



CONGRESSMAN

John J. Duncan, Jr.

Washington Report



Second District—Tennessee

August 2016

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

✓ **District Growth**

East Tennessee, for many years, has been the most popular part of the State, so the Congressional districts keep shifting slowly East. After the 2010 census, the Second District lost McMinn and Monroe counties and the Seymour and Kodak areas of Sevier County. The District is now composed of Blount, Claiborne, Grainger, Knox, and Loudon counties, 80% of Jefferson County, (all except the area around White Pine) and 12% of Campbell County (five precincts in and around Jellico). The 2010 population of each district was a little over 707,000. Now, a very conservative estimate for the Second District is approximately 750,000, not counting several thousand students whose hometowns are in other districts. I read a few years ago that two-thirds of the counties in the US are losing population as people continue to move out of high-tax states and small towns and rural areas that are not close to popular urban areas such as Nashville and Knoxville.

✓ **High Taxes**

The high-tax states are killing themselves. New York had 41 members of the U.S. House in the 1970's. Now it has 27. Since the House is based on population, this means if New York had had just the average growth of other states, it would have about 10 million more people and 14 more Congressmen or Congresswomen. Almost every week since I have been in Congress, I have had someone tell me that when their property taxes reached a very high level in some other state it was time to get out. A Congressman from New Jersey told me last year that his property taxes on a 2800 square foot home were \$13,000 and they have a state income tax on top of that. We now have two

former members of Congress living in our District, and two more are moving to Tennessee at the end of this year, one near Dandridge and one near Sparta.

✓ **Water Crisis**

When taxes get too high, upper income people move out first, then middle income, and businesses (and jobs) go, too. Cities end up with a very low tax base. Flint has lost almost half its population since the 1970's. Pressures are greatest to pay teachers and police officers first, and the water infrastructure is often out of sight, out of mind. There are potential Flints all over the northeast and midwest, where high taxes have forced or at least have given a strong incentive for people to leave. Galesburg, IL recently had to tell its people to drink only bottled water. The federal government is sending big money to Flint because of all the publicity. And Galesburg received several million to help out. But it is not fair to the people of Tennessee and other fiscally conservative, low-tax states to have to bail out every high tax state, city, or county all over the U.S.

✓ **Clean Water**

To have an official caucus in the Congress, there must be a Co-Chair from each party. I serve as the Republican Chair of the clean water Caucus. I served as Chairman of the Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee for six years (the maximum allowed) from January 2001 of January of 2007. During that time, we passed two Water Resource and Development acts, the major legislation dealing with the Nation's water infrastructure, on a bipartisan basis. As you can understand, I have great interest in this area. Clean water is a blessing that we too often take for granted in this Country. I am the main sponsor

of a bill titled the Sustainable Water Infrastructure Improvement Act and the lead Republican sponsor on the Water Infrastructure Trust Fund Act. The first bill would allow an increase in investments in private bonds for water infrastructure. The second would allow businesses which make significant contributions to a water infrastructure trust fund to place labels on their products telling of their commitment to clean water.

✓ **Pat Head Summitt**

Tennessee lost one of its greatest citizens when Coach Pat Head Summitt passed away. She led her teams to 1,098 wins, eight national titles, 16 SEC championships, and was named national coach of the year an amazing seven times. I had the privilege of being with her in Washington when she received the top award of the National Alzheimer's Association and being with her at the White House when she was presented with a Presidential Medal of Freedom to go along with her Olympic Gold medal. Twice she invited me to be an honorary assistant coach and I got to see her in action close-up as she gave a halftime talk in a very close game. In my mind, two of her greatest accomplishments were being an outstanding mother to her son, Tyler, and inspiring her recruits to a 100% graduation rate. I paid tribute to her once again on the House floor on July 13, the day before the celebration of her life at U.T. She was a great role model for young women—and really for everyone—and this nation is a better place because of the life she led.

✓ **Fair Trade**

The latest figures from the World Bank show that the U.S. with only four percent of the world's population buys a little over 22% of the world's

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goods. We use to buy about 25% but there is a little more competition as several socialist countries have been allowing some free enterprise and our economy keeps getting even more regulated. Because of American prosperity, every country desperately wants access to our markets. We have tremendous leverage on the trade that we have not used and have lost millions of good jobs in the process. We also have run up trillions in trade deficits over the years. It does not require a trade war to insist on more fairness in our trade negotiations. The Chinese would certainly not accept a trade deficit like we have with them. We need to tell every country that we want to trade and do business with them but they need to find products they can buy from us too. This cannot happen overnight, but our negotiators need to make it clear that we have to have more balance in our trade with other nations so we do not keep losing so many good jobs.

