

Opinions

Gingrich attack angered Tip O'Neill

By Richard A. Viguere

When Tip O'Neill humiliated himself in front of millions of TV viewers by questioning the Americanism of Congressman Newt Gingrich — a personal attack that made O'Neill the first Speaker in at least 186 years to be temporarily barred from speaking on the House floor — most news reports overlooked an important point: What exactly was it that made O'Neill so angry?

He was angry because Gingrich read into the record a report (by Frank Gregorsky of the Republican Study Committee) on liberals' blindness to the threat of communism. Gingrich was not criticizing all liberals, of course — certainly not liberals in the tradi-

tion of Presidents Truman and Kennedy. But, as the Georgia Congressman pointed out, most liberals in the Democratic Party today make it a habit to "trash America, indict the President and give the benefit of every doubt to Marxist regimes."

To make his point, it wasn't necessary for Gingrich to impugn the patriotism of anyone. All he had to do was read the liberal Democrats' own statements.

He quoted the infamous "Dear Comandante" letter in which 10 Democratic Congressmen, including Majority Leader Jim Wright of Texas, gave the Nicaraguan dictatorship advice on how to circumvent U.S. foreign policy. He quoted Congressional liberals' assurances over the years

that, if we would only abandon our allies in Southeast Asia (and Angola, and Nicaragua, and El Salvador, etc., etc.), we would help make the world a peaceful place.

Gingrich proved beyond a doubt that, on issues like the Soviet thrust in Central America, arms control, defense spending, and new weapons systems, liberal Democrats in Congress take the position that the weaker America is, the better. They do so not because they are unpatriotic, but apparently because they think that communism poses no threat to the United States. To them, communism is not (as I believe) a variant of fascism; instead, it is "liberalism in a hurry."

Present-day liberals ignore the fervent anti-communism that is part of the liberal tradition and the tradition of the Democratic Party. For example, Gary Hart and his contemporaries on the left tell us that the cause of revolution "isn't communism; it's poverty."

Contrast that view with the ideas expressed by John F. Kennedy. JFK believed that the U.S. had a responsibility to alleviate human suffering in poor nations, but he had no illusions that poverty was the cause of communist insurrection. "The enemy is the communist system itself — implacable, insatiable, unceasing in its drive for world domination," Kennedy said. "For this is not a struggle for the supremacy of arms alone — it is also a struggle for supremacy between two competing ideologies: Freedom under God versus ruthless, godless tyranny."

The late George Meany, president of the AFL-CIO, wrote in 1975, "The 'domino theory' is supposedly out of fashion. But events are reasserting it with a

vengeance. We see before our horrified eyes plain and simple proof that the fate of the Western world rests on a series of interlocking alliances and relationships which cannot be damaged at one point without weakening the whole chain...Everywhere, communism is on the march. Everywhere, the West is in retreat. Such are the fruits, the bitter fruits, of detente."

Attacking President Carter's SALT II treaty, the late Senator Henry Jackson (D-Washington), former national chairman of the Democratic Party, said, "To enter into a treaty that favors the Soviets, as this one does, on the ground that we will be in a worse position without it, is appeasement in its purest form." How many liberal Democrats today can you imagine using anti-communist language like that used by Kennedy, Meany, and Jackson?

