

**STATE REP. ITALO S. CAPPABIANCA
REMARKS, AFL-CIO DINNER DANCE
COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY SERVICE
MAY 9, 1998**

GOOD EVENING EVERYONE AND
THANK YOU FOR INVITING ME TO JOIN IN
YOUR CELEBRATION.

IT IS ALWAYS A DELIGHT TO GET
TOGETHER WITH PEOPLE WHO GO ABOVE
AND BEYOND TO GET INVOLVED IN THE
ERIE COMMUNITY.

THE HOUSE IS IN RECESS FOR A FEW
WEEKS AND IT'S GOOD TO BE HOME.

LET ME BEGIN BY SAYING THAT I AM
HONORED TO BE IN THE COMPANY OF SO
MANY MEN AND WOMEN WHO WORK HARD
TO PRESERVE THE SAFETY AND INTEGRITY
OF AMERICA'S WORKFORCE.

MANY IN THIS ROOM TONIGHT COME
FROM A PROUD HERITAGE OF PARENTS AND
GRANDPARENTS WHO WORKED TIRELESSLY,
WHO HONORED LABOR AND WHO FOUND
STRENGTH IN UNITY.

TOO MANY AMERICANS TAKE FOR
GRANTED THE LABOR LAWS THAT PROTECT
THEM TODAY.

THEY HAVE NO IDEA WHAT WORKING
CONDITIONS WERE ONCE LIKE IN THIS
COUNTRY.

THEY DO NOT APPRECIATE THE
SACRIFICES THAT A COUNTLESS NUMBER OF
WORKERS MADE TO SECURE THE BASIC
RIGHTS WE ENJOY TODAY.

I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR STAYING
STRONG AND STAYING FOCUSED ON
TODAY'S WORKERS AND THE WORKERS OF
TOMORROW.

I COULD STAND HERE ALL NIGHT AND
DISCUSS THE TRIALS AND TRIUMPHS OF
OUR NATION'S LABOR MOVEMENT. THERE IS
CERTAINLY ENOUGH TO FILL VOLUMES.

MY FOCUS HERE TONIGHT, THOUGH,
IS TO HELP CELEBRATE THE PEOPLE WHO
HAVE GIVEN SO MUCH TO THEIR
COMMUNITIES THROUGH THE GREAT
TRADITION OF VOLUNTEERISM. EVERY DAY,
HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF AMERICANS
VOLUNTEER AND SERVE THEIR
COMMUNITIES IN A SPECIAL NUMBER OF
WAYS.

AS AN ERIE RESIDENT AND STATE
REPRESENTATIVE, I TAKE GREAT PRIDE IN
SEEING OUR COMMUNITY PROSPER
THROUGH THE VOLUNTEER EFFORTS THAT
ARE DISPLAYED BY THE EVERYDAY PEOPLE
WHO MAKE EXTROIDINARY CONTRIBUTIONS
TO IT.

BELIEVEING IN THE COMMUNITY AND
TAKING PRIDE IN IT THROUGH
VOLUNTEERISM IS ONE OF THE GREATEST
GIFTS WE CAN GIVE TO OUR CHILDREN AND
TO FUTURE GENERATIONS.

THERE IS A CONCERN BY MANY THAT
THE TIME-HONORED TRADITION OF
VOLUNTEERISM IN AMERICA IS WANING. SO
OFTEN WE HEAR THE PHRASES "LET
SOMEONE ELSE DO IT" OR "IT'S HARD
ENOUGH FOR ME TO TAKE CARE OF MYSELF
AND MY OWN FAMILY LET ALONE WORRY
ABOUT SOMEONE ELSE."

THERE IS ALSO A CONCERN THAT TOO
MANY OF US ARE CONTENT TO TURN A
COMMUNITY'S NEEDS AND PROBLEMS OVER
TO GOVERNMENT.

SOME BELIEVE THAT ONLY
GOVERNMENT HAS THE RESOURCES TO
DEAL WITH THOSE NEEDS.

WHILE THAT MAY BE TRUE IN SOME
PLACES, I AM PROUD TO SAY THAT IT IS
NOT TRUE IN ERIE COUNTY. MY RESPONSE
TO THOSE WHO THINK THAT
VOLUNTEERISM AND COMMUNITY SERVICE
IS DYING IS THAT THEY COME TO ERIE
COUNTY AND OUR NEARBY COMMUNITIES
TO SEE IT ALIVE AND WELL.