✓ **Little Guy**

Liberals are very quick to proclaim that they are for the little guy and that they have more compassion than conservatives. Yet almost every federal program, even though well intended, ends up helping extremely big business, big government contractors, and those who manipulate the system. Little guys and small businesses often get hurt or get just the crumbs. Costs simply explode on anything the federal government subsidizes because most of the pressures or incentives to hold down costs are removed. I have frequently pointed out that both medical care and college tuition were cheap and affordable by almost everyone before the federal government started "helping out" in such a big way. Now, only multi-millionaires can afford a major illness and students are left holding the bag on one trillion, four hundred billion in student loan debt. The News-Sentinel reported that according to the non-profit College Board, the increase over five years at UT-Knoxville was the "highest rate among flagship public universities in the country." A very tiny percentage have gotten rich or very high incomes off these programs, but the overwhelming majority have suffered economically.

✓ **Siren Song**

In Greek mythology, a siren song was one by beautiful women who would lure ship captains to pilot their boats on to rocky shoals to wreck so they could be plundered. I have been saddened by watching thousands of young people seemingly being fooled by the siren song (false promises) of socialism. The Congress needs to realize that promises of "free" college and other things always make the subsidized item much more expensive. Russia and its satellite countries formed the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) and socialism resulted in a poverty existence for all but the top one or two percent. Fox News reported recently that the average Cuban (not those at the top, of course) made \$24 a month. Venezuela, with more oil than Saudi Arabia, is so messed up little children cannot get food and medicine. The New York Times reported from Venezuela on May 15: "The day had begun with the usual hazards: chronic shortages of antibiotics, intravenous solutions, even food. Then a blackout swept over the city, shutting down the respirators in the maternity ward... By nightfall, four more newborns had died." That is what socialism does for people. It is good for a few elites at the top but very, very bad for everyone else.

✓ **Socialist Goals**

In his book *Socialism*, the late Ludwig von Mises wrote that socialists always had two main goals: nationalizing as much industry as possible and slowly decreasing private ownership of property. This is in part why I have always voted in favor of private ownership and against allowing the government to take even more property. Writing about this in a recent column, Loyola University economics professor Thomas DiLorenzo added: "The proponents of totalitarian government control, whether they call themselves socialists, or something else, have always attacked decentralization, states rights, federalism, and all other means of devolution of power in society. Adolph Hitler bemoaned 'the struggle between federalism and states rights' and promised that the Nazis 'would totally eliminate states rights altogether'."

✓ **Great Column**

I had intended to write something about how the Dodd-Frank legislation had driven several hundred small

financial institutions out of business. This was a bill passed in 2010, supposedly an effort by liberals in Congress to get back at the big banks and Wall Street firms that led us into the last recession. However, Dr. Harold Black wrote a column published in the Knoxville News-Sentinel on July 3, which explained this far better than I could have. Dr. Black is a highly respected professor emeritus of finance at U.T. He called the Dodd-Frank law and the Affordable Care Act "two of the most harmful pieces of legislation in (his) lifetime." He wrote that those "who pushed ACA were more intent on the government taking over the health insurance industry than in providing improved healthcare to low and moderate income households." He pointed out that millions "have lost their doctors and seen their health care premiums soar" due to that bill. As for Dodd-Frank causing hundreds of small banks and credit unions to close, Dr. Black wrote that "the irony of Dodd-Frank is that bank consolidation has increased, making the economy more vulnerable to large bank failures" and has "slowed economic recovery...." I hope you will read the full column on my website.

✓ **Tax Reform**

In my July 2015 newsletter, I had an article about a 60 Minutes story on a federal tax refund scam. The reporter said it is "impossible to over-estimate the incompetency of the federal bureaucracy." On July 5 the Washington Post reported a Government Accountability Office (GAO) study showing the IRS paid out at least \$3.1 billion in bogus tax refunds in 2014. The GAO said this was a lowball estimate because "the IRS might have been beaten an unknown number of times for an undetermined amount of money by undetected cheating." What we really need to do is to greatly simplify our tax code by going to a version of the Fair Tax with a rebate for those with low incomes, or some type of flat tax. Right now we spend more than \$250 billion a year on tax preparation costs and lose a similar amount to people working off the books and not reporting income. However, major tax reform has not been accomplished since 1986 because too many special interests benefit from the current complicated tax code we now have. While many polls have shown that at least 80% of the people want major tax simplifica-

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tion, only 73 members of the House, including me, have co-sponsored the Fair Tax bill.

