

Statement - For the Record
Hon. Hayes Gahagan
Aroostook County
August 9, 2008

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Republican State Committee

Before I make a motion in support of a Resolution for American Energy Independence, with your permission I would like to make a statement to clear the air on a couple of items that are still swirling around the Internet and apparently are still on the minds of some folks here in Maine.

Thirty years ago, after having served as a Republican in the Maine House (Caribou) and the Maine Senate (Aroostook County), I believed that the Republican Party was drifting to the left and was in fact moving away from my core beliefs and values. With all the passion and vigor of youth, I initiated a campaign for national office as an Independent Conservative, breaking away from my family's multi-generational involvement in the Republican Party. Before I was old enough to vote, I can remember campaigning with my parents for Barry Goldwater. I still have one of Goldwater's "In Your Heart You Know He's Right" banners hanging in our barn at the family farm.

My independent campaign was based on the principles and ideals of limited government, free market enterprise, individual rights, individual accountability, pro-life, pro-family, a strong national defense, reduced government spending and taxation, the flat tax, nuclear power, English as a national language, opposition to hyphenated-Americanism, and a special opposition to what was then known as the Indian Land Claims Settlements as being racist, due to the separation of a class of individuals under a "trustee" relationship with the U.S. Department of the Interior, individuals who should have been fully integrated as citizens of the United States of America with full individual rights and responsibilities.

I received about 7 percent of the vote but learned some important life lessons in the process that I would like to briefly share to set the record straight should there be future inquiries in these matters and for the benefit of some who may be just starting out in the politics of life.

My wife, Linda, and I had married while I was a member of the Maine House. Two years later, only a few days before I was sworn in as a Maine Senator, Linda gave birth to our first child. It was great fun that first day of the 107th Maine Legislature. As a non-smoker, I celebrated the birth of our first son by giving away bubble gum cigars. Many of our distinguished legislators were photographed as they competed to see who could blow the biggest bubble; this non-smoking celebration was covered by state and national news services.

As a young father, it did not take long for me to realize that although I had an instruction manual for my car, my stereo and every appliance we owned, we had no instruction manual on how to raise a child. Linda was a graduate student at the University of Maine in Orono at the time. She had been brought up as a Christian Scientist; I had been brought up as a Republican and had little if any spiritual grounding.

We began visiting essentially all of the religious organizations on campus and in the local community, including Catholic, Protestant, and even something called the Urantia Foundation. What we eventually found was a student Bible-teaching fellowship right on campus. A young Republican friend of mine from Caribou, a student at UMO, invited us to attend. The fellowship was basically a group of young Christians who were actually excited and enthusiastic about reading and studying this Book they called the Word of God, the Bible. It did not take long for us to see the light; we had found our instruction manual for raising children – and for life. Linda and I became Christians.

What happened soon after our personal conversion to Christianity has become perhaps an interesting sentence in Maine political history. Without going into more detail at this time, it would be correct to say I found out first hand that politics and religion is a volatile mix and can be hazardous to your health. For any of you old enough to care to remember or any who may be tracking this kind of stuff on the Internet, I have not had any association with The Way Biblical Research and Teaching Ministry since 1978; this was an organization whose members supported my campaign and several others during that election cycle. This is very old news but it continues to pop up. As a former candidate, I can only suggest that some endorsements are better than others – although I doubt there would have been as much hoorah had I come out of the closet as a gay globally-warmed Darwinian Democrat instead of coming out as a straight-up, politically incorrect, God-fearing, traditional conservative Republican.

After experiencing the thrill of state-wide rejection and defeat and with the birth of our second child, we were able to get out from under the bus and renew our strength in the Mid-West where I worked and where three of our five children were born. After 11 years, we returned to Maine. Linda is from the Portland area. We lived in North Sebago, registered to vote, enrolled in the Republican Party and served on the Cumberland County Republican Committee. A few Cumberland County Republicans actually remembered me and joked about all the political and religious sparks that had flown around my campaign for national office. They were (and I expect still are) a very friendly and encouraging group. In 1997, we moved back to Aroostook County where I'm currently involved in private sector development of a combined heat and power facility at the former Loring Air Force Base.