THEY WILL WITNESS THE
EXTRAORDINARY EFFORTS OF ONE
LEFELONG ERIE RESIDENT AND TONIGHT'S
HONOREE, MATT GRESS.

IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT A PERSON
SHOWS WHAT HE **IS** BY WHAT HE **DOES**
WITH WHAT HE **HAS**.

MATT HAS CERTAINLY DEMONSTRATED
BY WHAT HE DOES THAT HE IS A PERSON
WILLING TO GIVE FREELY OF HIS TIME, HIS
TALENTS AND HIS IDEAS TO MAKE ERIE A
BETTER PLACE TO LIVE AND WORK.

THROUGHOUT HIS LIFE, MATT HAS
VOLUNTEERED HIS TIME, TALENT AND
DEDICATION IN MANY DIFFERENT WAYS.

HIS COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS
ARE NUMEROUS AND HAVE ENRICHED ERIE
RESIDENTS IN TREMENDOUS AND
COUNTLESS WAYS.

HIS ROLE IN THE COMMUNITY OVER
THE YEARS HAS BEEN WIDE RANGING.

HE WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN BRINGING
LABOR TOGETHER WITH STATE AND LOCAL
ELECTED OFFICIALS BY ORGANIZING THE
MAYORS LABOR ROUNDTABLE AND THE
LABOR ADVISORY BOARD.

FROM HIS NUMEROUS ACTIVITIES TO
BENEFIT PENNSYLVANIA'S AND AMERICA'S
ROOFERS, TO HIS COUNTLESS HOURS OF
WORK IN THE COMMUNITY, LET'S JUST SAY
MATT HAS COVERED IT ALL.

HIS WORK WITH GIFTS FOR KIDS, THE
ERIE COMMUNITY FOOD BANK, THE
REBUILDING OF THE EAST AVENUE
FIREHOUSE, THE NEIGHBORHOOD ART
HOUSE, THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE
AND SAINT PAULS FREE CLINIC ARE AMONG
HIS DISTINCTIVE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE
CITIZENS OF ERIE.

THROUGH HIS WORK AS SECRETARY
OF THE ERIE WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA PORT
AUTHORITY, MATT HAS PLAYED A KEY ROLE
IN MOLDING THE FUTURE OF ERIE'S
BEAUTIFUL AND UNIQUE BAYFRONT AREA.

I UNDERSTAND THAT EVEN AFTER ALL
OF THAT WORK AND MORE, MATT ACTUALLY
HAS **SPARE TIME**. MATT..... PLEASE.....
INTRODUCE ME TO YOUR TIME -
MANAGEMENT ORGANIZER!

SERIOUSLY THOUGH, THERE IS NO
DOLLAR VALUE YOU CAN PLACE ON THE
WORTH OF A VOLUNTEER IN THE
COMMUNITY. TOO OFTEN, PEOPLE FAIL TO
REALIZE THE IMPACT THEY CAN HAVE AS AN
INDIVIDUAL AND AS PART OF THEIR
SOCIETY.

WHILE FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO
ANY CAUSE IS ALWAYS VITAL, OUR MOST
PRECIOUS GIFTS ARE TIME AND TALENT.

COMMUNITY SERVICE IS ESPECIALLY
PERTINENT DURING TIMES OF SHRINKING
RESOURCES. AMERICANS TODAY HAVE VERY
LITTLE FREE TIME. SO WHAT DO YOU SAY
TO CONVINCING PEOPLE THAT THEY SHOULD
USE THEIR FREE TIME TO HELP OTHERS AND
THAT THEY CAN GAIN FROM SERVING AND
VOLUNTEERING IN THE COMMUNITY.

I WOULD TELL THEM THAT THE
PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL BENEFITS
THAT CAN BE GAINED FROM COMMUNITY
SERVICE ARE ABUNDANT.

I WOULD TELL THEM

- YOU CAN GAIN VALUABLE WORK
EXPERIENCE,
- YOU CAN OBTAIN NEW SKILLS,
- YOU CAN SECURE JOB REFERENCES,
- YOU CAN CREATE OR EXPAND YOUR
NETWORK OF CONTACTS,
- YOU CAN FIND NEW FRIENDS,

- YOU CAN CONFRONT COMMUNITY
ISSUES,
- YOU CAN GAIN RECOGNITION AND
RESPECT IN YOUR COMMUNITY,
- AND ABOVE ALL, YOU CAN INCREASE
YOUR SELF-ESTEEM AND CONFIDENCE.

