

True Blue

The Adams County Democrat

June 2011

WHAT PRICE COMMITMENT?

Are you committed? Lots of people feel they NEED to be! But.....I meanare you committed to your purpose?

How many times have you heard somebody say, "They ought to do something!" or "Why don't they help with this or that?". Did you ever realize "they" is you? We all look around and see people in need. We see projects that wait for someone to take them on, a cause waiting for someone to champion it.

In the Holy Bible, in the Book of Daniel chapter 1 verse 8, "Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat" Daniel "purposed". He didn't "think he might", or think "somebody ought to do something", he decided to take a stand. He was committed. Those who were in charge warned Daniel that if he got weak or sickly from eating a different diet, the king would be displeased (and you won't want that!). But Daniel knew this: the commitment he could control.....the consequences, he couldn't. He was willing to pay the price, whatever that might be.

Have you started a project but found it difficult to proceed? Stay committed! Until we are willing to say, "whatever the cost, I will do what I know is right"...then our projects lack commitment. You might want to help the poor (bread hand out project). You might believe getting the right people in government positions will make everyone's lives better (assist in a campaign). Or you might feel that the media is a good way to encourage all of us to seek a project (start a newsletter).

Whatever your good and valuable interest, STAY THE COURSE. If you have confidence in what you are undertaking is right, then be willing to suffer and struggle with it. Realize that any true commitment at ANY level means we make it our cause, our focus. Whether you apply this toa diet, your prayer life, a hobby or a political cause.....what it needs is YOU!

Let's be like Daniel. Let's decide what is important and then let's work toward that goal. That is true commitment.

ODP Spotlight on Adams County

The Ohio Democratic Party held a Legacy Dinner on March 19, 2011 to honor the service of Governor Ted Strickland. Adams County was honored to have Chairman John Hendrix on the program as he was selected to lead the gathering of 900 loyal Democrats in the Pledge of Allegiance. Congressman Tim Ryan served as Master of Ceremonies and the evening featured several Democratic notables paying tribute to Ted. Among the speakers were Senator Sherrod Brown and Ohio Supreme Court Justice Yvette McGee Brown. The evening concluded with a video tribute and a rousing keynote speech by Ted that left no doubt that his legacy isn't complete as he plans to continue to fight for working people and defend the middle class.

"In the face of impossible odds, people who love their country can change it".

Barack Obama

"By lifting the weakest, poorest among us, we lift the rest of us as well".

Bill Clinton

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

(A Book Review)

If you are interested in how the Far Right thinks and how they influence the Middle Class, **don't think about an elephant** is worth reading. The book's title is an example of the influence of language: when people are told, "don't think about an elephant", they immediately do just that.

The author, George Lakoff, is a professor of Cognitive Science and Linguistics at the University of California at Berkley. His book presents the concept of "framing": a way of presenting information that creates a certain image that may be very different from the truth. It is the author's premise that "framing" is used very successfully by conservatives to influence public opinion.

Some examples of "framing" are well-known. The attack on 9.11 was "framed" in such a way as to justify invading Iraq, and Saddam Hussein was "framed" in such a way to make him appear as an imminent threat to United States security. These manipulations resulted in as many as 100,000 deaths – both American servicemen and Iraqi civilians and ongoing occupation of the country. Other examples of "framing" are the "Clean Air Act", allowing for increases in air pollution, and "No Child Left Behind", used to undermine public education.

The author suggests that Conservatives are masters of "framing" information in such a way as to make undemocratic principles appear to be reasonable. For example, many Conservatives are engaged in an active campaign to increase benefits for the rich and powerful while undermining the Middle Class and creating increasing numbers of poor and powerless people. Rewarding the wealthy is "framed" as "people-who-work-hard-are-'good'-and-should-have-rights-and-privileges-not-earned-by-the-poor": the more one has, the "better" one is and the more deserving of higher rates of compensation, tax breaks and bonuses. Recent events in Wisconsin and Senate Bill 5 in Ohio are examples of this particular kind of "framing": the rich and powerful are worthy of tax cuts and special consideration while the Middle Class' desire to negotiate and be heard is unworthy.

