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Putting Together the Pieces of the Right-Wing Puzzle

by Sharon Sanders

These are very dangerous times for this country and its Constitution and Bill of Rights. To many, it looks like just another cycle of dysfunction to be followed by one of prosperity and thoughtfulness. We're far beyond that. The numerous factions on the Right that appear to be going off in different directions are leading us to think they're not organized and can do no real harm. This is simply not true. They have been working toward the same goal for 50 years, even if approaching it from somewhat different directions. It just took a black president to unite them.

These people are working from the bottom up all over this country, getting elected to school boards and running for other local offices. Americans United for Separation of Church and State and the Southern Poverty Law Center report ever-increasing numbers of episodes of

discrimination based on religion and race in our schools and in the workplace, even though these organizations are receiving federal funds. Common Cause, People for the American Way, *The Nation*, The Anti-Defamation League, and so many other respectable organizations that monitor the spinners of hate are warning us that the number of groups advocating the overthrow of Obama and his "socialist" government is soaring beyond belief. The members of these groups simply choose not to accept the truth, that most things fell apart during the Bush years, that it was the corporations that shipped their jobs overseas or cut them and their benefits from the payrolls just



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Tenth News

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Mark Kirk Flip-Flops on Small Business and Infrastructure Jobs Tax Act

With the Senate race heating up, Mark Kirk is once again trying to straddle the line between his ultra-conservative Republican base and more moderate Republicans and Democrats. In the process, he's resorting to his old tricks.

On March 24, he voted for the passage of The Small Business and Infrastructure Jobs Tax Act of 2010 (H.R. 4849)—a bill that aims to create jobs and strengthen the economy. To be sure, the vote helps to support Kirk's carefully crafted moderate image and bolsters the impression that he is occasionally willing to support Democratic policies in the best interest of the American public.

But a careful look at the voting record reveals that just seven minutes prior to voting for the passage of The Small Business and Infrastructure Jobs Tax Act (SBIJTA), Kirk also cast a yes vote in support of a motion to recommit offered by Ways and Means Ranking Member Dave Camp (R-MI). The motion would have sent the bill back to committee. In other words, it would have killed the legislation. "Bills that are sent back to committee rarely come back to the House for consideration," explains a spokesperson for Congressman Sander M. Levin (D-MI), the bill's sponsor. "It's the tool Republicans use when they want to stall, or kill, legislation."

What's more, SBIJTA easily would have passed the House without



Kirk's vote. And that's the most likely reason why his Republican leaders were willing to "release" him to cast a public-relations motivated vote for it. The bill passed the House on March 24 in a 245-178 vote after the Camp motion to recommit failed.

SBIJTA, which still needs to go through the Senate where it will face vigorous debate, is aimed at strengthening the domestic economy, providing tax incentives to small businesses, and creating jobs.

Specifically, the legislation proposes to:

- Extend the Build America Bonds program through 2013 to spur state and local government investment in infrastructure projects and job creation. Build America Bonds makes it cheaper for local governments to finance the rebuilding of schools, sewers, hospitals, and transit projects.
- Extend the issuance period of Recovery Zone Bonds for infrastructure bonds in economically troubled areas.

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The Power of Words by Ron Levitsky

I'm often surprised by the random knowledge that sticks in my head. Forty years ago in college, I read an article about the advent of the English Civil War in 1642. At that time, King Charles was known as head of state, and the question arose—how could a body politic function if its head were removed? Consequently, political dissidents began to use the metaphor of ship's captain to describe the king—easy enough to mutiny and replace one captain with another better suited for the task. Eventually, King Charles was removed (as was his head). Such is the power of language. Who controls words can control a nation.

Conservative Republicans have an intuitive understanding of the power of words. Take some of those ending in "ism." These words can often be as squishy as Silly Putty—made to fit into whatever context the user desires. For Republicans, capitalism is termed free enterprise supported by *free* trade. Freedom is good, as are many other qualities of capitalism—ingenuity, hard work, risk-taking, efficiency, and personal reward.

In this definition, an individual's private success raises the general public's standard-of-living and, thus, benefits all.

In contrast, "big government" is portrayed as unnecessary at best or, at worst, obstructionist in denying one's freedom. As Ronald Reagan famously said, "Government is not the solution to our problem; government is the problem." Of course, what's not discussed is the underside of capitalism—the freedom to pay workers starvation wages, engage in child labor, exploit natural resources, manufacture unsafe products, and destroy the environment.

In contrast to its sanguine view of capitalism, many Republicans tar President Obama with the label of socialism, a code word for the encroachment of big government on the lives of individual citizens. Republican National Committee Chairman Michael Steele has called the Obama Health Plan "a socialist power grab." At the recent Tea Party Convention, former Congressman Tom Tancredo (R-CO) labeled Obama as a "committed socialist ideologue." Recently leaked documents reveal that, in order to increase contributions, Rob Bickhart, the Republican National Committee's Finance Director, tried to frighten big-name donors into believing that our nation is "trending toward socialism." And Newt Gingrich has condemned Obama's "secular, socialist machine."

