

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
JULY 26, 1989

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SUPPORT FOR A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT  
REMAINS STRONG AND UNFLAGGING  
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MR. PRESIDENT, SELF-DECEPTION IS AN ALL TOO COMMON DISORDER. WE CAN ALL DECEIVE OURSELVES. WE CAN ALL BELIEVE THAT SOMETHING IS TRUE -- EVEN WHEN THIS BELIEF IS DIRECTLY CONTRADICTED BY THE FACTS -- BY HARD, COOL REALITY.

SELF-DECEPTION

IN AN ARTICLE PUBLISHED YESTERDAY, THE WASHINGTON POST SEEMS TO BE ENGAGING IN A LITTLE SELF-DECEPTION OF ITS OWN. IT WANTS TO BELIEVE -- WANTS DESPERATELY TO BELIEVE -- THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE DO NOT CARE ABOUT THE SO-CALLED FLAG ISSUE; AND THAT THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO PROTECT THE FLAG FROM DESECRATION DOES NOT ENJOY MUCH SUPPORT.

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT OTHER SENATORS, BUT THIS SENATOR HAS RECEIVED MORE THAN 400 LETTERS FROM ALL ACROSS THE COUNTRY BACKING OUR EFFORTS TO PROTECT THE FLAG.

SO HERE IS THE PROOF - AMERICANS CARE.

NEVERTHELESS, THE LIBERALS ARE OUT THERE WITH THEIR SPIN, HOPING THAT THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT FLIES PERMANENTLY AT HALF-STAFF.

THE SIMPLE TRUTH

BUT WHAT'S THE SIMPLE TRUTH? THE SIMPLE TRUTH IS THAT THE VAST MAJORITY OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WANT A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT -- BY 71 PERCENT, ACCORDING TO THE LATEST GALLOP POLL. AMERICANS WANT TO PROTECT OUR FLAG FROM THE DESECRATORS. THEY WANT A LASTING -- PERMANENT -- SOLUTION TO A SUPREME COURT DECISION THAT THEY BELIEVE WAS A GRAVE MISTAKE. AND THEY DON'T WANT A SOLUTION THAT MAY WORK. THEY WANT A SOLUTION THAT IS GUARANTEED TO WORK.

THE PEOPLE OF KANSAS

I KNOW THAT THE HARD-WORKING PEOPLE OF SALINA, KANSAS, FEEL THIS WAY. IN MY HAND, I HAVE A PETITION SIGNED BY MORE THAN 100 HUNDRED CITIZENS OF SALINA. THE PETITION COULD NOT BE ANY CLEARER: "WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, BELIEVE THAT ANY DEFIANT DESECRATION OF THE FLAG SHOULD BE A CRIMINAL OFFENSE, PUNISHABLE BY FINES AND IMPRISONMENT. WE BELIEVE THAT AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION SHOULD BE IMMEDIATELY INSTITUTED...."

LET ME ALSO SHARE WITH YOU THE HEART-FELT WORDS OF TOBIN MELROY, A YOUNG BOY SCOUT FROM PRATT, KANSAS. TOBIN WRITES: "AS A BOY SCOUT, I HAVE LEARNED TO RESPECT THE FLAG AND WHAT IT STANDS FOR. EVEN THOUGH THE PEOPLE ARE ANGRY WITH THE AMERICAN SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT -- OR WITH AMERICA ITSELF -- I DO NOT FEEL THAT THEY SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO DESTROY WHAT SO MANY PEOPLE HAVE FOUGHT TO PRESERVE...."

MR. PRESIDENT, TOBIN MELROY IS RIGHT ON TARGET. AND SO ARE THE MORE THAN 400 AMERICANS WHO HAVE PERSONALLY WRITTEN TO ME URGING THE SPEEDY ADOPTION OF A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.

CONCLUSION

SO, LET'S SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT. THE AMERICAN PEOPLE CARE ABOUT THIS ONE, DESPITE WHAT YOU MIGHT READ IN THE NEWSPAPERS.

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