One of the lessons Democrats may take from Dr. Lakoff's book lies in the irony that results from Conservative "framing": that many members of the Middle Class continue to vote for Republicans though they are, in fact, voting against their own best interests. They are manipulated by "framing" that appeals to their fears rather than their use of reason. Democrats need to become both more organized and more savvy to combat these manipulations. People who are being emotionally manipulated by "framed" facts and sentimental abstractions need to be focused more on the "frames" themselves, so that distortions become transparent. Once a "frame" becomes transparent, it is hoped that the truth of what is being "framed" will reveal itself.

"I like that about the Republicans; the evidence does not faze them, they are not bothered at all by facts".

Bill Clinton

Value? . . . Or Values?

On January 13, 2011 Gov. John Kasich created the Office of Health Transformation. It included 9 Principles for transforming healthcare in Ohio. Principle # 5 is listed as 'Value' and reads as follows:

"Pay only for what works to improve and maintain health – and stop paying for what doesn't work, including medical errors".

An interesting article appeared in the March 2011 issue of the "AARP Bulletin" that may indicate just what this could mean for the people of Ohio. It reported that recently long-term conditions such as multiple sclerosis, paralysis, and chronic wound care are being illegally denied coverage by Medicare. It seems Medicare has recently begun to deny coverage for health care services it deems will not improve the condition of a disease or affliction; sounds like Mr. Kasich's principle # 5, doesn't it? Mr. Kasich would apparently support this illegal denial of services for these types of health care to Ohioans. This is a frightening prospect, especially since recent data collected by the Greater Cincinnati Health Status Survey reports that 6 in 10 adults in the region report they've been diagnosed with some kind of chronic condition.

Although lawsuits are pending against Medicare regarding these denials you should let your state representatives know how you feel about this issue and especially about the implications of Gov. Kasich's principle # 5.

Join Us!

Adams County Democrat Club Schedule 2011

May 7, 2011 7:00 PM	Venture Productions West Union
June 3, 2011 no meeting	Club Dinner and Fundraiser – Ohio Valley Career and Technical Center Adults - \$10.00 Child - \$5.00
July 2011 – no meeting	Adams County Fair
Aug 2011 – Date TBA	Club Picnic
Sept 3, 2011 7:00 PM	Venture Productions West Union
Oct 2011 – no meeting	Executive Committee Dinner and Fundraiser TBA
Nov 5, 2011 – 7:00 PM	Venture Productions West Union
Dec 3, 2011 – 7:00 PM	Venture Productions West Union

"In this world of sin and sorrow there is always something to be thankful for. As for me, I rejoice that I am not a Republican".

H.L. Mencken

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**DOES YOUR VOTE MATTER?
ADAMS COUNTY REGISTERED VOTERS AND THE NOV. 2010 ELECTION
RESULTS***

# of registered voters	-	18,004	-	# who voted	8,578 or 47%
# of registered Republicans	-	5,165	-	# who voted	4,142 or 80%
# of registered Democrats	-	4,001	-	# who voted	2,665 or 67%
# of registered Nonpartisan	-	8,754	-	# who voted	1,592 or 18%
# of registered 'Other'	-	441	-	# who voted	179 or 41%

Adams County Commissioner's Results:

Brian Baldrige	-	3970	or	47.34%
Marty Grooms	-	3085	or	36.79%
John White	-	1159	or	13.82%
Mitchell Long	-	172	or	2.05%

We must always remember that our vote (or our failure to vote), has consequences. If a few more Democrats had made it to the polls in Nov. 2010, or a few more 'Nonpartisan' or 'Other' voters had turned out for Democratic candidates, we might have Marty Grooms in the county commissioner's seat today and Gov. Ted Strickland could still be in the governor's office. **VOTE IN EVERY ELECTION. NO EXCUSES.**

THE BULLYING PULPIT

Did you know that bullies possess a set of similar attitudes, behaviors and characteristics? Here are some of the ways to recognize bullies:

- 1) Bullies want control. They are addicted to pushing their weight around. They expect everyone to yield to all their wishes.
- 2) Bullies have a high, even delusional sense of self-worth. They are convinced they are right and everyone else is wrong.
- 3) Bullies need to win and enjoy inflicting suffering on others.
- 4) Bullies use contempt, ridicule and/or physical aggression to attack others. They don't care what you think or what you feel.
- 5) Bullies always need a scapegoat – someone to blame for all their problems or failures.
- 6) Bullies want everything they can get – even the whole pie.

