

FRANKING-LY SPEAKING DEPT.

Every year, your Congressman is given thousands of dollars for stationery and secretarial help. But if you write to him, all you ever get back is a two-sentence Form Letter thanking you for your opinion and promising to think about it sometime. So who needs a whole fleet of secretaries to say that? Suddenly curious as to what all those typists really do to use up all that stationery, MAD sneaked into a typical Congressman's office one night and checked out some of his more vital correspondence that few ever see and nobody ever talks about. Since your taxes helped pay for getting these letters written, we think you deserve to look at them too. So come join us for

A MAD GLANCE AT A CONGRESSMAN'S OUTGOING MAIL

WRITER: TOM KOCH

Rep. E. Ewing Swertman 83rd District, Ohio
U. S. House of Representatives • Washington, D.C.

General Manager
Washington Redskins Football Club, Inc.
Washington, D.C.

Oct. 24, 1973

Dear Fellow Sports Lover,

I am greatly sorrowed to discover that my personally signed request for six 50-yard line tickets to the upcoming Redskins-Dolphins game has been returned, together with a note stating that all seats have been sold.

I consider this most unfortunate, as I had hoped to convince myself through personal research that R.F.K. Stadium is being put to some use, and should not be demolished by Congressional order to make room for a Military Archives Warehouse. Now, it appears that I will have to rely on hearsay evidence that the Redskins do, in fact, use the stadium, and that it is not just standing there taking up needed space.

Therefore, much as I hate to introduce a bill that might inconvenience your organization, I seem to have no tangible reason for withholding my proposal to destroy the facility where your team reportedly plays.

Should you happen to run across any solid evidence that would cause me to change my mind about all this, please leave it in my name at the box office under Grandstand "C" a week from next Sunday.

Yours in the cause of just legislation,

E. Ewing Swertman
E. Ewing Swertman
Highly Influential Congressman

Rep. E. Ewing Swertman 83rd District, Ohio
U. S. House of Representatives • Washington, D.C.

Mr. Fergus Tetley
R.R. 4, Ottertail, Ohio

Oct. 24, 1973

Dear Mr. Tetley

I have received your June 6 letter urgently requesting my aid in obtaining Agriculture Dept. pamphlets that might tell you how to prevent fruit flies from destroying your \$50,000 apple crop. In making this appeal, you go out of your way to mention that you have voted for me in every election since 1966, and made a large donation to my 1972 campaign.

May I state in response that I am not some tinhorn politician who can be bought off by your kind. You may not know it, but there are laws to punish campaign contributors who then seek special favors for their money. Also, you may not know that I am a deeply religious man who believes that if the good Lord had meant for your crop to be spared from fruit flies, He would have so provided. You may not even know that I am an ardent conservationist who assumes that fruit flies possibly play some role in maintaining the ecological balance of nature.

One final thing you may not know: Right after the 1972 election, new Congressional boundaries were drawn in Ohio, with the result that you no longer live in my district. Therefore, kindly buzz off and stop whining to me over every little problem that comes up in your life.

With forthright and utmost integrity,
E. Ewing Swertman
Rep. E. Ewing Swertman
83rd District, Ohio

Rep. E. Ewing Swertman 83rd District, Ohio
U. S. House of Representatives • Washington, D.C.

Oct. 24, 1973

Hon. Harley L. Wintergreep, Chairman
House Committee on Members' Ethics
Washington, D.C.

My dearest Rep. Wintergreep,

You can't imagine how delighted I was to be delivered with a subpoena today inviting me to give testimony before your group. I have long felt that the Ethics Committee performs a vital function in serving as a watchdog over the suspected illegal and immoral acts of House members.

On the other hand, I know how busy you are with important matters, and certainly don't want to waste the time of your group with my prattling when I feel sure that I have received this invitation by mistake.

In short, I haven't the vaguest idea what you wrongly think you want to see me about, and hasten to assure you that not only am I unacquainted with anyone named Harry G. Flogner, but that I was not even in Milwaukee last Aug. 25.

I assume that this clears up the misunderstanding. Therefore, I am returning your subpoena to save you the trouble of drawing up a new one for delivery to the person you really want to see.

Hoping we can get together at the member's Christmas party,

E. Ewing Swertman
The Always Honorable E. Ewing Swertman

Rep. E. Ewing Swertman 83rd District, Ohio
U. S. House of Representatives • Washington, D.C.

Editor

Washington Press-Clarion...
Washington, D.C.

Oct. 24, 1973

You miserable Cur:-

I demand that your lousy rag print an immediate retraction and apology for maliciously misquoting me in an Oct. 18 story about proposed defense spending cutbacks in my home district.