I CAN HONESTLY SAY THAT A DESIRE
TO HELP OUR COMMUNITY LED ME TO MY
CAREER AS A STATE LEGISLATOR.

I STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT ABOVE MY
JOB AS YOUR STATE REPRESENTATIVE,
SERVING THE ERIE AREA THROUGH
COMMUNITY SERVICE IS CENTRAL TO MY
PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT.

THROUGH VOLUNTEERISM AND
COMMUNITY SERVICE, YOU CAN DEVELOP A
GREATER KNOWLEDGE AND
UNDERSTANDING OF PEOPLE WHO ARE
DIFFERENT FROM YOU.

IN A WORLD OF RACISM, VIOLENCE
AND INTOLERANCE, COMMUNITY SERVICE
HELPS PEOPLE DEVELOP RESPECT FOR ONE
ANOTHER.

INDIVIDUALS FROM ALL SEGMENTS OF
OUR COMMUNITY CAN BENEFIT FROM A
GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF THE IDEALS
THAT ARE FOSTERED THROUGH
VOLUNTEERISM AND COMMUNITY SPIRIT.

CLERGY, LAW ENFORCEMENT, SERVICE
PROVIDERS, LOCAL OFFICIALS, PARENTS,
TEACHERS, STUDENTS, ADMINISTRATORS,
BUSINESSES, MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS,
WORKERS, AGENCY HEADS AND OTHERS
BOTH YOUNG AND OLD CAN BENEFIT FROM
SERVING THEIR COMMUNITIES AND
HELPING OTHERS.

WE OFTEN VIEW COMMUNITY SERVICE
AS AN ADULTS ONLY ACTIVITY. BUT
CHILDREN ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF OUR
COMMUNITIES.

TEACHING THEM THE VALUE OF
CHARITY EARLY IN LIFE SETS THEM ON THE
ROAD TO BEING GENEROUS ADULTS.

TONIGHT'S HONOREE HAS SET AN
EXCEPTIONAL EXAMPLE FOR HIS THREE
CHILDREN AND ALL THE CHILDREN OF ERIE.

I'M SURE THAT KATHERINE, MARY AND
MATT JUNIOR ARE VERY PROUD OF THEIR
FATHER AND OF HIS ACCOMPLISHMENTS. HE
IS PROOF POSITIVE OF WHAT ONE PERSON
CAN DO TO BRING WORKERS TOGETHER, TO
BRING A COMMUNITY TOGETHER AND TO
BRING FAMILIES TOGETHER.

IN HONORING MATT TONIGHT, WE
CELEBRATE THE COUNTLESS CONTRIBUTIONS
MADE BY THE MANY VOLUNTEERS IN A
GREAT NUMBER OF ORGANIZATIONS IN OUR
TOWN AND IN THE NEIGHBORHOODS
THROUGHOUT OUR STATE AND THE
NATION.

LET US PAUSE FOR A MOMENT TO
THINK ABOUT WHAT OUR LIVES AND THE
LIVES OF THE PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY
WOULD BE LIKE WITHOUT THE SELFLESS
EFFORTS OF THOSE WHO GIVE UP THEIR
TIME AND EXPEND THEIR ENERGIES IN
COMMUNITY SERVICE.

THANK YOU, GOD BLESS, AND ENJOY
YOUR EVENING.

Rep. Cappabianca Remarks

Erie Construction Council

May 25, 1995

(Usual Greetings and Acknowledgements)

I'm delighted to be here as your guest speaker, and I would like to thank the officers of the Erie Construction Council for their generous invitation.

I have a special place in my heart for the construction industry and the people who are a part of it.

It is an activity that is very close to my ancestral heritage, Italy being the site of some of the world's most famous and beautiful

structures and where much of the knowledge and techniques of construction were developed.

Take St. Peter's Cathedral, for example.

It is a marvel of architectural and construction, and the model for many of the world's domed buildings, like our own state capitol in Harrisburg and the one in Washington.

Then there's that miracle of construction, the Leaning Tower of Pisa. That building led to a radical change in construction technology -- the development of the carpenter's level.