Does it occur to you that the actions of the Republican administrations in Wisconsin and Ohio fall into the category of bullying behaviors? Can you recognize bullying in the actions of Republicans in the news today?

**LET'S
STOP BULLIES NOW!**

"A strong nation, like a strong person, can afford to be gentle, firm, thoughtful, and restrained. It can afford to extend a helping hand to others. It's a weak nation, like a weak person, that must behave with bluster and boasting and rashness and other signs of insecurity".
Jimmy Carter

Martin Niemoller (1892-1984) was a German theologian and Lutheran pastor. He is known for his admission of guilt and condemnation of those who, like himself, were bystanders during the Nazi rule. His poem has been printed in many versions down through the years.

FIRST THEY CAME FOR THE SOCIALISTS,
AND I DIDN'T SPEAK OUT BECAUSE I WASN'T A
SOCIALIST.

THEN THEY CAME FOR THE TRADE UNIONISTS,
AND I DIDN'T SPEAK OUT BECAUSE I WASN'T A
TRADE UNIONIST.

THEN THEY CAME FOR THE JEWS,
AND I DIDN'T SPEAK OUT BECAUSE I WASN'T A
JEW.

THEN THEY CAME FOR ME,
AND THERE WAS NO ONE LEFT TO SPEAK FOR
ME.

Pastor Martin Niemoller

Here is a version for our times:

FIRST THEY CAME AFTER THE IMMIGRANTS,
AND I DIDN'T SPEAK OUT BECAUSE MY FAMILY
HADN'T BEEN IMMIGRANTS FOR 100 YEARS.

THEN THEY CAME AFTER THE SICK AND
UNINSURED,
AND I DIDN'T SPEAK OUT BECAUSE I WAS
YOUNG AND HAD MY HEALTH.

THEN THEY CAME AFTER THE TEACHERS AND
COLLECTIVE BARGAINING RIGHTS,
AND I DIDN'T SPEAK OUT BECAUSE I WASN'T A
TEACHER AND DIDN'T BELONG TO A UNION.

THEN THEY CAME AFTER PUBLIC RADIO,
AND I DIDN'T SPEAK OUT BECAUSE I DIDN'T
LISTEN TO PUBLIC RADIO.

AND THEN THEY CAME AFTER THE
DEMOCRATS,
AND I DIDN'T SPEAK OUT BECAUSE I WASN'T A
DEMOCRAT.

AND FINALLY THEY CAME AFTER THE MIDDLE
CLASS – FINALLY THEY CAME AFTER ME,
AND THERE WAS NO ONE LEFT TO SPEAK FOR
ME.

DEMOCRACY IN DANGER

Concentration of Wealth and a Shrinking Middle Class

Wealth in the United States is increasingly concentrated in the hands of the few while the earning power of the many is steadily declining. Middle Class income over the last decade has fallen by an average of \$2,000 per year. All the growth in the country belongs to the mega-rich.

Mr. Kasich's leadership exemplifies the frantic efforts to continue this trend. It is evident by examining his actions. Firstly, knowing collective bargaining is a key factor in the existence of a middle class, he is trying to destroy it. Secondly, he is taking funds from the people, such as cutting 25% funding from public schools, \$12 million from children's hospitals and \$1 million from food banks across the state – while increasing profits for the rich by giving them tax cuts. Thirdly, he plans massive changes in the way the state does business in the name of "privatization".

Let's examine his plans to privatize. Do you know about Jobs Corps Ohio? It is Mr. K's plan to "create jobs". In actual fact, it outlines some of the steps he will take to bring about global privatization and further concentration of wealth in the hands of the rich. He plans to sell five prisons in Ohio for pennies on the dollar. Then Ohio taxpayers can pay private prison corporations to house people convicted of crimes in the state. He plans to sell liquor licenses to corporations who will then manage Ohio's flow of alcohol, and flow of alcohol profits, from Wall Street. He plans to sell oil and gas drilling rights on public lands to private companies.

These prisons and licenses will be SOLD. Ohio will make a one-time "profit" on their sale and wake up in the morning with nothing left to provide ongoing income in the state and no say in its own future.