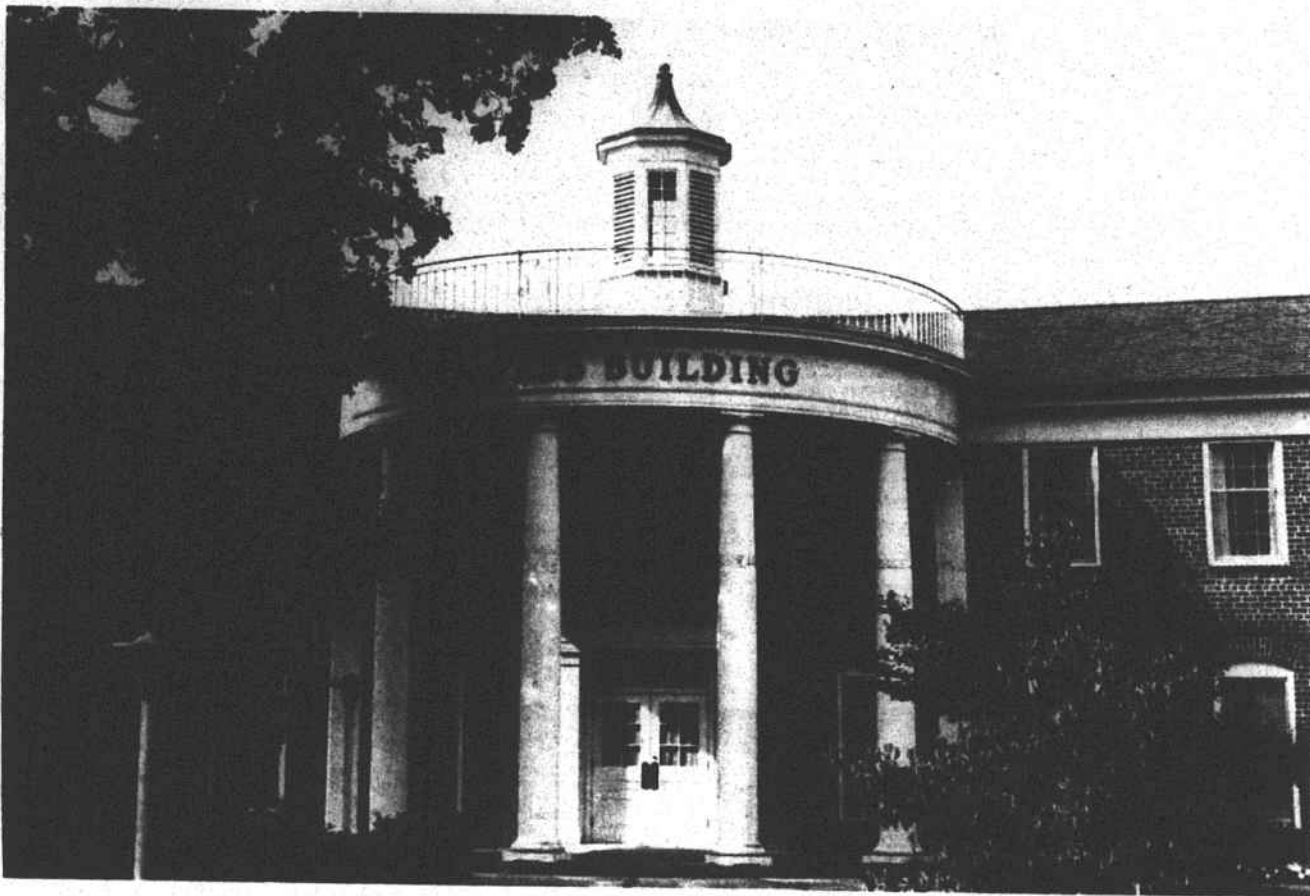
Today's liberal Democrats bristle at any accusation that they are "soft on communism." They consider the suggestion to be "McCarthyism" and they proceed to attack the character of anyone who dares say such a thing. But a person can be soft on communism — blind to the threat it poses, ignorant of its brutality — without being a communist. The proper response to the charge of being soft on communism would be to disprove it, not to engage in name-calling.

Want to see a liberal Democratic Congressman start stammering and puffing and turning red in the face? Just ask him this question: In the long twilight struggle against communism described by John F. Kennedy, between "Freedom under God" and "ruthless, godless tyranny" — whose side are you on?



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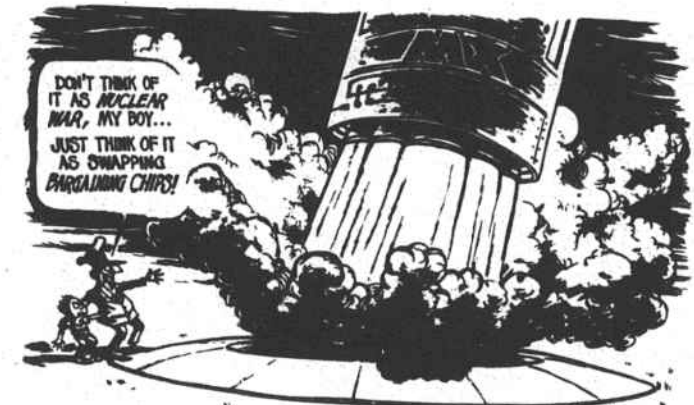
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Finger pointing not solving America's deficit problems

By John Sledge

N.C. Farm Bureau Federation
 Accusations are flying as Congress and government officials try to place the blame for the incredible federal deficit on anyone and everybody — except themselves.

Actually, a lot of people can be blamed, including Congress, past administrations — and the American public. Those who, over the years, have demanded and expected more and more from government and less from themselves have placed politicians in a position to promise everything to everybody in order to be elected. And, we've elected them.

There is, of course, a lot of waste in the government itself. Voters can't be blamed for that, unless we can be faulted for electing and reelecting the careless spenders.

We didn't acquire the astronomical federal deficit we have today overnight. It's been

building for many years, but there was little public outcry until the figures reached proportions that astounded us.

Everybody agrees that something must be done and it is up to us as taxpayers and voters to elect candidates who take the federal deficit seriously and are willing to do something about it.

Certainly, it will take political courage to squarely address the deficit problem during this election year, but candidates who muster up that courage will be rewarded with broad public support. When farmers and other business people, and those pursuing the American dream of owning their own home, find themselves priced out of the credit market by a competing force like the federal government, they'll use the one weapon they have to fight back — their votes.

Politicians would do well to recognize that.

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