There are at least three problems with labeling President Obama a socialist. The first is that Obama is as much a standard-bearer of socialism as Rush Limbaugh is of the National Organization for Women. Obama has called himself a New Democrat (it was New Democrat Bill Clinton who pushed through the North American Free Trade Act). His economic team includes Larry Summers, head of the National Economic Council, who had been Chief Economist for the World Bank and President Clinton's Secretary of the Treasury. As part of the Clinton team, Summers favored the deregulation of financial institutions. It also includes Secretary of the Treasury Tim Geithner, former President of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, who continued the Bush administration's massive bank bailout.

And President Obama never pushed the public option for his health insurance plan. In fact, as the *Huffington Post* reported (2/22/10), "Indeed, after months of watching Obama say generally that he supports the public option while doing little to see it implemented into law, backers of the idea were unsurprised it was left out of his final offer."

Secondly, Republicans' use of the word socialism is unremittably negative, exactly the opposite of their use of capitalism. In fact, they

frequently conflate socialism with communism. In an Associated Press article published shortly before the House vote on the healthcare reform bill, a retired South Carolina businessman traveled to Washington, D.C. to protest the bill's passage. He expressed misgivings about the bill, feeling that "... the direction it takes us is toward communism, quite frankly." As Professor Cornell West of Princeton University has pointed out, Dr. Martin Luther King was labeled as both a socialist and communist simply because he placed "... a priority on the weak and those pushed to the margin." He wanted a government that would provide a "Marshall Plan for poor people," including universal healthcare.

It is true that historically, many countries called socialist, including communist nations such as the former Soviet Union and China, have made a mockery of human rights and economic betterment of the lives of the poor. In his book, *Heaven on Earth, The Rise and Fall of Socialism*, Joshua Muravchik argues that socialism "... lacks any internal code of conduct to limit what believers may do." He points to

the killing fields of Cambodia as a monument to socialist beliefs.

However, others are proud to call themselves socialists and passionate advocates for the working poor,

democracy, and human rights. The Democratic Socialists of America, many of whose members work within the Democratic Party, condemn communism and all forms of dictatorship. Their goals, according to DSA members Frank Llewellyn and Joseph Schwartz, include "... using a progressive taxation to finance high-quality public goods that can satisfy all citizens' basic needs for health care, education, unemployment insurance and job training." Democratic Socialists are pro-union, pro-universal healthcare, pro-reform of the banking system, and anti-war. Of course, they had been supporters of such "socialist" ideas as Social Security and Medicare, ideas that nearly every American today embraces.

In the October 2009 *AARP Bulletin*, Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius compared the "death panel" attacks on health reform to "... similar attacks more than 40 years ago when Medicare was being debated. People called it 'socialized medicine.' They said it would lead to rationing. And the first time it came up for a vote in the House, it passed by only 45 votes." Yet, who today opposes Medicare?

The third problem regarding the Republicans' use of the word socialism is revealed by a look at both historical and contemporary events. Recently deceased historian and educator Howard Zinn wrote that the Constitution created a government "... big enough to use the armed forces to clear Indians off their land, to put down labor uprisings, to invade countries in the Caribbean for the benefit of American growers, bankers, investors. This was very big government. 'Big government' in itself is hardly the issue. That is here to stay. The only question is: Whom will it serve?"

The bank bailout, in which hundreds of billions of taxpayer dollars rescued some of the very financial institutions that caused the recession, seems to be one of the clearest examples of socialism in recent history. Yet, extension of employment benefits for the working poor had a difficult time getting through Congress.

Franklin Roosevelt eschewed labels but understood that, as President of the United States, he needed to serve all the people, especially those in desperate economic circumstances due to the Great Depression, as opposed to those he termed "economic royalists." His accomplishments included the Bank Holiday which regained public confidence in our nation's banks, the Glass-Steagall Act (passed 191-

“SOCIALISM”

Seals Momentum Continues

by Steve Sheffey



Congressional candidate Dan Seals raised more money than any candidate has ever raised in this district during the first quarter of this year. He raised over \$634,000, eclipsing the previous record set by Mark Kirk in the first quarter of 2008.

Seals raised 30 percent more than his Republican challenger, Robert Dold of Kenilworth. But perhaps more important, Seals is picking up significant support from individuals and groups that supported Mark Kirk in previous elections. Many former Kirk supporters recognize

that while Seals is a fiscally conservative, socially moderate candidate, Dold is too far to the right for this district.

Dold is backed by Dan Quayle and the anti-choice Illinois Federation for Right to Life PAC. Not surprisingly, Dold does not understand why so many mainstream Americans are concerned about the Tea Party movement. According to Dold, "What the Tea Party is really resonating with is that things in Washington are going wrong. And so they're talking about liberty and the Constitution, okay? Both things I stand for. I mean, those are good things to be for—liberty and the Constitution." Tea parties might be popular in Kenilworth, but Dold's positions put him too out of step with the rest of our district.

On April 13, the Seals campaign announced that the League of Conservation Voters Action Fund (LCV), the Associated Fire Fighters

of Illinois (AFFI), and the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) all chose to back him.

"Dan Seals is a proven leader in the public and private sectors who knows how to bring clean energy jobs to Illinois communities," said LCV President Gene Karpinski. "We are proud to endorse Dan Seals because he understands that the best way to get our skilled workers back on the job is with policies that encourage American clean energy and innovation while reducing our dependence on foreign oil and curbing harmful pollution."

