

# Gargan's political ad urges voters to 'recycle Congress'

By Joe Kidd  
Emerald Politics Editor

I'M ANGRY ... I'M INCENSED ... I'M LIVID ... I'M EVEN MORE LIVID ... I'M ENRAGED ... I'M DISGUSTED ...!

So screams a furious Jack Gargan in a full page political advertisement that has become the vortex of a small-time political campaign gone wild.

The thrust of his anger? The name of Gargan's five-month-old organization zeroes in on the target: Throw the Hypocritical Rascals Out!, Inc. THRO for short (the Rascals being incumbents in Congress).

"I'M MAD AS HELL AND I'M NOT GOING TO TAKE IT ANYMORE!" shouts Gargan, 60, through the ad's headline. So far the "grassroots peti-

tion," as the ad calls itself, has run in 158 newspapers around the country, with the exception of a dozen newspapers, including *The Register-Guard*, which have refused to run it for a variety of reasons.

THRO, having sprung from the seed of Gargan's \$45,000 "life savings" in June, has rallied an anti-incumbent sentiment — and TV news crews —

from around the country.

The group and its screeching ad (23 exclamation points punctuate Gargan's battle cry) have been featured recently on a handful of national TV news programs, including "CBS Evening News," "Inside Edition," "Good Morning America," and CNN's "Larry King Live" show.

Gargan, a retired financial planner from Tampa, Fla., created THRO in an attempt to convince America that Congress is due for at least an overhaul, and at best, a revolution.

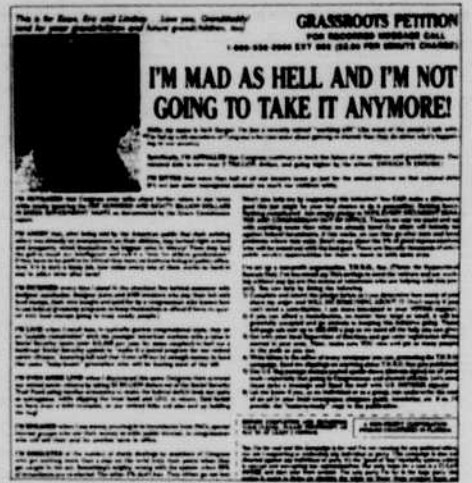
"You CAN make a difference (and this just might be your last chance to do it peaceably)," reads the ad. "Nothing fancy. Nothing complicated. Just simply pledge to VOTE EVERY INCUMBENT SENATOR AND CONGRESSMAN OUT OF OFFICE. There's no way we could end up with anything worse than what we already have!"

Indeed, congressional re-election rates run high. Over the past ten years, incumbents in the House enjoyed 90 to 97 percent re-election rates, while veteran senators averaged an 80 percent chance of retaining their seats, according to a Sept. 10 article in *Roll Call*, a Capitol Hill newspaper that tracks Congress.

While THRO's ad primarily enlists readers to use their ballot punchers to oust incumbents, a paragraph labeled "optional" near the bottom of the text gives people the opportunity to send in money.

"We use all the money we get to run the ad again (in other newspapers) and on postage and printing," said Mary Maroney, one of three dozen people who has volunteered to work for THRO.

So far the group has received about \$300,000 in contributions, Maroney said in a phone interview from Tampa. "But we've been so busy, we don't know exactly. We are going to get an auditor to come in here



and figure things out when the dust settles after the (November) elections."

Although the ad displays a Florida nonprofit charter number, at least one newspaper refused to run THRO's plea because of uncertainty about the group's nonprofit status.

In September, *The Seattle Times* rejected THRO's request to run the ad. "It didn't uphold our strict policy standards," said Nancy Wyne, the ad representative who handled the request.

In response, Gargan went on a Seattle-area radio talk show encouraging listeners to call the newspaper in protest.

*The Times* relented, printing the ad on Sept. 26. "We always like the public to beware, to take a cautious look when groups are soliciting funds," Wyne said of the ad.

*The Register-Guard*, for less dramatic reasons, refused the ad because THRO's request to run it at a certain rate didn't meet the newspaper's ad policies. General Manager Fletcher Little said THRO asked to publish the ad in *The Register-Guard* in August at a standby rate, even though the newspaper doesn't have such a rate.

Despite the rejections, Maroney considers the ad a surprising success.

"It really has excited people," she said. "The phone has been ringing off the hook. One man, when he sent in money, wrote on his check 'For recycling Congress.'"

## Hanford cleanup expensive

PORTLAND (AP) — Oregon's share of business from the massive cleanup program at the Hanford nuclear reservation in southeastern Washington may increase, officials say.

Spending for the Washington site is projected to reach \$350 million to \$371 million during the 1990 fiscal year and could climb to as much as \$450 million next year, according to William T. Dixon, a spokesman for Westinghouse Hanford.

Cleanup costs eventually

could reach \$1 billion a year, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

"We want to make sure Oregon businesses know about that and can capture their fair share of business opportunities" at Hanford, Dixon said.

Purchases of all goods and services by the federal Department of Energy and the major contractors amounted to \$215 million during fiscal year 1989, Dixon said.

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