

EDITORIAL

The Portland Observer

The Politics And Promises Of Denny Smith

BY PROMISE KING

HE CARRIES IN HIS CHARISMA UNDYING POLITICAL ZEAL AND WEARS IN HIS CHEST, A TOGA OF UNCOMPROMISING HARD-CORE REPUBLICAN.

To some, he is as rhetorical as he is real and to others he is simply Denny Smith, the business man, the Combatant, the seasoned politician, and the son of former Governor Elmo and Dorothy Smith.

Mr. Smith, a former Congressman, and a gubernatorial contender under the republican party for the state of Oregon, bestrides the state political scene, with a disarming frankness about his political beliefs. And distancing himself from demagogery, but busy combining tough rhetoric with his reformed conservatism—a combination that has produced loyal support and open fury. Sloganing in his main, what he refers as -A-New Direction for Oregon. When this son of Oregon former governor first appeared in the scene unsung in 1980 challenging Al Ullman, then chairman of the House Ways and Means committee, for his 2nd district seat, many dismissed him for his confrontational attitude, but Smith combined his inherent political wit with straight forwardness to score a landmark victory against the 22 year incumbent.

His ten years in congress, his colleagues said, saw Smith consistently fighting for reduced government spending and against wasteful military programs. Disdained by rampant criminal activities, Smith founded the Oregonians Against Crime and successfully passed a ballot measure that gave stricter sentences to second time offenders.

In an exclusive interview with the Observer, Smith plan of action on issues smacks of the typical conservative republican, but were both revolutionary as well as confrontational. He is not giving to cajoling people to call wonderful what he thinks is terrible.

The bully-belly bureaucrats who depend on government excesses to fester their whims find this apostle of spending cuts an ally to work with.

HERE IS DENNY SMITH ON ISSUES.

Education:

"We must give local control of schools back to Oregon communities."

"Imposing a uniform curriculum and contract on school districts statewide leaves local school boards and parents with little say on how they can run their

schools."

Crime & Violence:

"As governor, I will introduce legislation that will be tougher on deadbeat parents, making these people shoulder the responsibility of caring for their children. It's disgraceful that we have criminals on streets not locked up. There is no excuse."

On Revenue & State Spending:

"We do not have a revenue problem. We have a spending problem. The recent overwhelming defeat of Ballot Measure One was clear signal that Or-



Denny Smith

egonians believe state government has enough money. Government must learn to live within its means. By using program-based budgeting, where programs and departments are not allowed to get automatic raises based on "current service levels," we can pay for essential government services without putting a bigger tax burden on Oregonians.

I will not support new taxes until convinced we have maximized every available dollar and scrutinized every department of government for savings. To date, this has not been done effectively.

I plan to evaluate the Public Employee Retirement System (PERS). Studies by Cascade Policy Institute have demonstrated that public employees in Oregon receive greater benefits than their private sector counterparts. I will examine the feasibility of a two-tiered system for old and new state employees. The state should honor its contract with current public employees, but new personnel should contribute to their own retirement funds.

Senior citizens should be given an incentive to remain active education supporters. Helping seniors out by freezing the property taxes on their primary residences after retirement, will keep them involved in their communities, and allow them to vote on school issues with-

out fear of their taxes going up."

On Federal Lands:

"We cannot accept the deck of cards we've been dealt on this issue. We need to be able to utilize our natural resources. Locking them up simply doesn't make any sense."

In 1937, when Oregon took over the O&C, lands we had approximately 50 billion board feet of harvestable lumber. Since then, we've harvested over 40 billion board feet and we still have 49.7 billion board feet of harvestable lumber left. Sustained yield through scientific management has been proven.

Oregonians are blessed with a beautiful landscape, however the federal government controls approximately 52% of our land. We have congressmen and senators from New York, Pennsylvania, and other places far from the Pacific Northwest regulating what we can do with our land in Oregon. We need to be able to utilize our land preserve our heritage, and ensure our future if congressmen from Illinois and Ohio are going to vote to lock up our state, then we need to be compensated by the federal government."