✓ **Cashless Society**

Many Tennesseans were disappointed by the Treasury Department decision to replace the picture of Andrew Jackson with one of Harriet Tubman. The Congress could have voted to have the bills printed half with his picture and half with hers. However, we were told that the average bill remains in circulation for only seven years, and many people believe we are moving very quickly toward a cashless society anyway. Going cashless on a voluntary basis is one thing, but being ordered to by the federal government or forced to by big business is another. I am very opposed to forcing people to go cashless. It would be another blow to the very little privacy we now have. Also, I think it really would be better if we went in the opposite direction. People and families would get in much less financial trouble if they had to pull out cash every time they made a purchase. It is simply too easy to spend when using a little card.

✓ **Endless War**

If we spent the entire federal budget on the Middle East, we could not solve all the problems there or end all the civil wars between the Shia and the Sunni Sects. That fighting has gone on almost throughout history. This is why I have consistently voted to bring our troops home. Stephen M. Walt, a professor of international relations at Harvard, wrote a recent article for *Foreign Policy Magazine* about promoting democracy: "What doesn't work is military intervention (aka 'foreign imposed regime change'). The idea that the United States could march in, depose the despot-in-chief and his henchmen, write a new constitution, hold a few elections, and produce a stable democracy – presto! – was always delusional, but an awful lot of smart people bought this idea despite the abundant evidence against it." I agreed with President Reagan who said you should never go to war if there was any other reasonable alternative and then only as a last resort, but if forced to, go in with enough force to get it over with. Wars should not be dragged out year after year just to justify increased appropriations for the Defense Department and continued profits for defense contractors.

✓ **Anti-War President**

It is ironic that probably the most anti-war President in the last 100 years was the only one who spent his career in the military. President Eisenhower did not have to prove he was tough or some great military leader and he knew firsthand the horrors of war. President Eisenhower's views have greatly influenced my votes on defense bills in the House. Too many of our top leaders want to prove they are not weak and that they are modern day Winston Churchills. Former Secretary of State Madeline Albright once said "What's the point of having this superb military if we can't use it." This is why our founding fathers opposed having a permanent standing army because it would be too tempting to get into wars. Also, some of our top officers have said we are spending too much of the military budget on salaries, pensions, and benefits. Eisenhower once said we had too many officers when we had nine enlisted members for each officer. In Scott Berg's new biography of Woodrow Wilson, it says that just before World War I, our Army had 30 enlisted for each officer. Now we have four and a half officers for each enlisted person and have become top heavy with admirals and generals. Once, when told he could not cut the defense budget, Eisenhower said if he gave another star to every general who cut his budget, there would be "such a rush to cut costs you'll have to get out of the way."

✓ **Easiest Job**

I use to think the air marshal job must be about the easiest, most useless job in the federal government, just flying back and forth as a passenger on commercial airplanes. *U.S.A. Today* once reported that more air marshals had been arrested than arrests by air marshals. However, I now think the softest job may be guarding and taking care of the prisoners at Guantanamo. I became concerned about this a couple of years ago when I read a front-page story in the *Washington Times* saying it was costing 2.1 million a year per prisoner to keep them there, and we were giving them special food, horticulture and computer classes, exercise facilities, library books, and on and on. Now, it has gotten even more expensive. I received a letter in June from the Defense Department saying we spent \$450 million in Fiscal Year 2015 in support of

what is called the Guantanamo Bay Detention Mission. As of June 1, there were only 80 detainees with approximately 2,000 military, civilian, and contractor personnel assigned to this job. I have voted to close Guantanamo, because I think we should stop giving these prisoners such luxurious treatment and send them instead to the worst prison in the U.S.

✓ **Federal Contracts**

Federal contracts are considered to be the most lucrative, most profitable contracts in the world today. That is why six of the ten wealthiest counties in the U.S. are suburban to Washington, D.C. Unfortunately, the federal bureaucracy is so wasteful and inefficient that usually private contractors charging high rates can still do things more cheaply and efficiently and at higher quality than the government can. The number one concern of the first White House Conference on Small Business in 1955 was freedom from government competition, agencies doing things that could and should be done by the private sector. Many years ago, I introduced the first Freedom From Government Competition Act, and the Congress later passed a version of this bill, although not as strong as I would have liked. I recently testified at a hearing of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee on a bill that I have introduced to expand and update the earlier legislation that passed.

