

Beach Cities Democratic Club



P.O. Box 2192, Redondo Beach, CA 90278

July, 2009

Next Meeting

Manhattan Bread and Bagel
1808 North Sepulveda Boulevard
Manhattan Beach
Wednesday, July 22
7:30 PM

Health care is the most important Obama program now pending, and it will be the focus of our July meeting. We are hoping to hear from Nancy Gomez of Health Access and may also have information from the Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry.

A Public Healthcare Option is now being considered in Congress. While the UULM-CA believes that a cost saving single-payer healthcare system is an important goal for true healthcare reform, these next two weeks are the critical moment to ensure that a robust public health insurance plan is part of the federal healthcare legislation currently under consideration.

"This is it, folks. The concrete is being mixed and about to be poured. And after it's poured and hardens, universal health care will be with us for years to come in whatever form it now takes. Let your representative and senators know you want a public option without conditions or triggers. Don't wait until the concrete hardens and we've lost this battle." - Robert Reich

DUES ARE PAYABLE

Club membership dues were due on June 1, \$25.00 per person or \$40.00 for two at the same address. Please bring your check to the meeting or mail it to P.O. Box 2192, Redondo Beach, CA 90278.

FDR Dinner Update

Don't miss the annual Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Dinner honoring the Democratic Men and Women of the Year from each assembly district. Our own honorees are Edna Murphy and Dency Nelson.

Date is Sunday, August 9 at 6:00 PM at the LAX Radisson Hotel.

Tickets are \$90.00 each and BCDC will pay half the cost of attendance for members. Contact Bobbi Buescher at 310-545-7890 or BobbiMB@aol.com to reserve your ticket.



Our Man in DC—Look carefully and you will see our former club president Lee Fink, sixth from the right, top row.

BEACH CITIES GREEN

By Dency Nelson

Since last month's newsletter, three events have occurred that in concert could give a major boost to the fight to contain climate change: (1) the Obama Administration awarded auto loans for advanced technologies to Ford, Nissan, and Tesla Motors; (2) the Markey-Waxman American Clean Energy and Security Act was passed in the House of Representatives; and (3) the EPA ruled that California has the right to demand



higher fuel efficiency standards for automobiles than those set forth at the Federal level (reversing the opinion of the Bush EPA).

The Markey-Waxman Bill passed the House by a margin of only 7 votes after being considerably watered down from its original version. It now faces a tough fight in the Senate, from senators for coal-producing and agricultural states, and has already been labeled by opponents as the 'biggest job-killing bill to have ever moved through Congress.' This huge misrepresentation of the facts calls to mind July 15, 1979, and the reaction to President Jimmy Carter's "malaise" speech (a word he never used in any of his speeches, by the way, though it was

(Continued on page 2)

(Green, continued from page 1)

attributed to him by all who wanted to bring him down).

Carter's speech basically warned us that we needed to "make a massive effort at conservation." The public's initial response was remarkably positive: Carter's approval ratings rose by 11%. But the memory we have of that speech is the message reworked by his enemies—a reworking, one could argue, that led to the Reagan presidency, 30 years of further environmental damage, and the current collapse of confidence in our economy. We can't let the same thing happen again. Here is the real truth about the actions of the past month:

The \$5.9 billion in loans to Ford will help finance engineering advances to both traditional internal combustion and electrified vehicles and transfer nearly 35,000 employees to green engineering

and manufacturing jobs in 5 states. The \$465 million in loans to Tesla will advance the production and cost reduction of their Model S sedan and create 1,000 jobs in Southern California. The \$1.6 billion in loans to Nissan will help produce electric cars and battery packs at its manufacturing complex in Tennessee, up to 150,000 electric vehicles annually by as early as 2012, increasing up to 1300 new jobs when full production is reached. That's not to mention all of the ancillary production and employment created to support the manufacturing increases.

The EPA's ruling in favor of California will bolster the demand for clean, fuel-efficient vehicles, which in turn will increase the automobile companies' incentives to join the new, green economy envisioned by the Obama Administration. This promise will be fully

realized with the strengthening of the American Clean Energy and Security Act as it moves through the Senate.

To help achieve that promise, we must first thank our Representatives, including our Congresswoman, Jane Harman, for supporting the Bill. I suggest calling Harman's Environmental Deputy, Diane Moss, at 310-643-3636, to say thank you and to ask how best to get the bill improved and passed by the Senate. Next we can focus on key Senators—starting with Dianne Feinstein, who may need some pressure from us to fully support the strongest Clean Energy Act possible.

Leave your most impassioned message at her Washington Office, 202-224-3841. Let's carry the "energy" we used to elect President Obama into this fight to help him achieve one of his most important campaign promises.

Monroe's Ruminations

Monroe Weinstock

My Mom always told me not to be a GOLEM. A Golem is a Jewish mythical animated creature, created from dirt. The Golem was invented to offer the Jews a protector against evil. But the Golem could only do what it was directed to do, & it had no will or mind of its own.

Let me now address our own American Golem....created by Hollywood, nurtured by grade B movies, educated by a major electrical appliance manufacturer, and protected by an adoring movie actress wife #2 and a cabal of Neanderthal economic thinkers of the far right, consumed by the need to lower taxes. I mean.... Ronald Reagan President #40.