Here in Erie, we learned from those Italian's mistakes. We don't have leaning

towers, but we have been blessed by a relative abundance of construction activity in recent years. And a lot of it has involved state government.

And, I'm pleased to say, I've had some part in helping to bring it about.

Not me alone, please understand, but as part of a team involving recent administrations, state legislators, local community and business groups...and many of your members who are also part of that team.

Team Erie, I like to call it.

Thanks to Team Erie, there are few places in Pennsylvania where the surge of state development activity is more visible than right here in the our own area.

In the last seven years, businesses in our city and county have received almost \$60 million in assistance from just one state agency, the Commerce Department, resulting in the creation and retention of more than 7,000 jobs in the Erie area.

And just this week, we approved a \$2 state Sunny Day loan for Bush Industries in summit Township, to expand its operations.

Along with these and many other projects, it has been a source of personal satisfaction, as part of Team Erie, to have included in recent state capital budgets almost \$50 million for projects that will enhance the cultural, recreational and economic resources of the region.

These include the new baseball stadium and parking lot (about \$20 million), Discovery Square (\$2 million), the new Behrend College library (about \$10 million), a proposed gymnasium and classroom facility at the Behrend campus (\$10 million), EMTA's Transportation Center (almost \$2 million),

renovations to the Warner Theater (\$7 million) and \$1 million for the Niagara Museum Complex, a project that has received more than \$10 million from the state, overall.

Along with the \$34 million Bayfront Parkway and the \$100 million state prison at Albion, the impact of state activity on the local economy is vast and unmistakably clear.

And with a prominent leader of Team Erie as the current occupant of the Governor's Office, I see more good times ahead for state assisted construction in our home area.

Likewise, as a member of the team, I intend to support Governor Ridge's request

for an acceleration of the business tax cuts that were put in place in the last state budget... adding the observation that I was one of the first state legislators to call for business tax cuts when state revenue surpluses began to show up last year and the year before.

From my point of view, the focus of all of this activities is jobs...creating and retaining good jobs at decent wages for our citizens and neighbors.

Few industries are capable of doing that as well as the construction industry.

That is why I believe what's good for the construction industry is good for Erie and for its

workers and businesses.

We may differ, some of us, on the issue of prevailing wage, an issue that is getting some attention in the state legislature as it is in Congress.

I think the prevailing wage standard, dating back more than 30 years, has been good for Pennsylvania and for the construction industry and its workers.

It helps support a stable wage base in the community...it promotes a safer workplace and higher quality work with experienced, qualified employees...its ripple effects help to spread a measure of prosperity throughout the

community and support vital public services...and it helps to retain a positive local economy by discouraging cheap competition coming in from out of state and successfully bidding on local projects.

I expect this issue to get some attention in the current session of the state legislature though it is likely the legislature will look to Congress to take the lead on prevailing wage issues.

And, I expect there will be some attention given to the worker's compensation issue in Harrisburg, though it's not likely to be very extensive.

Even with a new governor and a new composition to the legislature, I would not anticipate anything on the order of radical overhaul of the prevailing wage or workmen's compensation system in the next year and a half.

These programs have been built up and evolving over generations...30, 40, 50 years or more...and they affect the lives of millions of our citizens.

Having just come through a prolonged, bruising battle over worker's compensation a few years ago, the legislature is in no mood to plow extensively over that ground again.

So, I believe it will be at least several more years before any major legislative moves are made on that issue...or on the issue of the prevailing wage.

Even so, I am certainly going to listen to the points of view expressed on all sides of these issues and keep an open mind where legitimate improvements are indicated.

In the meantime, I hope we can all take satisfaction in the progress our area is making, and will continue to make, toward a sound economy based on construction and the prosperity it generates.

Because in doing so, we are not just improving people's spending power this year and next, important as that is.

We are also creating Erie's future. And if we do it nearly as well as those Italians did centuries ago, it may be our important and lasting contribution of all.

REMARKS OF

REP. ITALO S. CAPPABIANCA

2ND LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT (ERIE)

PRESENTED TO

THE HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE

ON RULES REVIEW

MARCH 9, 1993

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF
THE HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE, I
WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR THIS
OPPORTUNITY AND EXPRESS MY BEST
WISHES FOR THE SUCCESSFUL
COMPLETION OF THE COMMITTEE'S
ASSIGNMENT.