✓ **Powerful Lobbies**

Everyone who speaks out for or against any bill or issue or organization could be called a lobbyist. There is nothing wrong with a citizen who cares deeply about something to talk to or contact a legislator about that. In fact, it is admirable. Almost everyone agrees that the most powerful lobbies before Congress today are those representing Israel, veterans, education, and healthcare. For example, groups supporting medical research are particularly strong and active. The power of lobbies favoring gun rights and oil companies is greatly exaggerated. They are very controversial and thus much less effective than the more powerful lobbies. The House of Representatives is often called the People's House because the requirement to run every other year ensures that members stay close to constituents if they want to

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stay in office. Because of the great cost of campaigns today long service in the House is slowly becoming a thing of the past. In fact, turnover in elective office is becoming higher with each election even without term limits. Almost 60% of the House is new since 2011.

✓ **Trade Deficit**

In 2015, the U.S. ran a trade deficit of \$529 billion. Peter Morici, an economist and professor at the University of Maryland, estimated in a column in the Washington Times that this deficit, “destroyed four million jobs that were not replaced by exports or jobs in supporting industries...” He added that “but for the trade deficits endured during the Bush and Obama years, the U.S. economy would be about 30 percent larger — and Americans that much richer — than today.” Many people have noted that China has tariffs almost three times higher than ours and that it has clearly and intentionally devalued its currency against the dollar to make its products cheaper in American stores. I voted against the World Trade Organization many years ago because I believed it weakened American sovereignty and would make it much more difficult for us to fight unfair trade practices. What is behind all these multi-national trade agreements is not some secret conspiracy. It is simply multi-national companies wanting to make it easier to market their products on a multi-nation or worldwide basis. But it would clearly be better for U.S. workers who want good jobs if we would negotiate separate American trade agreements with each country.

✓ **Free Speech**

Jason Riley is a *Wall Street Journal* Columnist, frequent television commentator, and an author who recently wrote that he wished liberals would stop trying to “help” blacks because it makes it that much harder to succeed. He happens to be African-American. He was recently invited to speak at Virginia Tech and then had to join what columnist Thomas Sowell described as a long list of conservatives who have been “invited and then disinvited” to speak on a college campus. It is very hypocritical for those thousands of college students who will demonstrate in favor of diversity in race but then will loudly protest against diversity in thought

or opinion unless the proposed speaker has left-wing views. Some leftist attorneys general have even been threatening to prosecute people who question climate change. Conservatives are almost never invited to give commencement speeches at colleges which are attended by students from mostly wealthy or very upper income families due to the protests. It is disgusting to see these spoiled brats so angrily oppose the freedom of speech that so many young soldiers from lower income families have fought for and even died to defend.

✓ **Another Recession?**

Several economists have said we may already be headed for another recession, in part because there seems to be one about every eight or nine years. Also, it has frequently been written and said that the Country is in recession for about six months before people feel it and six months out of one before most realize it. Well after the fact, we learned that the last two quarters of 1992 had four percent growth, the highest in many years but of course there were signs and statements by many saying “It’s the economy, stupid,” because most people thought we were still in recession. From 1790 to 2000, the U.S. economy averaged GDP growth of 3.79 percent. During this administration the growth rate has averaged 2.2% and slightly less than 1.2% over the last three quarters. The longest previous streak of under three percent growth was during the Great Depression. The unemployment rate has gone down in the past because several million have stopped looking for work, and the labor participation rate is a very low 62.8%. Also, the Pew Research Center reported recently that for the first time in modern history, more 18 to 34-year-olds live with their parents than any other living arrangement.

✓ **Too Many Laws**

There are so many rules, regulations, and laws on the books today that no human being could even come close to knowing about or understanding all of them. Harvey Silverglate, a Boston lawyer educated at Princeton and Harvard, has written a new book. On the cover is the following: “The average professional in this country wakes up in the morning, goes to work, comes home, eats dinner, and then goes to sleep, unaware that he or she has likely committed several federal crimes that

day. Why? The answer lies in the very nature of modern federal criminal laws, which have exploded in number but also have become impossibly broad and vague.” The Code of Federal Regulations is now 178,277 pages long; the Federal Register 81,402 pages; and the US Tax Code is 73,954 pages. This does not even count all the state and local laws. An innocent mistake is not supposed to be criminal, but a zealous, publicity seeking prosecutor can make even the most innocent mistake look criminal.

