown — or discussed in any detail
— in a family newspaper like GLOBE.

David Makarechian, director of tax and bud-
get policy for Citizens for a Sound Economy, a
taxpayers' watchdog group, says: "If someone
hinks sick trash is art, then let them pay for
t out of their own wallets.

"Congress should yank every last dollar from
he arts. The NEA gets \$145 million a year,
which comes straight out of the taxpayers'

pockets. Congress slapped their wrist by tak-
a measly \$45,000 out of their budget,
amount given to the two controversial exhibi-

The revelations caused Helms to probe of
exhibits to see if federal money is involved.

HE objected to one show in his home s-
that includes a painting called "First Sex"
depicts "a nude woman on her back,
open, knees up, and a little boy lean-
against her leg looking into her face while
sexually aroused older boys wait in the ba-
ground," Helms says.

"Another work in the same show has a
urinating on a boy lying in a gutter. This
art has been appearing around the coun-
And the most outrageous thing is that some
the shows are financed with our tax dollars.

Helms adds that he doesn't want to ce-
privately financed art or put an end to v-
art — only government-supported projects.

"Artists have a right to express their
ings," he says. "But no artist has a preem-
claim on the tax dollars of the American pe-

"As Ronald Reagan said, it's time for them
go out and test the magic of the marketplace."

2411-90

TULSA OKLAHOMA

JUL 13 REC'D

JUNE 14 90

DEAR BRYAN I JUST LISTEN TO YOUR PROGRAM ABOUT

ALL THOSE THAT WEE FOR BERRY WELL LISTRN TO THIS

THEY NECER MENTION THIS MAN FROM FLORIDA HE WAS JUST AN OLD MAN

BUT HE GOT # YRS AND FINED HIM 50 000 DOLLARS THAT WAS FINR BUT BER

BERRY IS BETTEER,

NOW I GREW UP WITH THEM AND WE NEVER HAD ANY TROUBLE.

ONE FRIEND OF MINE WAS REV REEVES COLORED AND HE SERVED 40 YRS

IN WORLD 1 AND 2 AND HE USED TO TELL US HOW THEY PUT OUR BOYS IN A B

BIG HOLE AND BURRIED THEM THERE NOW WE CANT PROTECT THEM FOR OUR

FLAG, ANOTHER THING THEY DIDNT MENTION THEY PUT GEORGE HANSON IN PRIS

PRISON FOR I 5 YE ARS FOR NOTHING AND GERALDINE FARRER WENT FREE.

AND THAT JOE MACK THAT LEFT THE GIRL FOR DEAD AND THEY TOLD WRIGHT

IF HE WOULD GIVE HIM A JOB THEY WOULD LET HIM OUT AND SO HE GOT

OUT AND GOT THE JOB FOR '(89,500 dollard

SAME WHITH HER SON HE GOT PYRT I ON GOOD BEHAVIOR WHAT GOOD BEH VIOR

ALL HE HAD TO DO IS EAT AND SLEEP.

WHEN JOHN TOWER WAS APPINIED N UNN SAI D NO AS HE DRANK AND WOMEN

BUT AT TYE SAME TIME WRIGHT WAS LIVING WITH HISSSEETARY AND STILL MAR

MARRIED THST WAS FINE, THE OTHER DAY A SHOW WSAS ON TELLING ABOUT K

KENNEDY AND THE GITL HR KILLED Z HE SAID THE DOCTOR SAID HE HDS H

HAD A CONCESSION TEASION HE DIDNT KNOW BUT HE CAME OUT DRESSED LIKE HE

WAS GOING TO A BALL, I DUPPOSE WHEN HAD SEX ON THE FLOOR IN THE RESTURA

IN WASH. THAT HE HAD ANITHER SPEPLL?

NOW THIS UNBERGER THEY GIT UP F OR BOOKS WRIGHT WROTE BOOKS TOO

BUT THE DEM GET BY WITH ANYTHING IF THEY WANT SOMEONE OUT
AND DONT HAVE AN EXCUSE THEY MAHKE ONCE

BYRD AMD BENSON IS ANOTHER.

HD MADE THE REMARK THAT QUAYLE WASNT A KENNEDY THANK GOD HE
WAS ISNT AS HE LIVED WITH HIS FIFE,
AND WHEN PAT BUCHANAN SAID ON CROSS FIRE HAD THEY KNEW BEFOUR KENNEDY

KENNEDY WOULDNT HAVE BEEN PRESIDENT. WELL IT CAME OUT ON T V A N
AND TOLD THE WHOLE STORY STARTING WITH THE OLD MAN KENNEDY AND TOLD

IT ALL IT LASTED ANOUT 3 HOURS. KENNEDY LOVERS DONT BELIEVE IT B
BUT I SAW IT AMD A LOT OF OTHER PEOPLE,

SI BERRY ISNT ANY DIFFERENT IF HE IS BLACK THEY ARE JUST TRYING TO M
WRONG IF ONE IS GUILTY SO IS THE OTHER,

I WROTE BENNETT AND ASKED WHO IS NEXT ON HIS AND FOLEYS LIST.