OVER THE COURSE OF THESE
HEARINGS YOU'VE BEEN PRESENTED
WITH MANY THOUGHTFUL
RECOMMENDATIONS HAVING TO DO WITH
PER DIEMS, MILEAGE ALLOWANCES,
FLEET LEASING, AND RELATED

PROPOSALS TO CONTROL LEGISLATIVE
EXPENSES.

IT IS NOT MY INTENTION TO REPEAT
THOSE RECOMMENDATIONS. SUFFICE IT
TO SAY, I AGREE FULLY WITH THE NEED
TO EXAMINE HOUSE RULES AND
PRACTICES AND TO REMOVE THE
POTENTIAL FOR ABUSE WHERE IT IS
FOUND TO EXIST.

INSTEAD, I WOULD LIKE TO PRESENT
A SOMEWHAT BROADER AND LONGER
TERM PERSPECTIVE OF WHAT THE
CIRCUMSTANCES OF WHICH THIS
COMMITTEE IS A PART MIGHT ALLOW US

TO ACCOMPLISH.

I BELIEVE THE CREATION OF THIS COMMITTEE REPRESENTS A RARE, HISTORIC OPPORTUNITY TO BEGIN A PROCESS OF MEANINGFUL, LASTING IMPROVEMENT IN THE WAY THE HOUSE CONDUCTS ITS BUSINESS.

THAT EFFORT OUGHT NOT TERMINATE WHEN THE COMMITTEE CONCLUDES ITS REPORT LATER THIS MONTH.

THE OPPORTUNITY EXISTS FOR THIS COMMITTEE TO LAUNCH NOTHING LESS THAN A PROFOUND RESTRUCTURING OF

HOUSE OPERATIONS THAT WOULD
PREPARE THIS INSTITUTION FOR THE
COMING 21ST CENTURY.

DURING THE PAST WEEK WE HAD
THE GOOD FORTUNE TO HEAR MR. TED
GAEBLER, CO-AUTHOR OF THE BOOK
"REINVENTING GOVERNMENT," MAKE HIS
PRESENTATION TO THE APPROPRIATIONS
COMMITTEE.

I WOULD URGE THAT THE
COMMITTEE ON RULES REVIEW LEAD THE
HOUSE IN ACTING ON MR. GAEBLER'S
VALUABLE INSIGHTS AND INCLUDE IN ITS
REPORT A RECOMMENDATION FOR A

THOROUGH REVIEW OF HOUSE
OPERATIONS.

SUCH A REVIEW WOULD INCLUDE AN
EXAMINATION OF THE FUNCTIONS AND
PURPOSE OF THE HOUSE STANDING
COMMITTEES, ITS VARIOUS LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT AGENCIES, AS WELL AS THE
OVERALL ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE
AND OPERATIONS OF THE HOUSE.

AN EXAMINATION OF COMMITTEE
STRUCTURE MIGHT ASK ABOUT THE
NUMBER OF THESE ENTITIES.

DO WE NEED AS MANY AS WE HAVE
OR CAN WE FUNCTION AS EFFICIENTLY

WITH FEWER COMMITTEES AND EFFECT A
CORRESPONDING REDUCTION IN COSTS
ASSOCIATED WITH THEIR OPERATION?

SIMILARLY, WHY WAS IT DEEMED
NECESSARY TO ADD A COMMITTEE IN THE
CURRENT SESSION, WITH ATTENDANT
STAFF AND EXPENSES, AND COULD THE
FUNCTIONS OF THAT COMMITTEE NOT
HAVE REMAINED WITHIN THE BUSINESS
AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE?

CAN WE AFFORD TO SIMPLY ADD
COMMITTEES WITHOUT A COMPENSATING
REDUCTION IN SOME OTHER AREA OF
HOUSE OPERATIONS?

OUR COUNTERPARTS IN THE
SENATE HISTORICALLY HAVE CHOSEN TO
MAINTAIN A COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER
PROTECTION AND PROFESSIONAL
LICENSURE WHILE WE IN THE HOUSE
MAINTAIN SEPARATE COMMITTEES.

ARE THERE OPPORTUNITIES TO
CONSOLIDATE SOME OF THE STANDING
HOUSE COMMITTEES SUCH AS THE
PROPOSED COMBINATION OF FEDERAL-
STATE RELATIONS WITH MILITARY AND
VETERANS AFFAIRS?

SHOULD WE NOT EXAMINE THE
VARIOUS LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT

AGENCIES WHOSE COMBINED STAFFS
NUMBER MORE THAN 80 POSITIONS?