I've served Aroostook County on the Republican State Committee for the past several years. Linda and I have been married for 35 years now; our four sons and baby daughter are all grown up; two of our sons are married; we have two grandchildren and at least one more grandchild due next year. Our children work for a living; they are all God-fearing Patriotic Americans who are pro-life, pro-free market, and pro-liberty.

But for the Internet and its ability to reach into lives and history with the potential to confirm good or inflict evil, I would not be sharing any of this personal history or making this statement for the record today. Thank you again for your indulgence.

A few weeks ago, at our Republican State Convention, I was nominated for the position of Republican National Committeeman. Surprisingly, I received 42% of the vote and was greatly encouraged that as a prodigal son of sorts, I and the traditional conservative message I had presented just might be on our way back from the political graveyard to become part of the rebirth of the Republican Party of Maine along traditional conservative lines.

With the benefit of considerable experience and hindsight, I can say today that it was a mistake for me to leave the Republican Party to run as an Independent Conservative as former Governor Jim Longley had done so many years ago. The Internet still carries some wild and crazy stories from those days. What I should have done was to present my case for a return to basic Republican principles and values in a primary election, fully prepared to stand or fall based on the vote of my fellow Republicans.

We are fundamentally and should continue to be a two-party system. The wisdom of the two-party system is that one party will win with 51% of the vote. Third Parties and minority multi-party coalitions where extremists can gain inordinate control over public policy can be dangerous to a Free Republic.

In this election cycle, I was a Romney supporter through the primary process. I will support the Republican Party candidate for President.

Which leads me back to the Internet:

I was asked to be the Aroostook County co-Chair for McCain for President. In the name of Party Unity, I agreed to think about it. Before anything became official, the McCain organization decided that I would be too "controversial" to serve in this capacity and withdrew their invitation. And that's absolutely okay with me. Out of curiosity, I asked what the basis was for their decision and they were kind enough to respond with links to the Internet. The McCain campaign response to Internet links they found to be "controversial" is why I believe it's important to be making this statement today -- if only for the benefit of others who would dare to enter the political arena:

1. Controversy #1: Subliminal Advertising. For those who may not know what subliminal advertising is, it is defined as “concealed appeal to consumers' unconscious awareness to buy product.” During my campaign for national office an issue was raised involving accusations of the use of subliminal advertising in my campaign literature. To this day, I have no idea who did this or why they did it. Here’s a statement I made about subliminal advertising that appears on most of the Internet sites that still carry this 25 year old story:

Someone brought the article “When Crazy Candidates Attack” to my attention. This was certainly a blast from the distant past. The use of subliminal advertising was barely a topic of interest when I learned about it during the 1978 Senate Campaign. I also learned too late that it would have been better not to mention it at all. My thinking at the time was that it could have been a set-up whereby someone else could have discovered subliminals and accused me of using them in my campaign literature. As a “conservative” candidate I could have been perceived as being guilty of using Nixonian-type dirty tricks. As it turned out, it was a no-win situation. Being up-front about such a bizarre occurrence was unwise. There was a TV reporter in Southern Maine, John Donvan, who actually confirmed subliminal implants in the campaign literature but by then the damage had been done.

That’s McCain Controversy #1. Do you believe this is even close to being relevant today? I say no.

2. Controversy #2 - Bangor Daily News Article: I wrote a guest editorial for the Bangor Daily News that appeared May 7, 2008 titled “The Unifying Principles of Republicans”. In this article, I wrote the following:

The Republican Party is fundamentally a party of principle; it is grounded in the universal principles of individual rights, individual liberty and accountability, and opposition to nanny-government and all the well-meaning ideas of National Socialism that ultimately lead to tyranny.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to include a copy of this article from the Bangor Daily News as part of this record.

This guest editorial sparked some healthy discussion around the assertion that the Democratic Party has been hijacked by National Socialists. This was of concern to the McCain organization. I believe the McCain concern over Controversy #2 is worth a closer look in the context of the battle of ideas that will determine who will become the next President of the United States.