Shame on You Mr. Kasich!
For siding with the corporations and putting
Democracy in Danger!

"There may be times when we are powerless to prevent injustice, but there must never be a time when we fail to protest".

Elie Wiesel

There Are Other Paths.

One can hardly open a newspaper or turn on the TV or the internet without hearing about the budget crisis and the need to balance the federal and state budgets. We have seen the rise of new movements “framing” their mission as “saving-the-population- from-the-throes-of-Armageddon.” The impression one is left with from this blitz of paper and “talking heads” is that a solution is required and as soon as possible. Why? What would happen if it takes five or ten years or more to resolve this deficit problem? What are the priorities of American society? Should our budgets not reflect our priorities?

In addition to budget woes, the crisis in education has reached a new crescendo. American students are continually being compared to other nations. We are forever slipping and soon we will be competing with Chad? Mali? Who knows? Articles keep telling us about the horrendous schools in American cities. Individual champions are writing checks to save our school systems. Teacher unions and tenure are “framed” as the enemies and are being blamed for dragging public schools to a new mediocrity. Yet, while all this discourse is taking place, the state budgets in Ohio, Wisconsin, and New Jersey belie this “crisis”. State aid to schools is being dramatically cut, taxes are not being raised, collective bargaining is disappearing, tenure is under attack, and charter schools are advancing. The outcome of all this will be school closings, teacher firings, vandalization of school programs, and a further decline in the public school system. And what will happen to the profession of teaching? Will anyone be willing to invest \$100,000 or more in their education to work in public schools where the pay will be poor, there will be thirty to forty students in a classroom, and evaluations, based on the tyranny of tests, will be at the whim of administrators and politicians?

When speaking of priorities, the nation state that came into existence with the French Revolution and incorporated into the U.S. Constitution was predicated on the theory of the welfare of its peoples. Have we abandoned this precept? If not, how does one explain the tactics of budget cutting combined with the undermining of public education? Logically, are we not moving in two opposite directions at once? If we balance the budget by creating an inferior educational system, will we not undermine our future human capital? If we fire more teachers, will we not add to the unemployment problem? Make taxes and mortgages harder to pay? How does budget cutting add to the welfare of our children? Yet, when we read and listen to the news media, there seems to be no other solutions to this crisis. As our governors have said, “I won’t buy something unless I have the money”: Do we have to make this sacrifice? Are there no other paths?

A logical answer to the above question is that there are many other paths. There are always other paths. Then why is the news media silent? As an example of another pathway, let us briefly consider the situation in Connecticut. In the next fiscal year Connecticut’s deficit will be \$3.2 billion and the year after it will be \$3 billion. Unlike many governors, Mr. Malloy (a Democrat) has not panicked, and he realizes that budgets cannot be balanced in the short term without doing substantial harm to the general welfare. His is a rare solution. Unlike the governor of Ohio, he will raise taxes because budgets cannot be balanced without income coming in. He is proposing to increase personal income tax from 5% to 5.5% for residents making more than \$50,000 a year and to 6.5% to 6.7% for those making more than \$500,000 a year. Other income will be raised by taxing cosmetic surgery, yoga studios and pet grooming, cars prices in excess of \$50,000, jewelry costing more than \$5,000 and boats in excess of \$100,000. The one negative aspect of his plan is increasing the general sales tax from 6% to 6.35%. This imposes a burden on the less fortunate.

What is interesting about the Connecticut plan is that it attempts to solve the deficit problem over the long run. It does not create scapegoats and attempt to place blame on public workers and their right to bargain collectively through their unions. Governor Malloy is concerned about the public welfare and protecting the citizens of his state. Is it not time to start a public dialogue on the alternatives to fiscal viability? What is the priority of the state of Ohio? Is it the general welfare of all the people, or to succumb to the bullying tactics of a determined minority? There are other paths.