✓ **Puerto Rico**

Under our Constitution, Congress has responsibility for all U.S. territories. Unfortunately, Puerto Rico had gone \$72 billion in debt and defaulted on a \$370 million payment due May 1. Another two billion became due on July 1. Some conservatives said we should do nothing, which would have led to a total collapse and most Puerto Ricans being forced to flee to mainland U.S. The National Resources Committee came up with a bill establishing a fiscal control board similar to ones set up in past years when New York City and Washington, D.C., had big fiscal problems, although not nearly as big as Puerto Rico’s. Grover Norquist, President of Americans for Tax Reform, and Tom Schatz, President of Citizens Against Government Waste, wrote a column for *National Review Magazine* supporting the bill. They said: “This bill is not a bailout. Zero taxpayer dollars will be spent in helping Puerto Rico out of its fiscal nightmare of debt. Without it, defaults will continue, litigation will mount, and basic humanitarian services will start to break down.” They said this bill was the only way to prevent a taxpayer bailout in the very near future. While many in Puerto Rico and some on the far left in the U.S. were opposed, fortunately a majority of Republicans and Democrats joined together to pass the bill by a vote of 297 to 123.

✓ **National Parks**

One of my committees recently held hearings about problems with the National Park Service and especially very serious ethical violations by its Director, Jonathan Jarvis. For years the Park Service has claimed a huge maintenance backlog. Years ago it was four billion, then six billion, then nine billion, and now they claim 12

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billion. This is all being done in an effort to keep getting increased appropriations, which they get every year. However, it is impossible to ever satisfy governments' appetite for money or land. They always want more. While I have strongly supported education, if this maintenance backlog is anywhere close to being accurate, it tells me the Park Service has hired too many people with degrees and not enough laborers – too many chiefs, not enough Indians. The Park Service now has over 22,000 employees. But much of the routine maintenance work is being done by its 221,000 volunteers. Everyone loves the national parks. But if it really has a \$12 billion dollar maintenance backlog that always keeps growing, then the Park Service is being badly mismanaged.

✓ **Police Shootings**

The senseless, random murders of five policemen in Dallas and three in Baton Rouge were terrible tragedies, and we should at least hope it serves as a wake-up call for the Nation. Our parents told my brother and sisters and me that we were not even to use the word "cops." They thought that was disrespectful, and we were to say "policemen." Our children need to be taught to respect law enforcement officers. Local police and sheriff's deputies need to be allowed to enforce the laws, or we will have chaos and big cities will become unsafe and almost unlivable. I know there is a tiny percentage of officers who are bad as there is in any large group. And everything looks easy from a distance. But our police and sheriff's deputies do a very difficult job, and we need demonstrations in favor of them and not against them. According to one Police website, only 12% of law enforcement officers shoot their guns at a suspect even once during their careers. They now have to go through such intensive investigations and criticisms if they fire their weapons that most police use them only if forced to. A bureau of justice study said that 93% of black homicide victims were killed by other blacks and 84% of white victims were killed by other whites.

✓ **Charity Scandal**

This Spring the two top executives of the Wounded Warrior charity were fired after investigators found that the organization had spent many millions on salaries, travels

to resort areas, and lavish parties for themselves and their staffers. Hundreds of millions had been donated to this group by unsuspecting contributors. One of my committees a few years ago held hearings on this problem. Most charities that have national media campaigns on TV or nationwide mailings are spending far too much on salaries, fundraising, and other expenses. People are far better off to contribute to local charities, churches, and colleges that they can actually visit or that they can be certain are doing good things in their communities or areas. It is best to question or at least be a little suspicious of organizations that run tearjerker ads and especially the ones that use little children or cute little animals to get money.

✓ **Government Medicine**

People in India have become so upset with their government run medical system they are resorting to violence according to a recent Washington Post story. The frustration is due to "rising costs and perceived decline in treatment." The Indian Medical Association said ¾ of their members have been verbally or physically abused, and 18 Indian states have passed laws since 2007 to protect doctors and healthcare workers. I have already heard an astounding number of complaints about the Affordable Care Act and the problems it has caused. The problems will grow worse with the passage of time if we do not make major changes. With our size (both in distance and population), our diversity, and our expectations, a totally government-run system will not work over the long haul. The American people do not need or want a Cuban/Russian type of medical system. The ACA may make things so bad

that people will demand that the government take it completely over. This will not work in a country like ours and would lead very quickly to declining quality, waiting periods, and delays, and all at much higher costs.