AND SHOULDN'T THESE AGENCIES
BE INCLUDED IN THE SUNSET REVIEW WE
REQUIRE OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH?

I HAVE NO DOUBT THESE AGENCIES
AND COMMISSIONS TO SOME DEGREE
PERFORM VALUABLE SERVICE.

BUT ARE THEY PERFORMING AS
EFFICIENTLY AS WE WOULD LIKE?

ARE THEY COST EFFECTIVE AND
HOW HAS THAT BEEN DETERMINED?

WHAT IS THE END RESULT OF THEIR
WORK AND HOW DOES IT BENEFIT THE

PEOPLE OF THE COMMONWEALTH?

MR. CHAIRMAN, I AM A
BUSINESSMAN AS WELL AS A LEGISLATOR
AND AM REASONABLY WELL ACQUAINTED
WITH MODERN BUSINESS PRACTICES.

EVEN A CASUAL READING OF THE
THE DAILY BUSINESS NEWS TELLS US
THE OPERATIVE STRATEGY IN TODAY'S
CORPORATE WORLD IS "DOWNSIZING," A
STRATEGY THAT IS BASED UPON AN
OBJECTIVE COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS
THAT MEASURES THE CONTRIBUTION
EACH FUNCTION MAKES TO THE MISSION
OF THE ORGANIZATION.

WE, TOO, OPERATE IN AN ECONOMIC
ENVIRONMENT, THE SAME ENVIRONMENT
AS IBM AND GENERAL MOTORS.

IT IS AN ENVIRONMENT THAT
DEMANDS THE EFFICIENT ALLOCATION OF
SCARCE RESOURCES.

CAN WE CASUALLY -- SOME MIGHT
SAY "ARROGANTLY" -- CLAIM LEGISLATIVE
IMMUNITY FROM THE SAME CONDITIONS
THAT ARE RESHAPING CORPORATE
AMERICA?

MR. CHAIRMAN, I AM PROPOSING
FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION NOTHING
LESS THAN A COMPLETE EVALUATION OF

OUR INTERNAL OPERATIONS JUST AS A
WELL RUN BUSINESS WOULD DO IN
SIMILAR CIRCUMSTANCES.

SUCH AN EVALUATION WOULD
NECESSARILY REQUIRE OUTSIDE
ASSISTANCE FROM OBJECTIVE,
COMPETENT PROFESSIONALS.

NEITHER YOU NOR I, NOR THE
LEADERSHIP AND ITS STAFF, ARE
EXPERTS IN THE SCIENCE OF
MANAGEMENT.

WE ARE IN THE POLITICAL
PROFESSION, NOT IN THE MANAGEMENT
PROFESSION. AND THE OPERATION OF

THE HOUSE REFLECTS THAT SIMPLE
FACT.

THEREFORE, I'M RECOMMENDING
THAT WE ENGAGE A TOP-FLIGHT TEAM OF
MANAGEMENT EXPERTS FROM AMONG
THE LEADING MANAGEMENT CONSULTING
FIRMS TO WORK WITH US ON THIS
EFFORT.

WHAT I'M PROPOSING IS NEITHER
RADICAL NOR WITHOUT PRECEDENT.

IN RECENT YEARS, OTHER STATE
LEGISLATURES -- FLORIDA, MAINE, NORTH
CAROLINA, MARYLAND TO NAME A FEW --
HAVE UNDERTAKEN ACTIONS OF THIS

KIND WITH BENEFICIAL RESULTS.

THE SCIENCE OF MANAGEMENT IS
WELL ADVANCED IN THIS THE LAST
DECADE OF THE 20TH CENTURY, THOUGH
THERE'S LITTLE EVIDENCE OF THAT IN
THE WAY WE RUN THIS INSTITUTION.

LET'S TAKE ADVANTAGE OF WHAT
MODERN MANAGEMENT PROFESSIONALS
CAN TEACH US.

I SUBMIT TO YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN,
THE INVESTMENT IS ONE THAT WILL BE
RETURNED TO THIS HOUSE AND TO THE
PEOPLE OF THIS COMMONWEALTH MANY
TIMES OVER.

IF THE U.S. CONGRESS CAN DECIDE
TO CHANGE ITS WAYS, AND THEY ARE
TAKING STEPS IN THAT DIRECTION, THEN
I BELIEVE IT'S TIME WE DO LIKEWISE.