The article in question maintains that I referred to my learned colleague and good friend, Rep. Waldo Wayfling of California, as "a sneaky, loathsome S.O.B. whose defense bill would treasonably leave America unprotected."

As I already have informed Rep. Wayfling and his lawyers, I was deliberately misquoted by the Press-Clarion. In truth, I merely referred to the able Congressman as "an S.O.B. whose sneaky, loathsome defense bill would treasonably leave America unprotected." At no time did I ever imply that Rep. Wayfling is sneaky or loathsome as a person, which you claim I did. I was referring only to his bill in those terms, and I understand that it is not necessarily slanderous to say those things about an inanimate object.

Therefore, I urge you to apologize for your error in print immediately, or I will fix your wagon before Rep. Wayfling fixes mine.

Cordially,

E. Ewing Swertman
Rep. E. Ewing Swertman

P.S. I will also fix your wagon if you don't tell that sneaky, loathsome S.O.B. in your newspaper delivery department to stop throwing my copy of the Press-Clarion in the shrubbery every morning.

Rep. E. Ewing Swertman 83rd District, Ohio
U. S. House of Representatives • Washington, D.C.

Chief Public Information Officer
U.S. Department of Defense
Washington, D.C.

Oct. 24, 1973

Dear Sir:-

I have just learned that I am to be a member of the House committee that will open hearings next week on a Pentagon request to send two-billion dollars in military aid to Nepal.

Naturally, I want to appear at least as informed as my colleagues if I should have to question any witnesses before voting for the appropriation. Therefore, I would appreciate it if you could send me some secret military data about the Nepalian situation that the other guys on the House committee don't know.

In case it is not convenient for you to steal any secrets before next week, please forward whatever non-sensitive material you have on the Nepilians, such as the approximate location of their country, the names of some nearby Communist nations that we're hoping they'll shoot at with the equipment we send them, etc.

Confidentially yours,

E. Ewing Swertman
The Right Honorable E. Ewing Swertman

P.S. If this bill goes through, and part of your planned military aid is to be in the form of windshield wiper blades for tanks, I would like to mention that the Foul Weather Rubber Goods Co. located in my congressional district turns out some lovely models at a reasonable price.

Rep. E. Ewing Swertman 83rd District, Ohio
U. S. House of Representatives • Washington, D.C.

Oct. 24, 1973

Mr. Lawrence Y. Smedd
Foul Weather Rubber Goods Co.
Muckton, Ohio

Dear Larry:-

Forgive my apparent delay in answering your letter of Nov. 28, 1972, which mentioned that your firm was faced with probable bankruptcy, and desperately in need of my help. I was merely waiting to respond until I had some good news to pass along.

Now, I am delighted to inform you that Foul Weather stands to profit greatly from the big appropriations bill I'm pushing through the House for military aid to Nepal. As you know, it probably rains a lot there, and I foresee no difficulty in getting you a Pentagon order for at least 500,000 tank windshield wiper blades.

Actually, Larry, there is one minor difficulty I foresee. I may not be able to win final passage of this bill to put Foul Weather back on its feet until the next session of Congress, by which time I may not be in Congress to do it. My re-election chances appear questionable, due solely to the fact that I've stayed here in Washington pulling strings to help you while my pinko, Peacenik opponent, backed by the anti-military, anti-rubber goods lobby, has been out drumming up big campaign contributions.

Currently, I'm afraid I'll come up about \$10,000 short of my needs for winning another term. It would be a tragic irony if you had to close down simply because I've devoted my usual fund raising time to slaving away here on your behalf. But I don't want to bore you with my problems when you'll have plenty of your own to think about if I can't raise the \$10,000 somehow, and assure you of that big contract.

My regards to your 800 seemingly doomed employees,

E. Ewing Swertman
Ewing

Rep. E. Ewing Swertman 83rd District, Ohio
U. S. House of Representatives • Washington, D.C.

Advertising Manager
Jock After Shave Lotion Co.
New York, N.Y.

Oct. 24, 1973

Dear Sir:-

Call this a "fan letter" if you will, but I just had to tell you how much I enjoy seeing my favorite celebrities plug Jock After-Shave on TV. I have used the product for years, and would gladly make a commercial free of charge to endorse it. However, as you can appreciate, my busy Congressional schedule just doesn't allow me time to do TV work.

Currently, I am laboring day and night on my proposed bill to outlaw certain toiletry items that contain artificial scent or other questionable ingredients. In addition, much of my energy is being consumed in drawing up a measure to impose new federal luxury taxes on a wide range of "personal care" products.

I am sadly aware that these pending laws may work a hardship on such companies as Jock After-Shave, and regret that there are no plans to hold public hearings where your industry could refute the claims of the "do-gooder" lobby. As matters stand, I doubt if there will ever be an opportunity for me to hear your side of the case before introducing my legislation.