The Human Rights Campaign praised Seals for his leadership on LGBT issues. "Dan exemplifies the type of independent leadership our nation needs," said Joe Solomonese, President of the Human Rights Campaign. "A man of deep principal and integrity, Seals will fight for the civil rights of the LGBT community and all Americans."

On April 7, NARAL Pro-Choice America, for the first time, endorsed Dan Seals.

On February 25, the Joint Action Committee for Political Affairs Committee (JACPAC) announced its endorsement of Dan Seals, citing his commitment to the strengthening of the U.S.-Israel relationship and his commitment to reproductive choice.

"We've known Dan Seals for years, and we believe that Seals is the only candidate in this race who will stand up not only for Israel, but for women's rights and separation of church and state," stated Marcia Balonick, Executive Director, JACPAC.

JACPAC is a national PAC committed to the special relationship between the U.S. and Israel, and a domestic agenda that includes reproductive choice and separation of religion and state.

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Right-Wing Puzzle *continued from page 1*

to doctor the numbers for Wall Street while the CEOs held on to their outlandish salaries. They'd rather not accept the idea that the unregulated banks and other financial institutions took advantage of them during the Republican years, forced them out of their homes, gouged them on credit cards and mortgages they couldn't afford, and chose not to help them when they found themselves out of work or homeless. They will not talk about the fact that Bush came into office with a surplus from Clinton's presidency and that our incredible deficit was in large part due to the billions spent monthly in Iraq and intentionally left out of the budget numbers. Essentially, people like Rupert Murdoch and his attack dogs are riling up the low-information voters (or non-voters) to pass the blame for all problems on to Obama, his skin color, and his "liberal, socialist" administration. The truth is that Mr. Obama is much more a centrist than a liberal and when these groups spew the word socialist, they really have little idea what it actually means. But facts don't matter to them or to the corporations that sponsor them.

A perfect example of rewriting facts so they reflect their views is the Texas Board of Education decision in March. As reported in the March 13 edition of *The New York Times*, "After three days of turbulent meetings, the Texas Board of Education... approved a social studies curriculum that will put a conservative stamp on history and economics textbooks, stressing the superiority of American capitalism, questioning the Founding Fathers' commitment to a purely secular government and presenting Republican political philosophies in a more positive light." Conservative school board members also sought "to ensure that students learn about 'the conservative resurgence of the 1980s and 1990s, including Phyllis Schlafly, the Contract With America, the Heritage Foundation, the Moral Majority and the National Rifle Association.'" They are forever working on

their goal of creating a religiously-indoctrinated school system.

One of their members, "Cynthia Dunbar... a strict constitutionalist [who] thinks the nation was founded on Christian beliefs, managed to cut Thomas Jefferson from a list of figures whose writings inspired revolutions in the late 18th century and 19th century, replacing him with St. Thomas Aquinas, John Calvin and William Blackstone." According to the article, "Jefferson is not well liked among conservatives on the board because he coined the term 'separation between church and state.'"

In Congress, we have these same right-wingers imposing similar views via The Family a/k/a, The Fellowship. According to Jeff Sharlet, the author of *The Family: The Secret Fundamentalism at the Heart of American Power*, prayer breakfasts, which seem outwardly innocent, are part of a fundamentalist movement to use our politicians as "soldiers for Christ." Sharlet criticizes the Family's theology of "'elite fundamentalism' that [glorifies] political power and wealth, consistently opposing labor movements in the U.S. and abroad, and teaching that laissez-faire economic policy is 'God's will.'" He's also critical of the theology of instant forgiveness for powerful men as providing a convenient excuse so that elites who commit misdeeds or crimes can avoid accepting responsibility or accountability for their actions.

"The Fellowship reaches into governments around the world [and it's] almost impossible to overstate or even grasp [its power]," says David Kuo, a member and former special assistant in George W. Bush's Office of Faith-Based Initiatives. In 1977, Watergate conspirator Charles Colson, a member, described the group as a "veritable underground of Christ's men all through the U.S. government."

So we have their right-wing vise tightening on the schools and Congress, but it's no less forceful in the courts and the media where

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Legislative Redistricting in Illinois...

Why Drawing a Line Is More Complicated Than You Think

by Priscilla Sperling

Tenth Dems University took on the complex issue of legislative redistricting at a forum held April 8 at the Northbrook Public Library. Bringing their wealth of knowledge on this subject were David Hoffman, former member of the Illinois Reform Commission; David Morrison, Associate Director of Illinois Campaign for Political Reform; and Jan Czarnik, Executive Director of the League of Women Voters of Illinois. They spoke passionately about the current redistricting method used in Illinois, ways to reform the redistricting process, and the Illinois Fair Map Amendment.

The current Illinois redistricting system

In Illinois, the state legislature has primary responsibility for drawing the lines of both state legislative districts and Congress, subject to gubernatorial veto.



Many took the time to gain a better understanding of legislative redistricting

For state legislative districts, if the legislature cannot agree on a plan by June 30, a "backup commission" is convened to take over the process: the commission consists of one legislator and one non-legislator, chosen by the legislative leadership of each party. If this commission does not produce a plan by August 10, the state Supreme Court submits the names of two individuals from different political parties to the Secretary of State, who randomly selects one of these nominees (by putting the two names into Abe Lincoln's hat and selecting one of them) to become the commission's tiebreaker. The random selection process was intended to force compromise, but in each of the last three cycles, both legislature and commission have deadlocked, and the parties have preferred to take a chance on total control—with the resulting districts reflecting those partisan ambitions.