The assertion that the Democratic Party has been hijacked by National Socialists is not original. That the American Socialist Party has been hiding under the Democratic Party tent came in part from the 2007 book, *Liberal Fascism - the Secret History of the American Left from Mussolini to the Politics of Meaning* by Jonah Goldberg, a columnist for the Los Angeles Times and contributing editor to National Review and USA Today. On the cover of Goldberg's book is a yellow smiley face with an extra feature none would fail to recognize.

Here are excerpts from the cover leaf of this provocative book:

... Jonah Goldberg reminds us that the original fascists were really on the left, and that liberals from Woodrow Wilson to FDR to Hillary Clinton have advocated policies and principles remarkably similar to those of Hitler's National Socialism and Mussolini's Fascism.

...Contrary to what most people think, the Nazi's were ardent socialists (hence the term "National Socialism"). They believed in free health care and guaranteed jobs. They confiscated inherited wealth and spent vast sums on public education. They purged the church from public policy, promoted a new form of pagan spirituality, and inserted the state into every nook and cranny of daily life. The Nazis declared war on smoking, supported abortion, euthanasia, and gun control. They loathed the free market, provided pensions for the elderly, and maintained a strict racial quota system in their universities - where campus speech codes were all the rage. The Nazis led the world in organic farming and alternative medicine. Hitler was a strict vegetarian and Himmler was an animal rights activist.

...Do these striking parallels mean that today's liberals are genocidal maniacs, intent on conquering the world and imposing a new racial order? Not at all. Yet it is hard to deny that modern Progressivism and classical fascism shared the same intellectual roots. We often forget for example, that Mussolini and Hitler had many admirers in the United States. W.E.B. DuBois was inspired by Hitler's Germany, and Irving Berlin praised Mussolini in song. Many fascist tenants were espoused by American progressives like John Dewey and Woodrow Wilson, and FDR incorporated fascist policies in the New Deal... (end of quote)

Unlike Germany, where fascism appeared as genocidal racist nationalism, Goldberg suggests that fascism in America has taken on a "friendlier," more liberal form. The modern heirs of this "friendly fascist" tradition include the New York Times, the Democratic Party, the Ivy League professoriate, national higher education, and the liberals of Hollywood.

Liberal Fascism is a good read; it provides a history lesson we should not miss regarding a period of our history we should not repeat. From history, we learn that change is not always for the better.

And that's McCain Controversy #2. Do you believe this is a relevant issue today? I say Yes.

Again, I'm perfectly okay with not being a co-Chair for McCain for President. What I am concerned about is what the McCain organization considers to be controversial and why they appear to want to step away from Controversy #2, instead of actively embracing it and effectively using the warmed over nanny-government god-state ideas resurrected from the failed "Great Society" programs of the 60's to soundly defeat the Democratic candidate, who is nothing more or less than the new political Messiah of nothing less than the global welfare state. Do you agree?

My intent today is that this statement may be helpful, perhaps insightful, while at the same time providing a record for future inquiry. This statement may also serve as somewhat of a testimony for any who may care about these matters of personal and political integrity that have been so important to me as well as my family and friends for so many years.

In summary, and for what it may be worth to anyone who has the ears to hear here's what I've learned:

1. Work within the Republican Party. Don't be discouraged if it is not all you expect it to be at this time. Trust that you will find others who share the beliefs and values upon which this Grand Old Party was formed. Work to reform it from within; do not abandon it; be patient, tolerant and respectful of differing opinions. Over time, trust that the principles of limited government, individual rights and free markets will again prevail. I believe a 42% vote in favor of traditional conservative Republican values at our State Convention is indication there is hope for a Conservative Reformation within the Republican Party of Maine.
2. Do not back down from what you believe to be true. While being tolerant of differing opinions, do not compromise your principles or your values in the name of political correctness or based on public opinion polls.
3. Participate in the political process. Don't stay home. Become a candidate for public office. Support a candidate for public office. Enroll in one of the two major political parties. Vote. Encourage your friends and neighbors to do the same, regardless of their political affiliation.
4. Study history so that we do not repeat our mistakes. Read Jonah Goldberg's *Liberal Fascism*, F. A. Hayek's *Road To Serfdom*, and *The Law* by Frederic Bastiat; read and study our U.S. Constitution; read and study the Bible – it's the ultimate current events publication and a whole lot more; check out Joel Rosenberg's perspective on the Middle East,

Human Events and Dick Morris on line and Glenn Beck on TV; keep your eye on Benjamin Netanyahu.