The only free time I might have to listen to your views will come during the \$1000-a-plate campaign fund raising dinner to be held next Thursday at my home. If you and one of your persuasive lawyers should decide to attend and try to convince me that my proposed bills are no good, please contact my secretary regarding the current availability of tickets.

Wishing I could meet you in person sometime,
Trusted Public Servant E. Ewing Swertman

Rep. E. Ewing Swertman 83rd District, Ohio
U. S. House of Representatives • Washington, D.C.

Oct. 24, 1973

Commanding General
National Army of Nepal
Nepal City (Or wherever he picks up his mail)
Kingdom of Nepal

Dear Ally:

Writing as a U.S. Congressman in whose hands the fate of your country now rests, I want to assure you that I am doing all possible to obtain billions of dollars in military aid for your beleaguered nation. With our mutual enemies on the march throughout Asia, as well as even closer to your borders, I can appreciate the urgency of your plight.

My only regret is that I have had no opportunity to visit Nepal and gain the information needed to convince my fellow lawmakers to vote for this appropriation. Undoubtedly, your gallant country must provide for the defense of its seaside resorts, its Hilton Hotel and also its World's Fair, if one happens to be in progress. However, I have not seen these vulnerable spots for myself, and so cannot speak with authority to my colleagues who, through ignorance, may try to curtail your vital funds.

My wife and two lovely children have often heard me say, "If only we were able to hop on a Nepal National Airlines jet and spend a few weeks sight-seeing in that wonderful country, I would be truly qualified to push legislation through Congress for all the money those people want. Sadly, we can't afford it even though all four of us have our bags packed."

Whenever I say that, my wife always sheds a tear, for she would hate to see your present regime go down the tube as much as I would.

Hoping for the best,

E. Ewing Swertman
E. Ewing Swertman, Esq.
Powerful Legislative Leader

Rep. E. Ewing Swertman 83rd District, Ohio
U. S. House of Representatives • Washington, D.C.

Chief Dietician
House of Representatives Cafeteria
Washington, D.C.

Oct. 24, 1973

Dear Sir or Madam:

As a result of your daily work among the greats and near greats of the U.S. Congress, you doubtless are aware of the sweeping power which I hold as a member of that august body. My top level contacts with the F.B.I. alone are sufficient to place anyone whom I consider to be a menace in a state of extreme jeopardy.

Naturally, I do not throw around the awe-some weight of my office, as I am well aware that the arrogant misuse of power can only lead America down the road to totalitarianism. In extreme cases, however, I do find it necessary to probe into the classified records on a person for the good of our country. I feel that information regarding moral or legal misdeeds in earlier life indicates a weakness of character which may well pose a national security risk.

This, of course, is especially true when it relates to persons like yourself who have somehow wormed their way into high places. Still, I may not use the damning information I have obtained about you to destroy your career and family life if it appears that you have mended your ways since you-know-what happened.

This puts your future directly in your own hands. Unless you immediately cease and desist from making mooshy turnups the only vegetable available in the cafeteria every Wednesday, I must act as any good American would in lowering the boom on you.

Hoping you make the right decision,

E. Ewing Swertman
Rep. E. Ewing Swertman

Rep. E. Ewing Swertman 83rd District, Ohio
U. S. House of Representatives • Washington, D.C.

Oct. 24, 1973

Miss Zsa Zsa Gabor
Beverly Hills, California

Dear Zsa:

After watching you put up a brave front many times on TV, I have sensitively realized that you Hungarians must all have a lot of Commie relatives still behind the Iron Curtain that you would like to bring to the U.S. Unfortunately, it often takes a special act of Congress to permit this, and I assume that you have been hesitant about asking a potentially hostile lawmaker to help you with your sad problem.

I assure you that my heart bleeds for all who suffer under tyranny, including many distant cousins of yours whom you may think you've forgotten about. I compassionately now stand ready to help these loved ones just as soon as we can meet to draw up a list of their names. Of course, this meeting cannot be held in my office as it might encourage pushy foreigners in my home district to badger me for similar favors. Therefore, I suggest that the two of us set up an appointment for this coming weekend at the Whoopie Motel in Bethesda, Md. You can fly to Washington on Friday and take the 4:25 P.M. Trailways bus from there.

Please do not try to thank me, as I feel this is the least I can do to help ease your mental burden which I am sure you have tried valiantly not to think about.

See you at the bus station Friday,

E.E. Swertman, Famous Legislator

P.S. You'll be able to spot me by my silk ascot and rakish beret, and just in case you can't make it, please send your sister Eva.