David Morrison, Associate Director of Illinois Campaign for Political Reform

Many Illinois state legislators become extensively involved in determining the boundaries by which they and their congressional colleagues are elected. It is not hard to see how representatives might be tempted to draw electoral lines that insulate their districts from effective challenge or how party leaders might reward legislators who voted with their party or punish legislators who voted independently. After the last redistricting in the 2002 elections, 30 out of the 59 state Senate races were not contested by one of the major parties. This is at least in part because, on average, those 30 districts were drawn so that they leaned toward one party or the other by an average of more than 30 percentage points. With districts so heavily slanted, it is not surprising that it is difficult to find candidates willing to mount a meaningful challenge. By drawing district lines to promote individual and party security, legislators with a hand in the process become enmeshed in the task of building

districts based on favored constituents and disfavored ones and favored legislators and disfavored ones. That is, redistricting is used by representatives to choose their constituents, rather than the other way around, and by party leaders to enforce loyalty.

Just as important is the way that this process appears to the public. The appearance of self-interest is driven, in part, by visible outcomes: districts are drawn in bizarre shapes, and elections are won with overwhelming margins. Neither factor would likely be as worrisome, alone or together, if legislators were not themselves responsible for drawing their own districts.

Prospects for reform

There are four components of the redistricting process in particular that are crucial in any effort to restore constituents' faith in the fairness of the process.

First, an independent process. The authority responsible for redistricting in Illinois—and just as important, the staff supporting that process—should be meaningfully independent from undue legislative influence. Meaningful independence means freedom from obligation, influence, and possibly even ex parte contact.

Second, a diverse representative body. The need to reconcile competing and complementary interests in the redistricting process demonstrates the second element of success: the redistricting body must be meaningfully diverse. Those responsible for drawing district lines must reflect ample geographic, racial, and political diversity so as to prevent charges of self-dealing. That is, the redistricting body must be sufficiently diverse to be legitimate in the eyes of the citizens districted by its action.

Third, meaningful redistricting criteria. A redistricting body must be guided by specific criteria to adequately assess whether any given plan has succeeded in achieving the public good. The criteria should retain enough flexibility to allow trusted decisionmakers—the diverse and independent redistricting body mentioned above—to apply the overall state priorities to peculiar local circumstances, sensibly and in the broader public interest.

Fourth, meaningful transparency. At the moment, most citizens feel excluded from the redistricting process. Communities are splintered and electoral fortunes tailored, by and large, without meaningful opportunity for input. Reforms to alleviate these problems include: public hearings, open meetings, and the opportunity to respond to drafts before they are enacted; data and redistricting software being widely available; and the public being allowed to submit full or partial proposals to the redistricting body.

The Illinois Fair Map Amendment

The Illinois Fair Map Amendment is a citizens initiative provided for in the Illinois Constitution which, if approved by the electorate, will amend the Illinois Constitution to change how the state's legislative districts are drawn. The Illinois Fair Map Amendment will be on the ballot as a referendum in November 2010 if 280,000 signatures of Illinois voters are obtained by May 2, 2010.



Jan Czarnik, League of Women Voters of Illinois Executive Director



David Hoffman, former member, Illinois Reform Commission

Harnessing the Wind

by George Rosenblit

This is the ninth article in a series seeking to investigate and report on sources of energy and their relationship to public health and global warming.

When I think of wind power, I conjure up a romanticized vision of Holland with windmills, tulips, and children in wooden shoes. Windmills are really a precursor to modern wind power generators, and there is a connection you will see as this story unfolds.

The Earliest Windmills

No one knows for sure where and when the first windmill was put to use. Historical records indicate that they had early roots in Persia (now Iran) near the Afghanistan-Pakistan border. They are mentioned in a text in 950 A.D. and were probably in use long before that date. There is mention of windmills in the UK in 1185, in France in 1192, and in Belgium in 1197.

In 1414, a windmill was invented for drainage of water from lowlands in Holland. And by 1450, they could be seen everywhere. The biggest windmill could lift 10,000 gallons of water to the height of 4 inches under the normal wind speed each minute. The use of windmills declined with the advent of newer technologies, suffering the same fate as the steam engine, the internal-combustion engine, and electric motors, all of which fell victim to the same winds of change. So, windmills were dismantled and used for storage. Only 3,000 remained from the peak of over 10,000 in 1923, but over time, the number decreased to 1,000. Windmills have also been used for cutting wood

and grinding (milling) grain to make flour. (See <http://www.212articles.com/articles/64850/1/Windmills-in-Holland/Page1.html>.)

The earliest mention of windmills in America, located 20 miles outside of the Jamestown settlement in Virginia, dates back to 1621. The use of windmills spread along the east coast for various purposes and then nationwide along railroad tracks to pump well water for use in the steam engines of trains.



The First Wind Power Turbine

A very enterprising inventor and businessman from Cleveland, Ohio, Charles F. Brush, constructed the first automatically operated wind turbine for electric power generation in his own backyard during the winter of 1887-1888.