WE OWE IT TO THE PEOPLE OF THE
STATE, AND WE OWE IT TO OURSELVES
TO BE RECOGNIZED AS RESPONSIBLE
STEWARDS OF OUR DEMOCRATIC
INSTITUTIONS.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I certainly appreciate this opportunity to address my friends and colleagues - on both sides of the aisle - on the momentous question concerning a demand that a special friend and colleague be expelled from this Chamber.

Let me note, at once, that I oppose that demand with every fibre of my being. I believe it to be motivated, at least in part, by the negative influences of political considerations or, sadly, vengeance for some imagined wrong that was planned, or done, by State Representative Frank Serafini.

No matter the motive, however, the reality is that the demand for his immediate expulsion, recently echoed by the Attorney General of this Commonwealth, is one that falls flat when posed against the full measure of our enacted laws and, indeed, falls through the floor when posed against human decency and that higher form of law to which we are all committed - the moral law of God.

Mr. Speaker, that moral law demands that we give full, and priority, consideration to that law - whenever we are faced with an apparent dilemma. We need, first and foremost, to consider that fact so nobly stated by Edmund Burke that "It is not what a particular law tells me I may do, but what humanity, reason, and justice tell me I ought to do!"

That declaration, Mr. Speaker, most assuredly calls us to the awareness of our higher nature, and of the higher virtues we all possess but, alas, too seldom practice. I mean **here**, Mr. Speaker, those higher virtues of unswerving Honor, merciful Justice, and the Truth that sets us fully free.

Mr. Speaker, Edmund Burke also defined that credo clearly when he declared that "Honor and Justice are the threads that bind the dead, the living, and the yet to be born."

I vehemently oppose, then, Mr. Speaker - the efforts of some of my colleagues to ignore such considerations entirely, and to be amenable to the sacrifice of decency, fair play, honor, and justice - upon the altar of purely political ambition and expediency. I regret that some among us embrace such considerations, and I resent that with all my heart.

Mr. Speaker, Burke also reminded us that "Good Spirit is the foundation of all progress in life." If we are to consider the welfare of this body, the good will and good spirit we have all, at times, enjoyed in this House, how can we lower our sights and ignore our higher nature - by regarding the expulsion of a man of high honor and integrity, displayed over ___ years of honest and committed service to his Constituency, and to this Commonwealth?

Yes, indeed, the promoters of expulsion of that man of integrity and honor will assert that my address here today is influenced solely by my close, personal friendship with Representative Serafini, a friendship that is clearly reflected by his standing as the Best Man when I was married ___ years ago.

Mr. Speaker, I can assure you and all in this body that my position on this matter is one that I would hold always, and ever, no matter which of our Members found themselves facing the cries of the mobs and the yellow journalists outside this Body and, unfortunately, of some in this body, as well.

I give short shrift to that convenient and erroneous belief they may share, Mr. Speaker, and insist that they pay heed instead to the full content of my argument, and my plea, that we maintain the dignity and the honor of this House by rejecting any effort to expel my friend and colleague, Representative Frank Serafini. The survival of that honor and dignity is my cause, and would be my cause at all times - and for any Member of this House, close friend or casual friend and colleague.

Mr. Speaker, I am amazed in realizing that many in this body who had been his friends over those many years of his impeccable service in this House, are prone to dismiss him forthwith! Their hasty and recklessly-endowed intent remind us of the admonition of that great American jurist, Oliver Wendell Holmes, who declared that "No one has a right to shout 'Fire' in a crowded theatre when, indeed, no Fire existed."

Yet, Mr. Speaker, there are those among us here today who stand ready to shout "Expel him on the legalistic grounds put before us." They have refused to consider the legal grounds for refusing to expel. While they refer to the State Constitution, Mr. Speaker, which **does not**, incidentally, describe the method for addressing the type of issue before us now - they totally ignore the law that declares that every person in this nation has the inalienable right to due process. As we all know, though some ignore, Representative Serafini has yet to experience his right to due process.

For God's sake, Mr. Speaker, even the Judge who sentenced him earlier chose to stay his sentence pending his appeal, although the sentence could have been implemented **immediately!** That clearly confirms that a jurist who heard all of the evidence in the case must have felt that the grounds for appeal were of genuine merit, and that the appeal, itself, could overturn the original verdict.