5. Pray for our nation and our leaders, regardless of their political affiliation. Pray for freedom for those who do not have it.
6. Think about McCain Controversy #2. Should the “controversial” issue about the wisdom of our move to a nanny god-state and its negative effects on energy independence, our economy and personal freedom be at the epicenter of political debate during a Presidential election year? Should the Republican Party stand for what it stands for? Should we expect our candidates for public office and their campaign organizations to consistently and aggressively articulate Republican principles and values?

While the Democratic Party has every right to express their opinions and to offer their solutions, for me and I suspect for all of you here today there’s no question that the Republican Party has the right solutions for American energy independence, our economy, our environment, and for the long-term safety and security of our families. We will not win anything, we don’t deserve to win anything if we sacrifice or compromise our core principles and values because we believe it’s what we must do to win elections. We will not win anything if we stand for nothing. At the moment, we the people simply require our candidates for public office to stand for the fundamental principles and ideals of our Free Republic, principles and ideals that have drawn so many of us to the Republican Party. That’s how we’ll all win in the end.

Thank you again for your time and attention and for allowing me to put these comments on the record.

Mr. Chairman, I would now like to move acceptance of the Resolution In Support of American Energy Independence. I would also like to thank Bill Chapman from Knox County for his help in drafting this Resolution as well as Peggy Matthews from Androscoggin County, Betty Bowers from Penobscot County, Janice Eldridge from Hancock County and of course Zak Smith from Aroostook County for co-sponsoring this Resolution. If there are others here today who are also co-sponsors, please stand now and be recognized. Thank you all.

It's time for the Republican Party of Maine and for all Americans to JUST SAY YES! to American Energy Independence.

If John McCain expects to win the Office of President of the United States, he will need to JUST SAY YES! to American Energy Independence.

If the following Republican candidates expect to win their elections this year and haven't said so already:

Susan Collins should JUST SAY YES! to American Energy Independence.
Charlie Summers should JUST SAY YES! to American Energy Independence.
John Frary should JUST SAY YES! to American Energy Independence.

Olympia Snowe should also get this message and -- JUST SAY YES! to American Energy Independence.

We seriously want and need to be voting for Republican candidates and supporting Republican office-holders for what they stand FOR rather than just the fact they're Not Enrolled Democrats.

For Republicans to re-capture the Blaine House, the Maine Senate and the Maine House, our Republican candidates will need to JUST SAY YES! to American Energy Independence -- by actively and aggressively supporting the development of multiple energy resources in the State of Maine and our nation.

American Energy Independence is the key political and economic issue of our day and time. Our individual rights and in many respects our freedom and independence as a nation will depend on how we tackle The Big E – Energy.

Fundamentally, we have two choices:

1. The Democratic Option: Nanny-Government! More government intervention and control over our economy and our lives; more taxation, more government spending, more regulation, more global warnings, leading to more nationalistic- socialistic central control and planning. History demonstrates that this warmed-over god-state option doesn't work and eventually leads to tyranny.
2. The Republican Option: America First! American Energy Independence by 2020. Limited government, free market enterprise, individual initiative. History demonstrates that an America unshackled from the tyrannical chains of government intervention and control, can and will rise up and respond with multiple solutions to this government-created national energy crisis -- without sacrificing our environment. Let Americans do what Americans can and must do for themselves. Drill Here! - Drill Now! Let us commit today to turn this Thunder on the Right into a full blown electrical storm!

May this Resolution put Republican candidates as well as Republican office-holders on notice that we the people of the Republican Party of Maine Just Say Yes! to American Energy Independence.

Thank you again for your time and attention.