Before this event, in 1877, Brush was awarded funds by the Franklin Institute of Philadelphia to improve the "Gramme" dynamo for powering early street-lighting systems. He then installed the first U.S. street-lighting system in Cleveland in 1879. He launched the Brush Electric Co. in 1880 and merged it with the Edison G.E. Co. in 1892—which then became the General Electric Co.! (See *Windpower*, Christopher Gillis, Schiffer Publishing Co., 2008.)

Modern Wind Power Systems

After much scientific investigation and engineering design, the sleek-looking wind power units that can be seen in the countryside,

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Redistricting *continued from page 4*

Under the Illinois Fair Map Amendment, state legislative plans (but not Congressional plans which are not dealt with in this amendment and so would remain in the hands of the Illinois legislature) would be drawn by a nine-member commission; each legislative leader would select two commissioners, considering the diversity of the state, and those eight would choose a ninth. Neither commissioners nor immediate family may have been, within four years of appointment, state lobbyists, employees, or contractors; or candidates for an elected body of federal government, state government, local government, or political party entities. Commissioners are also not eligible for state legislative office or appointment to state office requiring State Senate confirmation for the 10 years after lines are drawn.

By May 16, 2011, the commission must adopt plans and submit them to the legislature for an up-or-down vote; districts for each state legislative House must be passed by a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote of that House. If a plan fails to pass, the commission must submit a substitute within a month for a similar up-or-down $\frac{2}{3}$ vote; if this plan is also rejected, the commission simply chooses one of the two submitted plans. If the commission misses a deadline at any point, the Chief Justice of the Illinois Supreme Court and a Supreme Court judge selected by judges of the opposite party choose a Special Master to draw plans.

The advantages of the Illinois Fair Map Amendment over the current system include:

- **Independence from Legislators:** Though eight of the nine commissioners are chosen by the legislative leadership, and though the legislature has a role in approving one of two choices of plan, the screening criteria for the commission would remove those likely to be most beholden to particular legislators, including the leadership.
- **Partisan Balance:** The structure of the commission provides a partisan balance among the commissioners.

- **Minority Participation:** The proposal requires that commissioners be selected considering the diversity of the state, though this requirement will be difficult to enforce by means other than political pressure.
- **Criteria:** The proposal specifies six separate specific criteria to be followed.
- **Public Input:** Meetings of the commission are open to the public, and the commission is required to hold at least five hearings in different parts of the state before preliminary approval of a plan, and at least three hearings in different parts of the state before a final vote. The commission must also make census data and redistricting software available to the public and must accept and make publicly available redistricting plans from the public.

Whether or not the specific proposal contained in the Illinois Fair Map Amendment obtains the number of signatures necessary to be on the ballot in November or is approved by the voters, the method by which district lines are drawn for the Congress and the state legislature needs to be reformed before the 2010 Census numbers are delivered to Illinois in early 2011.

Tenth Dems has not taken a position on this issue.

Thanks to the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law. In Illinois, they have been involved in advising the writers of the Illinois Fair Map Amendment, and they have testified before the Illinois Senate Redistricting Committee. Much of the information in "The current Illinois redistricting system" and "Prospects for reform" was drawn from the testimony of Justin Levitt, Counsel for the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law, before the Illinois Senate Redistricting Committee on October 13, 2009 and the description of the Illinois Fair Map Amendment was drawn from the Brennan Center's website at www.brennancenter.org. The Brennan Center is a nonpartisan organization that unites scholars and advocates in pursuit of a vision of inclusive and effective democracy. The Brennan Center has been at the forefront of research and education about redistricting procedures across the country.

What Are Your Democratic Priorities?

by Mary E. La Plante

The White House homepage marks the momentous occasion of healthcare reform with the following words: "On March 23rd, 2010, the President signed health reform into law, completing a task worked on by seven Presidents before him. He referenced many people [he] had met who had struggled with health care bills and insurance, including his mother, as his motivations for signing the bill."

While some partisanship compromised some aspects of the bill, healthcare reform couldn't come soon enough. A further delay in healthcare reform would continue to incur costs far beyond simple monetary ones: the grave human cost of insufficient or non-existent medical insurance. So, indeed, March 23, 2010, is a momentous occasion in America. The same urgency regarding human life pertains to the necessity of advocating for troop reductions in Iraq and Afghanistan. We must do all we can as engaged citizens to urge our leaders to end these wars, which have vague aims and have caused more than one million military and civilian deaths. One important way you can advocate for an end to war is to communicate your thoughts to your elected officials, so that you, in effect, become part of the decision-making process. And you can do that by examining your priorities, deciding which issues matter most to you, and raising your voice, speaking out, and joining with other community-minded Democrats who make up Tenth Dems.