It astounds me, Mr. Speaker, that many of those who have been his friends over those many years since he began his ideal service in this assembly - are now prone to dismiss him from this body forthwith. Their hasty and recklessly endowed intent remind us, Mr. Speaker, of a great jurist's admonition regarding a similar situation. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, all of us in this body can recall Oliver Wendell Holmes's denial of a right for anyone to shout "Fire" in a crowded theatre when, in fact, not even a spark was burning!

Those who seek to bring down their colleague, and to betray their friendship for him - as well as their oath to serve Justice first, foremost, and always - ^{also} remind me of the betrayal of One greater than all of us 2,033 years ago. We recall, Mr. Speaker, that the historic betrayal of that Perfect Man more than 2,000 years ago transpired because of the frenzy of a wild-eyed mob intent on His crucifixion.

The legislators of that time - the Sanhedrin - bowed down to the frenzied mobs to the point of demanding that the Innocent One be put to death, and that the mob's cry to free, instead, a man named Barabbas, whose guilt had been established beyond doubt, be honored by the powers-that-be.

Mr. Speaker - the powers-that-be at that time were vested in Pontius Pilate, the procurator who joined in the farce. Although he declared that the One to be crucified was without guilt, he gave himself absolution for allowing the crucifixion to occur by declaring that he had washed his hands of innocent blood.

Mr. Speaker, that self-absolution itself was a farce, and was abominable by any measure of human decency and responsibility. Pontius Pilate, most assuredly, shares equal guilt with those who demanded - and gained - the crucifixion of the One called Christ.

I know and you know, Mr. Speaker, that the mobs demanding that Frank Serafini be expelled from this honorable body, are reflections of that mob of 2,033 years ago. Like their predecessors, today's mobs are ignoring justice, honor, and integrity - as well as the truth, which would set them free if they would only embrace it!

The truth, Mr. Speaker, is that Frank Serafini was given a "stayed" sentence, pending the judicial processing of his appeal. The truth, Mr. Speaker, is that Frank Serafini has not been incarcerated. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, the truth is that Frank Serafini remains as free as you and I, to go about his business affairs without restriction and without limit.

The truth, Mr. Speaker, is that the ultimate decision on Frank Serafini will be made by the State Superior Court only after that honorable body has adjudicated Mr. Serafini's appeal for justice.

And the truth, Mr. Speaker, is that the ultimate decision may well weigh heavily in Frank's favor, when it subsequently is announced.

It would be, Mr. Speaker, an irony of the crassest and cruelest kind were we to expel Frank Serafini from this body - and soon afterwards learn that the higher court had found him fully innocent of the dubious charges against him.

What is to be gained, Mr. Speaker, by a rash and rushed decision to expel a man from this body - before he has experienced his Constitutional right to a full, and fair hearing - before, indeed, he has had the due process that every citizen is entitled to under the Constitution governing this nation, and this state.

Conversely, what is to be lost by such reckless abandonment of the firm underpinnings of our democracy that sustain every man's right to due process? Mr. Speaker, we lose absolutely nothing by exercising caution and patience in this matter. As Burke also remarked to his constituents ___ years ago, "patience will achieve more than force."

That is all that I am urging here and now, Mr. Speaker, that we allow ourselves the benefits of exercising patience rather than recklessness, justice rather than its opposite.

I am convinced, Mr. Speaker, that our solemn duty is not to follow the confused and vengeful cries of the mobs, or the editorial rantings spouted by the yellow journalists of our day. Rather, our sworn duty is to exercise leadership - to shine the light of truth and honor upon the chaos and chicanery that propels the mob and the yellow journalists.

Ours, Mr. Speaker, is the duty to remind them all of the admonition expressed so clearly by St. Paul in a letter to the Colossians wherein he advised them to "reject anger, wrath, slander, and vengeful attitudes and to, instead, embrace justice, charity, and compassion."

If we do that, Mr. Speaker, there is no way on heaven or earth that a single one of us could support the expulsion attempt.

And, if we do that, Mr. Speaker - we will surely meet the requirements our God has placed before us - that we love mercy, seek justice, and walk humbly with our God.

Honoring justice and due process for a man of impeccable integrity, selfless service to his Constituents, and to this body, and exemplary compassion and concern for the needs of others, will display for all to see, Mr. Speaker, the higher standards of justice which our better natures revere.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.