Reagan was a so-so actor & generally the second lead. Before his political career, he was the commercial spokesman for the General Electric Co.. It was then that he received his education, making speeches to promote ultra-



conservative logic. As Governor of California, he had a record with little substance. However, he had already aligned his thinking with the infamous Senator Joe McCarthy, and testified & cooperated with the equally infamous House UnAmerican Activities Committee.

There are some who think him be to a bold, transforming, tax-reducing, anti-communist leader. In truth, the Red Empire collapsed of its own weight & ineptitude. He created Reaganomics, called Voodoo by Bush (41). He cut taxes sharply to stimulate the economy, but substantially increased military spending, thereby tripling our national debt. He advocated smaller government, yet expanded our bureaucracy. In his efforts to eradicate Communism, he became particularly attached to the Contras fighting the Communist Sandinistas in Nicaragua. He arranged to sell arms to Iran, violating an embargo, using the profits to help the Contras. IRAN/CONTRA was impeachable but he survived to earn the title of "TEFLON PRESIDENT."

His Reaganomics for a trickle down economy helped destroy a vital US

tax base. He managed to dismantle many public health institutions, he gutted environmental protections, and he substantially cut social spending. He frequently confused reality with film fantasies. Behind every man is a woman, & his woman was Nancy, who pulled all the possible GOLEM strings!!!

Call for Health Care!

The Governor has proposed a cuts-only budget that will close California's massive budget deficit by punishing children, the elderly and people with disabilities. Republican legislators must hear that their constituents want them to pass a common-sense plan that preserves the social safety net and the vital resources that our communities need. Call to let lawmakers know we are all watching and will hold them accountable!

Log in and call from home! Call Democratic activists in targeted red districts to ask them to call their lawmakers and deliver a message as a constituent. Visit www.cadem.org/callavoter for details.

June Recap

Budget, Health Care, Club Officers

In keeping with our goal to hear from all candidates running for Ted Lieu's assembly seat, this month we heard from Peter Thottam on his progressive campaign. Thottam is a local attorney from Venice/Mar Vista who has spent the bulk of his career engaged in anti-war, impeachment, and environmental causes. He said that Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Councilman Bill Rosendahl, and other notable progressives have called him the most grassroots "street" activist among all six candidates.

At one point in his career, Thottam left the Democratic Party in protest against the Iraq war. He has since rejoined and become an active part of the antiwar movement, believing that the Iraq invasion has deeply hurt America's standing in the world.

He is sharply critical of the budget impasse in Sacramento and said the Capitol is paralyzed by special interests. His priorities if elected would include job growth and equal pay; single payer health care; crime prevention and prison reform; public education, health care, and banking reform. His campaign has been endorsed by Dennis Kucinich, Cindy Sheehan, Ed Asner, Mark Ridley-Thomas, KPFC's Lila Garrett, and others. His campaign website is at peterthottam.com.

Tony Hale spoke about President Obama's Day of Health Care Service and announced some related events.

Next, we heard from Irving Pacheco, Ted Lieu's representative, who read from a proposal by Assembly Speaker Karen Bass on California's budget shortfall that provides a balanced approach, including real cuts, limited new revenues and other responsible



Mar Vista/Venice Attorney Peter Thottam (left) spoke on his activist campaign for Assembly in the 53rd AD. Right, Irving Pacheco from Ted Lieu's office gave an update on the budget stalemate.



solutions. In part, it read:

"We accept all of the Governor's realistic proposals, we protect the safety net and the real California families who depend on it, we prevent additional harmful cuts to education and we protect middle class families who are depending on Cal Grants for college in two months. In this budget there is shared pain all around. In the interests of fairness we are asking oil companies and voluntary users of tobacco products to share in that sacrifice."

Club Elections

June is the month we elect new club officers, but, in an unprecedented development, we were unable to come up with a full slate of members to fill all offices. We reelected Edna Murphy as Treasurer and elected our new member Sam Ingram as

Secretary; but the roles of President and Vice-President will be filled in an interim fashion. Tony Hale, who has previously served as vice-president, has agreed to serve in that capacity until a permanent replacement can be elected. For president, club members have agreed to serve on a rotating basis, one month at a time.

Our July meeting will be chaired by Lori Geittmann. Subsequent meetings will be chaired as follows:

August 26 – Moira Zucker
September 23 – Mark Drabkin
October 28 – Dency Nelson
November 18 – TBD*

*Note new date, third Wednesday instead of fourth.



P.O. Box 2192, Redondo Beach, CA 90278
 President (open)
 Vice-President (interim) Tony Hale—310-465-6188
 Treasurer Edna Murphy—310-545-6292
 Secretary Sam Ingram—310-977-4430
 Membership (open)
 Newsletter Moira Zucker—310-546-7562
 Moira Zucker—310-546-7562
 Database and mailing Moraz@alumni.reed.edu
 Steve Zucker—310-546-7562
 Web Manager James McGreevy—310-320-1638

Beach Cities Democratic Club



Beach Cities Democratic Club
Membership Form



Please Print

Name _____

I (we) understand that only registered Democrats, or those intending to register, may join the club.

Address _____

City _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Employer _____ Occupation _____

Distribution of the club newsletter via e-mail saves money. Check this box *only* if you would like to receive it by US mail.

I volunteer to:

Telephone
 Help with mailing
 Hospitality
 Write for newsletter

Register voters
 Programs
 Legislative
 Membership
 Other

Annual dues are \$25.00 per person or \$40.00 for two at the same address.

Please make checks payable to Beach Cities Democratic Club and mail to P.O. Box 2192, Redondo Beach, CA 90278