If you have other priorities and concerns such as the environment, unemployment, and the health of our children and the marginalized, Tenth Dems can help keep you in the know about these and other pressing issues. And Tenth Dems will also provide opportunities for you to connect with your elected officials so that you can voice your concerns and help effect change. Some of Tenth Dems' objectives include helping to increase awareness of important issues facing district residents and, indeed, all Americans so that we can elect Democrats who support these issues at all levels of government within Illinois' Tenth Congressional District. Whether you choose to attend a forum or fundraiser, write a letter to the editor, or volunteer for a political campaign, Tenth Dems has a place for you. And you'll find that, more likely than not, we have shared priorities and goals. Listed below is just a sampling of current Tenth Dems concerns. For more information, please go to: <http://www.tenthdems.org/> or e-mail: info@tenthdems.org

1. With healthcare reform signed into law, President Obama has achieved one of his top priorities. But it's still important to keep up on healthcare reform as it unfolds, as some Republicans have vowed to fight it. Continue to make your voice heard. Visit: www.whitehouse.gov/issues/health-care to acquaint yourself with the issues, and voice your opinion to your elected officials. Visit www.tenthdems.org/index.php/5 for a complete contact list.

2. When will we bring our troops home from Afghanistan and Iraq? Visit the Tenth Dems and www.moveon.org websites for updates, and contact your elected officials and the White House to voice your thoughts and concerns: www.whitehouse.gov/contact



3. Michelle Obama has made the fight against childhood obesity one of her top priorities. Read about it at: www.letsmove.gov/. Recent articles on her initiative can be found in *Newsweek*: <http://www.newsweek.com/id/234885>. *The New York Times* ran a recent story that describes in chilling detail the links between "obesity, diabetes, poor access to grocery stores, poverty rates, unemployment," and offers compelling evidence for the necessity of Michelle Obama's "Let's Move" campaign. <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/14/nyregion/14hunger.html?scp=1&sq=obesity%20and%20poverty&st=cse>.

4. Although a jobs bill made its way through Congress in March and was signed into law, unemployment is still rampant, affecting every sector of our economy. It is paramount to create new jobs, extend unemployment benefits in a still-unstable economy, and look at the potential in green industry. What else needs to be done? See what the Obama administration has accomplished: www.whitehouse.gov/issues/economy and inform your local and national elected officials of your thoughts. On an international level, if you want to keep up with new ways of thinking about jobs, aid, and development, Nicholas D. Kristof's recent column on micro-finance, entitled: "Partying to Change the World," presents an inspiring portrait of what a few individuals can do: <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/14/opinion/14kristof.html?scp=1&sq=uganda%20beads%20kristoff&st=cse>.

5. Farmers' markets will soon open throughout Illinois, providing Illinoisans with a chance to practice conscious consumerism through their support of organic farms. Not only will you help your body by eating chemical-free produce, but you'll help the environment—air, earth, and water—by buying from farmers who don't utilize pesticides or altered seeds, i.e., genetically modified organisms (GMO). The Illinois Department of Agriculture produces an annual list of farmers markets. Visit: www.agr.state.il.us/markets/farmers/ and let your elected officials know that you'd like to see school lunch programs include more fresh fruits and vegetables!

Whether your priorities focus on cleaning up the environment, strengthening the U.S. economy, or continuing to transform healthcare, your knowledge of the issues and willingness to speak up can make a difference, not just in your own life but for many others as well. Contact Tenth Dems today to find out more about upcoming events, forums, and political campaigns that support your Democratic beliefs.

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popularized in magazine and newspaper articles on the subject, are truly a result of painstaking evolution.

Brush used a 144-vane windmill design to turn the rotor of his dynamo. It worked, but not very efficiently. Multiple vanes worked well for heavy-duty applications. But for use with a dynamo, the following design factors were considered and optimized: (1) only three blades (vanes) were adopted as standard because the air turbulence from the trailing edges of additional adjacent blades would interact to reduce efficiency; (2) the shape of the blades was designed to be aerodynamically efficient; and (3) the length of the blade is important because the circular swept area of the rotating blades is directly proportional to the power generated—power = $\frac{1}{2} \times$

density of the air \times swept area \times wind speed cubed. This means that if the blade length is doubled, the swept area is quadrupled (Area = $\pi \times$ radius squared).

You can see from the above formula that wind speed is the most important factor in producing power which can be controlled by selecting an optimum wind site and using a tower of sufficient height. Small changes in wind speed can mean big changes in power; for example, 10 mph yields $10 \times 10 \times 10 = 1,000$, and 12 mph yields $12 \times 12 \times 12 = 1,728$. An increase of only 2 mph nearly doubled the power! (See *Wind Power for Dummies*, Ian Woofenden, Wiley Publishing Co., 2009.)

Wind Farms—Land

Why is wind power so attractive? Where it's available, it's there day and night in all kinds of weather. It's also a significant contribution to

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Right-Wing Puzzle *continued from page 3*

we see the control of Fox News (Rupert Murdoch and Roger Ailes), and the decisions of the courts (Bush over Gore, and corporations as individuals). I have had the displeasure of meeting some of these people face-to-face at rallies. Their hatred and fear runs so deep that they totally disregard what is happening to their healthcare or their jobs or their lack of protection from corporate abuse. They despise regulation of any kind, even when it protects them from such abuses. They “love” their insurance and see nothing wrong with excessive profits at the expense of the sick and disabled. They say it’s just part of the free market and our capitalist society. They rally around hatred, and they really don’t understand how we got into this economic mess in the first place. They blame everything on Obama and the “socialist Democrats.”