Health Care:

The American health care system is the envy of the world. People come here from all over the world to receive treatment. But we seem to be ruining our ability to choose what we want and what we want to pay for it. Oregonians and Americans want choice, not a huge bureaucracy to oversee how their health care is administered. We need to fine-tune our health care system so everyone can receive cost-effective care. Currently, the poorest of our population are forced to rely on more expensive emergency room care, costing us more. Basic preventive care, consumer choice and less bureaucracy is what we need."

On Leadership:

I will work closely with the legislature and provide the leadership to change the way government operates in Oregon. I will see to it that it is not "business as usual" in Salem. We have too many people telling us how to live, work, and play. The people of this state have come to distrust their government, and that must be changed.

Whether voters will once again give Smith their confidence, just like they did a decade ago will depend on future political judgement. There is a strong indication that Denny Smith campaign program based on Crime control and less government will swap votes in his favor.

NATIONAL RAINBOW COALITION

It's A Crime (Bill)!

THE CRIME BILL IS ITSELF A CRIME.

Rather than attempting to reduce crime, Congress is playing politics. There is ample evidence that the bill's assumptions, and the effect it will have, are racist. While strides have been made to balance "crime prevention and punishment" no one should be fooled. While even progressive members of Congress, including some members of the Black Caucus, are being tempted to support this bill, no amount of Kool-Aid can offset the cyanide in H.R. 4092.

Bureau of Justice Statistics reveal that Whites Comprised 69% Of all Arrests In 1991. This percentage remained fairly constant even when geographical location and age groups were taken into account. For example, Whites Were Arrested For 65.7% Of The Crimes In Cities. 69.5% of persons under age 18 arrested in cities were White, as were 64.9% of persons over age 18. In suburban and rural communities, the percentage of White arrests increased. Whites Comprised 78.7% Of All Suburban Arrests, 80.1% of suburban arrests under 18, and 78.4% of suburban arrests over 18. In rural counties, Whites comprised 83.9% of all arrests, 86.9% of arrests under age 18, and 83.6% of arrests over age 18.

These statistics clearly show that African Americans are arrested for a relatively small percentage of crimes in this country. While Comprising Only 12% Of The Population, Blacks Are 48% Of The Federal Prison Population--only to be increased by the pending crime bill. The impact of this law, if passed after the Spring

recess, will be so discriminatory that crime and criminal justice will become the preeminent civil rights issue of our time. Consider these facts from Congressman Bobby Scott (D-3-VA):

(1) In most countries, the incarceration rate is approximately 100 per 100,000 population. Among the three highest, however, are Russia,



with a ratio of 268 per 100,000; South Africa, at 311 per 100,000; and the U.S., with 450 per 100,000. IN The African American Community, The Average Is 1,300 Per 100,000, while in most of our inner cities the rate is 3,000 per 100,000, a rate 10 times more severe than that of South Africa.

(2) Twenty-five percent of young African American men find themselves under the control of the criminal justice system, whether through parole, probation or incarceration.

(3) There are rampant racial disparities in the application of criminal penalties. A study of mandatory minimum sentences in Florida concluded that race was a major factor in imposing their mandatory minimum sen-

tences.

(4) The racial disparity between those sentenced for crack versus powder cocaine possession is well known--5 grams of crack, 5 years mandatory; 499 grams of powder, probation--a 100-to-1 sentencing disparity. Thus, sentencing disparity punishes people for their socio-economic status--poor, Black and Brown use crack; the wealthy and White use powder.

(5) Eighty-nine percent of the death penalty prosecutions since 1988 under the federal drug kingpin "Death Penalty" were against minority defendants (29 Black, 4 Hispanic and 4 White), despite the fact that 75% of those convicted were White. In the Clinton Administration, all 11 of those being tried in federal death penalty cases are African American.

Under this crime bill, the death penalty is expanded to 66 separate crimes, the mandatory minimums in sentencing are expanded, and the "three strikes and you're out (i.e., in jail for life)" provision will be both costly and ineffective--and we already know that all of these provisions are rampantly racially discriminatory. All of the criminal penalties in the crime bill will disproportionately affect Native Americans because all Native lands are subject to federal criminal jurisdiction; and Hispanics are discriminated against by provisions that eliminate the requirement of a hearing prior to deportation for aliens convicted of certain crimes.