LIBERAL

(Webster’s Dictionary)

orig., suitable for a freeman

favoring political reforms tending toward personal freedom for the individual and Democracy

tolerance of others’ views

giving freely; generous

progressive

L liberalis: free

IE base *leudhero*: belonging to the people

Adams County
Democrat Club
Dinner
&
Fundraiser

June 3, 2011

Ohio Valley
Career and
Technical Center

Social Time 6:30 PM

Dinner 7:00 PM

Adults \$10.00
Child \$5.00

REPEAL SENATE BILL #5

Senate Bill #5, signed by Gov. John Kasich on March 31st, is scheduled to go into law on July 1st. Left unchallenged, it amends the Ohio Revised Code to allow the destruction of collective bargaining in the state of Ohio. In the United States of America collective bargaining has been protected by Congress and the Supreme Court for over three-quarters of a century. It is an integral part of our democracy and a major influence on many laws, including those governing worker safety conditions, child labor, minimum wage and equal pay for women.

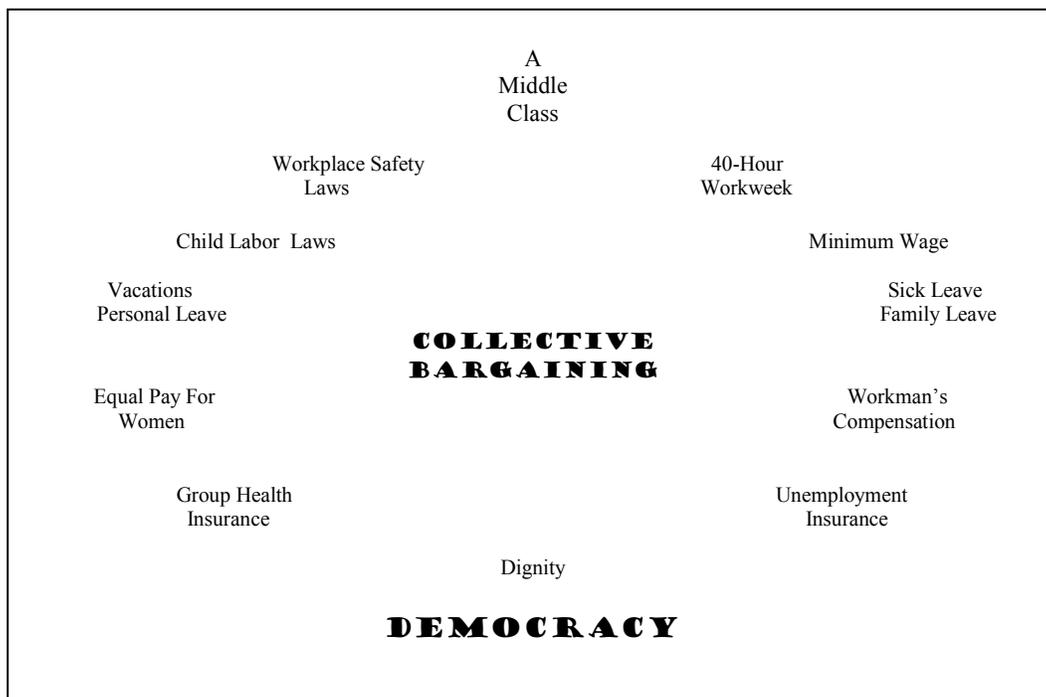
Petitions are being filed with the Ohio Secretary of State to place a referendum on the November ballot to protect workers' rights in Ohio by repealing SB #5. A total of 231,147 signatures of registered voters are required to secure the referendum to repeal. This number is equal to 6% of the total votes cast for the office of Governor in the last election.

Several dozen Adams County voters have been trained to circulate petitions and collect signatures. They are members of a variety of groups and organizations, including the Ohio Valley Education Association, the Manchester Ohio River Educators, the Ohio Association of Public School Employees, Local 343, and the Adams County Democratic Party.

The deadline for filing the petition with the Secretary of State is June 30th.

Democracy In Danger!
The GOP's Top 10 Corporate Donors In 2010

Perry Homes Owned by Bob Perry, Texas Real Estate Developer	\$12,235,975
TRT Holdings Omni Hotel, Gold's Gym, Gaylord Entertainment	\$5,260,344
Chartwell Media Investment Firm owned by Hollywood agent and promoter Jerry Perenchio	\$3,335,913
Altria World's largest tobacco conglomerate	\$3,143,365
Goldman Sachs	\$3,063,110
Bank of America	\$2,798,712
Koch Industries	\$2,518,743
Home Depot	\$1,526,140
Wells Fargo	\$1,717,480
ExxonMobil	\$1,622,953



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