Recently, I was at a counter-rally in front of Melissa Bean’s office. Several tea-partiers, who deceptively called themselves the media, asked me if I were a socialist. I said, “Yes, when it comes to healthcare, public schools, streets, police, firemen, parks, and more.” But I said I also was for fair capitalist markets without greed when it comes to the economy. They asked if I believed everyone was entitled to healthcare. I said, “Yes, and my interpretation of the Constitution is that it guarantees each and every one of us the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, and, therefore, to healthcare, since you can’t have any of these without good health.” They accused me of interpreting the Constitution to my way of thinking and asked if I believed in the right to bear arms. I responded, “The Constitution doesn’t guarantee you the right to own automatic weapons, Uzis, and grenades, or to stockpile weapons. So it’s not specific on your issue

either.” I told them that the Supreme Court has the right to make decisions on these issues but that, unfortunately, their Supreme Court has been an activist court, and I disagreed with many of its latest decisions.

It is important to note that the supposedly grassroots “tea-partiers” are heavily funded by corporate money which is helping to boost their rapid growth around the country. Many are simply racists, not wanting Obama to succeed at any level; and too many of them are beginning to answer a call to arms from the likes of Glenn Beck and others, with the argument that Obama is not a citizen, not a legitimate president, and his “illegal government” must be overthrown. It’s the fake cry of socialism, communism, fascism, anti-immigration, and simply the fear of “others” that is rallying so many of them to organize.

We must be vigilant regarding these threats and take them very seriously. We’re already seeing homegrown terrorists crashing planes into buildings and threatening people at the Pentagon. According to the Southern Poverty Law Center, there was a 54 percent increase between 2000 and 2008 in hate groups. We now have almost a thousand right-wing hate groups in this country, such as the newly formed, growing, and dangerous Oath Keepers and the armed men coming to Obama rallies, saying the “tree of liberty” needs to be watered with the “blood of tyrants.” These are not isolated incidents but part of a pattern of disillusioned citizens who have decided where the blame lies for all their problems—the government and Obama. Now, when we talk about “tea-baggers,” it means much more than a rag-tag group of malcontents. It represents the growing numbers of hate groups that have convinced themselves that anything goes in the name of taking back this country from those “socialists.”

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the alternative energy objective of replacing carbon-based fuels.

At the end of 2009, the installed capacity of wind power in the United States was just over 35,000 megawatts (MW), making it the world leader ahead of Germany. Wind power accounts for about 1.9 percent of the electricity generated in the United States. Over 9,900 MW of new wind power capacity was brought online in 2009, up from 8,800 in 2008. These new installations place the U.S. on a trajectory to generate 20 percent of the nation’s electricity by 2030 from wind energy.

Growth in 2008 channeled some \$17 billion into the economy, positioning wind power as one of the leading sources of new power generation in the country, along with natural gas. At the end of 2008, about 85,000 people were employed in the U.S. wind industry, and GE Energy was the largest domestic wind turbine manufacturer. Wind projects boosted local tax bases and revitalized the economy of rural communities by providing a steady income stream to farmers with wind turbines on their land. Wind power in the U.S. provides enough electricity to power the equivalent of nearly 9 million homes, avoiding the emissions of 57 million tons of carbon each year and reducing expected carbon emissions from the electricity sector by 2.5 percent.

Texas, with 9,410 MW of capacity, has the most wind power capacity of any U.S. state, followed by Iowa with 3,053 MW. The Roscoe Wind Farm (780 MW) in Texas is the world’s largest wind farm. At the end of 2009, Illinois was generating 1,547 MW, capable of serving the needs of about 387,000 homes. (See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wind_power_in_the_United_States.)

Locally, a public hearing on proposed regulations for wind energy facilities by the Lake County Zoning Board of Appeals took place on April 26. Height restrictions, setbacks, operating conditions, enforcement for violations and penalties were discussed.

(See http://www.suburbanchicagonews.com/newssun/news/2156694,S_1_WA14_WIND_51_-100414.article.)

Wind Power—Offshore

Offshore sites are very attractive because the wind is most reliable and of good velocity (speed).

It was announced on April 1, 2010, that a Boston company, Cape Wind, will build the first U.S. offshore wind farm. They were awarded final approval of a federal permit to build it in Nantucket Sound. The decision on the permit came from U.S. Interior Secretary Ken Salazar, who granted approval on April 29. An agreement has been signed to buy 130 wind turbines for the project from Siemens Energy, Inc.

Siemens said it will open an office in Boston for U.S. offshore wind projects. Siemens Energy’s parent company, Siemens AG, based in Munich, Germany, has a U.S. headquarters in Orlando, Fla. The company’s U.S. Wind Power division has grown from one employee in December, 2004, to more than 1,000 employees today, spokeswoman Monika Wood said. The Boston office will open on June 1. Siemens plans to double the number of U.S. Wind Power employees in the next two to three years.

Ian A. Bowles, Massachusetts Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs, said a Siemens office in Boston will help the state’s efforts to grow an alternative energy industry. He stated, “Europe is 20 years ahead of us in wind energy, and there’s a lot we can learn from them. Siemens has experience with a scale of wind development that will allow Massachusetts to become a national leader in offshore wind energy.” The particular model of Siemens turbine that Cape Wind agreed to purchase is an industry workhorse, with 1,000 units sold and 150 units installed and successfully operating, the company said. Each is capable of generating 3.6 MW of power. According to the American Wind Energy Association, a megawatt of wind generates enough electricity to power 225 to 300 households for a year.