IF WE GET RID OF SOME OF THOSE DIRTY DE, WE MIGHT DSAVE OUR COUNTRY
BUT KENNEDY DONT WANT T O SAVE OUR COUNTRY, HR DONT HICVE A DAM JUST SO

SO HE CAN HAVE ZANOTHER WOMSZAN

HERE IS A SAMPLE OF WHERE THE MONEY IS GOI NG YOUR FAMILY WONT B

SOC SEC EITHER THRY WNT TO TSKE IT

CONGRESS WANTS TO TAKR 52,000,000,000 BILLION O UOUT OF SOC SEC
FOR THEIR BILLS I HAD COPIES MADE AND SENT TO A LOG 6 PEOPLE SO

THET COULS SIGN IT. IF THAT BERRY BELONGS TO THR A C L U

HE WILL GO FREE, DAISY CASHATT

TYE COLORED ARENT SATISFIEND THAT ABE LINCOLD DID WHAT HE

DID DOES HE GET CREDIT NKO L B WANTS IT

Busy 101st Congress — helping itself

When Congress returns from its recess later this month, it will face a very serious fiscal challenge: how to spend the pay increase it awarded itself before going home for the holidays.

The "salary grab," as Ralph Nader called it, will increase House salaries to \$120,000 over the next year. The Senate raised its salary to \$98,400, starting this month.

Mark Liedl

Congress does seem to be getting smarter. To avoid a public outcry like the one that greeted a similar pay grab earlier last year, Congress combined the raise with an "ethics reform" package. In the earlier debacle, Congress asked for a 51 percent raise and made the serious mistake of giving the public time to react to its proposal. This time, however, it asked for a more "reasonable" 35 percent and did it so fast that even many "insiders" were taken by surprise.

The raise was not the only goodie Congress gave itself in 1989. History was made when House Speaker Tom Foley, D-Wash., was given — by a vote of his colleagues — an Air Force plane for his use. Now we have "Air Force One," "Air Force Two," and "Speaker Three" in the fleet.

Congress did enact some ethics "reforms."

But these reforms do not address a single issue relevant to the ethical misconduct charges leveled against 47 members of Congress during the past year.

The one exception: The House abolished the so-called "golden parachute," a term used to describe a House rule that allowed incumbents to convert excess campaign funds to personal use upon retirement. This was no small perk: At the time, 186 House members were eligible to pocket large sums of cash. Of these, 127 had more than \$100,000 in excess cash. 24 had more than \$500,000 and two had more than \$1 million.

To its credit, the House said "no more" to the golden parachute. But there is a hitch: It said no more — beginning in 1993. Thus, the 186 incumbents who qualify have three years to consider whether to take the money and run. And presumably, as they are mulling things over, each one could — quite ethically under the rules of Congress — raise even more cash from unsuspecting contributors, adding to their personal slush funds.

In fairness to Congress, it did not give goodies only to itself. Among those who shared in the spirit of giving: the Strawberry Water Users Association in Utah, \$15 million; Smith College in Massachusetts, \$1.5 million; and Idaho ranchers whose sheep were attacked by grizzly bears in Yellowstone National Park, \$85,000.

Congress even was generous in its distribution

of funds from the scandal-ridden Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Although some housing funds went to the homeless and poor, Congress also earmarked \$1.2 million for a performing arts center in Newark; \$1.3 million for sugar mills in Hawaii; and \$390,000 for a library and recreation center in Mackinac Island, Mich. HUD Secretary Jack Kemp did manage to stop Congress from spending the \$6.9 million in housing funds it had sought to help build a rock 'n' roll museum in Cleveland, however.

It wasn't all dialing for dollars. Congress did pass 202 new laws in 1989. Yet, 95 of the new laws, nearly half, were meaningless commemorative bills observing such non-events as: National Tap Dance Day, National Check-Up Week, and National Fire Safety at Home-Change Your Battery Day.

Congress in 1989 also considered 122 bills to create 125 new federal advisory commissions and boards. Some indeed might serve a worthy purpose, but what can you really say in defense of the Oyster Research Program Advisory Committee, Transgenic Animal Advisory Committee, and National Mars Commission? Or try these: the Interstate Taxation Commission, Commission on Inherently Safe Nuclear Energy and National Population and Human Reproduction Advisory Council.

Congress even considered two bills to establish commissions to study meaningless com-

memorative non-events: the Advisory Commission on National Commemorative Events and the Advisory Commission on National Observances.

The 101st Congress did conduct some serious business — it repealed a law it had passed just one year earlier and it voted to raise the minimum wage to \$4.25 an hour. Unbeknownst to many, however, was a provision in the minimum-wage bill that established still another advisory commission, the Minimum Wage Review Board. Under the new law, the board will make recommendations on raising the minimum wage. This will take some of the heat off Congress, which is increasingly reluctant to handle such controversial issues itself.

All told, the first session of the 101st Congress lasted for 324 days, and cost tax payers some \$2 billion. It was the 29th longest session in history, 52 days longer than the previous one.

Yet, after all that time and money, perhaps the most respectable thing Congress did last year was adjourn, on Nov. 22 at 4:31 a.m.

Mark Liedl is director of the Heritage Foundation's U.S. Congress Assessment Project.

Courtesy of the Baltimore Evening Sun, Jan. 5, 1990.

Man, 82, Gets Prison Sentence for Cocaine

Fort Lauderdale News
& Sun-Sentinel

POMPANO BEACH, Fla. — A Pompano Beach man convicted last month of dealing cocaine was fined \$50,000 and sentenced to 3½ years in state prison on Friday — 12 days before his 83rd birthday.

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