There is still time to lobby your congressperson to vote against H.R. 4092, and the Rainbow urges you to do so. Call 202-225-3121.

perspectives More Undercurrents At Work In That Health Care Agenda

LAST WEEK I CITED SEVERAL OF THE MEDICAL SIDE SHOWS THAT ARE GOING ON OUTSIDE THE MAIN TENT. THE PUBLIC NEEDS TO PAY CLOSE ATTENTION BECAUSE THEY COULD GET RUN OVER BY THE ELEPHANTS WHILE LOOKING UP AT THE TRAPEZE ARTISTS.

One reader expressed disgust that a minority (Indians) would have a major problem, considering the exaggerated pitches made to people of color by the administrator for a state agency admits that he really hadn't given that much thought to the "enforcement" provisions of the "Health Care Security Act". Yes there would be a "Health Police" to make sure everyone went to the right place, got the right service, billed the right agency, charged the right price, signed up only "real" relatives, and so forth.

Another "side show" that is developing quite rapidly is the federal government's heightened interest in nutrition, food packaging and preservation. The media, of course, has gotten on the band wagon and we are shocked daily as hidden cameras disgust us with scenes of chickens falling to the floor and being put right back on the line in an Arkansas poultry processing plant. This practice is not restricted to President Clinton's home

bailiwick, but it does hit an ironic note. These comers are being cut by the nation's largest supplier of chickens -- and recipient of the state's largest "Small Business" loans

I'm sure it is not lost upon the reader how large a consumer of fast foods is the African American population, and why blacks should be ex-

pressing more than a passing interest in food standards -- from the farm to the processing plant, and from the restaurant to the store shelf. Certainly, we should be aware by now that the State of Oregon is only very recently been tightening up its standards for food outlets; storage, cooking and periodic inspections. And this, we suspect, is a result of media attention due to the E-Coli scares.

Interesting, it was just a few weeks ago that I detailed here the contributions of Dr. Lloyd A. Hall, the black pioneer in food chemistry (1894-1971) to who the world is indebted for healthy, nutritious and appetizing modes of food preservation: curing of meats, sterilization of spices to rid them of molds and bacteria (also medical supplies), non-rancid fats and oil forms (Crisco), etc.

The current emphasis of government agencies like the Department of Agriculture on disseminating infor-

mation is under fire; not only from medicine but from the government itself (GAO). Not just because the flawed and unreliable reports and standards are a general disservice to dieters, athletes, food processors, and the general public to whom "nutrition" is a key factor in the maintenance of health--but because there are special disease-specific and ethnic-specific groups where the accuracy of substance in-take can mean life or death (diabetes, low sodium, etc.).

An investigating congressional panel says it does not know how bad the data are. The situation is bad with government agencies, such as the Food and Drug administration "depending upon industry sources" when making policy decisions (can you believe that? The companies are using the flawed data they got from the government in the first place; Poor Mr. Espy, what has he inherited?) Only \$299,000 is budgeted annually for nutrient analysis while a single analysis can cost \$2000! And now all that package labeling is suspect.

The culprit in this matter is a publication known as "Handbook 8". The head of the department of nutrition at New York University describes the situation as an absolute disaster; "Every single dietary intake survey done in this country is based on Handbook 8. It is the basis of all food assistance programs, including school lunches. Well, its back to mother wit, folklore and grandma, I guess.

Letter To The Editor

Send your letters to the Editor to:
Editor, PO Box 3137, Portland, OR 97208

On February 8, 1994, my turning merchandise, was at- teened daughter, while re- tacked, thrown to the floor, and

handcuffed by Meier & Frank security officers at the Lloyd Center Mall. She was held by security for approximately two hours and was then taken to Donald E. Long Juvenile Services, where she was held approximately for another two hours.

To date, my daughter has not been charged with any crime. We are aware of numerous incidents of this nature at the Lloyd Center Mall, and are looking for other community members to join us in finding a solution to the abusive and disrespectful treatment of our children and community as a whole.

If you are a concerned citizen and interested in addressing these violent attacks on our children, please call 293-3373 for more information. We need your support.

Thank you.
Concerned Citizens

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Have A Happy Easter