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Seals Momentum *continued from page 3*

Dan Seals did better in 2008 than in 2006. He won 46.6 percent of the vote in 2006 and improved to 47.4 percent of the vote in 2008 against the most popular and well-funded Republican in Illinois (Seals received more votes in 2008 than Mark Kirk received in 2006). This, in a district that has elected Republicans to Congress for the past 30 years. This, in a year when EVERY incumbent member of Congress running for re-election in Illinois was reelected. This, in a year when nearly 95 percent of all incumbent members of Congress in the country were reelected. Incumbents are very difficult to beat, no matter what the composition of the district, which is why this open seat election is so important.

Seals is the son of a former Chicago Bears football player and a social worker. He worked as a high school teacher before winning the Presidential Management Fellowship. He served as an aide to the Assistant Secretary of Commerce, served as an Economics Fellow in the Senate, lectured on public policy at Northwestern University, and served on the Council of Global Affairs Task Force. Dan has held leadership positions at both Sprint and GE Capital and currently works as an independent business consultant. He holds an MBA from the University of Chicago and an MA from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies. He is fluent in Japanese. Dan and his wife Mia live in Wilmette with their three daughters.

Congress Watch *continued from page 1*

- Spur investment in small businesses by increasing to 100 percent the exclusion from capital-gains tax from the sale of small-business stock acquired between March 15, 2010, and January 1, 2012. Last year's Recovery Act raised the exclusion amount to 70 percent, up from the normal 50 percent.
- Allow taxpayers to treat venture-capital loans guaranteed by the Small Business Association as "at-risk" financing, thereby increasing allowable deductions.
- Increase the deduction for small-business start-up expenses from \$5,000 to \$20,000 and raise the upper limit for deductible expenses (above which the deductible begins to phase out) from \$50,000 to \$75,000 for the years 2010 and 2011.
- Limit the penalty for failing to report on a tax return a "listed transaction"—a transaction identified by the Internal Revenue Service as a scheme to avoid paying taxes.
- Extend the exemption from alternative minimum tax treatment of interest on certain tax-exempt bonds through 2011 and exclude water and sewer private activity bonds from state volume caps.
- Extend the TANF Emergency Fund that is already on track to put over 160,000 Americans back to work.

The infrastructure and job creation programs created under the bill will cost an estimated \$19 billion over 10 years. Following the pay-as-you-go rules implemented by Blue Dog Democrats earlier this year, the bill pays for these outlays by raising revenue from other sources—namely, large multinational corporations.

The legislation includes measures to generate an estimated \$11.5 billion in revenue by placing strict limits on the use of tax treaties to reduce or eliminate taxation in the United States. If H.R. 4849 is enacted, foreign corporations with U.S. branch operations or U.S. affiliates that make deductible related-party payments would face an estimated \$7.7 billion in tax hikes.

SBIJTA also sets a minimum 10-year term for Grantor Retained Annuity Trusts (GRATs), which are used to facilitate the transfer of asset appreciation free of gift and estate taxes. A GRAT works only if the grantor outlives the trust term, so they are typically set up with short terms, such as two or three years.

These measures were fiercely opposed by Republicans seeking to protect their constituent base—high net worth individuals and large corporations.

We'd be impressed with Kirk's support of this bill had he not first supported the Republican efforts to kill it. But his blatant flip-flop highlights the true reason he voted 'yes' on Roll Call 182: to fool naïve moderate Republicans and Democrats into the false belief that he's sympathetic to the plight of ordinary Americans. As Kirk's long voting record as Tenth District Congressman since 2000 shows, he isn't the least bit interested in doing the right thing for the American public. Special interests—big banks, big insurance, Big Pharma, and big healthcare have—and always will—come first. That's why Democrats need to work hard to ensure that he does not represent our state in the Senate.

Power of Words *continued from page 2*

6 in the House and by voice vote in the Senate) that set up the F.D.I.C. and divorced commercial and investment banking, a minimum wage, the right of unions to organize, and the Tennessee Valley Authority, criticized at the time as "creeping socialism," which gave electrical power for the first time to thousands of rural Americans. Interestingly, the Republican Party's platform of 1936 endorsed Social Security, unemployment payments, the right of labor to organize, and minimum wage laws.

In 1944, President Roosevelt called for a second Bill of Rights—an economic one that included the right to a job with a living wage, adequate medical care, a decent home, and a good education. Republicans might call this socialism. However, I believe that these powerful words spoken by FDR are as American as the Pledge of Allegiance, which, by the way, was written in 1892 by Francis Bellamy, a socialist.

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Cape Wind and Siemens declined to disclose a purchase price, but a state official estimated that wind turbines of the necessary size cost between \$5 million and \$10 million each. Globally, Siemens commands more than 50 percent of the world's offshore wind market. Nearly three of every four European offshore wind turbines installed in 2009 were from Siemens, according to a recent European Wind Energy Association's report.

Cape Wind's developers say the project will be able to supply, on average, the equivalent of 75 percent of the energy needs of Cape Cod and neighboring islands. (See http://www.boston.com/business/articles/2010/04/01/cape_wind_signs_deal_to_buy_offshore_turbines?mode=PF.)