✓ **10,000,000 Jobs**

Stephen Moore, an economic analyst and commentator, wrote recently "What if, God forbid, these politicians and environmental groups actually prevail in shutting down American oil and gas development as they have done with coal?" He said that "direct and indirect jobs related to oil and gas stood at just under 10 million. These are truckers, construction workers, petroleum engineers, welders, pipefitters, geologists and many other hard hat workers. Many if not most are union members." He did not mention businesses which these workers shopped at or ate with. He added: "Incidentally, the oil and gas industry also pays tens of billions of dollars in tax revenue every year—so that flow would stop, too. If you are concerned about America losing high-paying manufacturing jobs, the left's anti-fossil fuels campaign would help finish off many of these middle class jobs..." Is it any wonder that we have ended up with the best educated waiters and waitresses in the world?

✓ **Minimum Wage**

In both 1996 and 2007 I voted to increase the minimum wage, but to raise it now to \$15.00 an hour would cause the loss of hundreds of thousands of jobs and the closing of thousands of small businesses. One study led by the former head of the Congressional Budget Office, Douglas Holtz-Eakin, was even more dire in its prediction.



At the 59th Annual AAA School Safety Patrol trip this year I once again had over 2,000 students as my guests at the Capitol. I hosted them on the floor of the House to tell them about my job, and I want to thank all the law enforcement officers, teachers, and others who helped chaperone. This is the first way I visited Washington as a 6th grader at Chilhowee School in East Knoxville.

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This report, for the Manhattan Institute in 2015, said a raise to \$12.00 an hour would cause a job loss of 3.8 million. The New York Times, which has always been a very liberal newspaper, had three editorials in the late 1980s opposing a much lower increase. The paper said at that time: "Raising the minimum wage by a substantial amount would price working poor people out of the job market." Actually, cities and states already have the right to increase their own minimum wages, and this is the way it should be done. A wage that might be acceptable in San Francisco or New York would be devastating in many small towns and rural areas.

✓ *Economic Independence*

In a recent column Pat Buchanan wrote that we use to have Presidents throughout history that "were patriots not globalists" who "knew that America's political independence required economic independence..." But over the last many years we have had leaders from both parties who "seized on a utopian belief that world government and free trade would be the salvation of mankind." As a result, we have lost 50,000 factories. He added: "Before the modern era, Americans never bought into it. But now our elites have. And, undeniably, there are beneficiaries to free trade. These are the owners, operators, and shareholders of companies who, to be rid of high-wage American labor, moved production to China or Mexico or where the costs are lower and regulations near non-existent... Consumers, too, at least initially, see more products down at the mall, selling at lower prices... But we are not simply consumers. We are Americans. We are

fellow citizens. We are neighbors. We have duties to one another. When a factory shuts down and a town begins to die, workers are laid off. The local tax base shrinks, education and social services are cut. Folks go on unemployment and food stamps. We all pay for that. Wives go to work and kids come home from school to empty houses, and families break up, and move away. Social disintegration follows. Creative destruction is the antiseptic term free traders use to describe what they have done and are doing to the America we grew up in."

✓ *Deceptive Votes*

No matter which Party is in control of the House, oftentimes the minority makes motions to recommit or offers amendments they know will not pass but are done for public relations reasons. Sometimes these are done primarily to embarrass the majority or make it look bad. Almost every week, in the newspaper, votes are listed without full explanations and people must wonder why in the world would anyone vote for or against that particular item. Sometimes it is because the measure is already in another section of the bill or is already being done by another department or agency. There are votes like this almost every day that we are in session, but one recent example was a motion to require reporting to the Security and Exchange commission certain contributions by corporations to 501(C)(4) social welfare organizations. I have always supported full disclosure reporting requirements, but this was already being done by another Commission. It is very wasteful, costly, and over-bureaucratic to require two different agencies or departments to do the exact same thing.

Constituent Days

Individual meetings

First Come first serve

Aug. 9th

**9am. Knox County @
South Knoxville Senior
Center**

**2pm. Blount County @
Blount County Library**

**6pm. Grainger County @
Grainger County High School**

Aug. 10th

**9am Jefferson County @
Jefferson City Community
Center**

**2pm Claiborne County @
Claiborne County Public
Library**

**6pm. Campbell County @
Jellico Public Library**

Aug. 11th

**9am Loudon County @
Loudon County Visitors
Bureau**

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