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"Freedom of the Press belongs to those who own one."

A. J. Liebling of the New Yorker

November 2, 2004



Royalty Syndrome

Commentary

S

omeone please tell me that the National Republican Congressional Committee is not populated with crazy people!

The Committee is asking the FCC to stop the John and Ken Show from trying to get Republican Congressman David Dreier defeated at the polls.

Listeners to the John and Ken Radio Show on KFI, Los Angeles, know that generally the show supports Republican candidates and conservative policies. In the last State election, the show was a HUGE opponent of Governor Davis, and a HUGE supporter of now-governor Arnold – in fact, the show led and promoted a caravan to Sacramento to oppose Governor Davis.

One topic of great interest to the show has been illegal immigration, and in doing their research it was obvious that LA Democratic Congressman Baca had been successful at getting the Homeland Security Chief to stop the random illegal immigrant sweeps.

John and Ken wondered how a Democrat Congressman had so much clout with the Republican administration, and why some powerful Republican Congressman from the area could not get the illegal immigrant sweeps reinstated.

The show decided that Democratic Congresspeople supported continuing illegal immigration but at least they were up front about it, and that Republican Congresspeople publicly opposed illegal immigration but didn't actually do anything to stop it.

So the show decided that someone on the Republican side should pay the price for the hypocrisy on the Republican

side, and asked the listeners to the show whom they thought should be defeated at the polls on election day to send a message to Washington that we are overrun with problems caused by illegal immigration.

Congressman David Dreier “won” the opportunity to be “sacrificed.” In two separate votes!

Research on Congressman Dreier showed that he was both the Chairman of the powerful House Ways and Means Committee, and that he had a very bad voting record on the subject of illegal immigration. One immigration website rated Congressman Dreier at 12 on a scale of 100 on the subject. His rating was lower than Senator Ted Kennedy, lower than Congresswoman Maxine Waters, lower than just about EVERYONE.

The John and Ken Show, as they have in the past, decided to take a principled position – this time, and for the first time in my memory, decided to support a Democrat against Congressman Dreier, in addition to opposing Democratic Congressman Baca.

Congressman Dreier is a very powerful Congressman, and is in a very safe Republican district...a man who collects huge donations because of his Chairmanship of a powerful committee, and spends little for reelection because of his seniority in a safe district.

Suddenly, the show shined a light on Congressman Dreier’s record, and, in fairness, offered time for the Congressman to appear on the show. The offer included all four hours of the show, each day for a week!

Congressman Dreier has been heard on just about every talk show in the area, bought ad time on the John and Ken Show, and spent a very uncharacteristic \$1 million in last-minute marketing. But he has refused to appear on the show.

Suddenly, a lawsuit is filed by the National Republican Congressional Committee against the John and Ken Show with the Federal Communications Commission – charging that the John and Ken Show is unfair.

That is something the Democrats NEVER did when the show bashed Democrats, as it almost always did. I have to believe that the National Republican Congressional Committee did everything they could to dissuade the powerful Congressman from pushing the issue, knowing that the negative reaction from the listeners, from John and Ken, and from donors to the National Republican Congressional Committee would submerge the local issue involved.

It only reinforces my opinion of what happens when people go near the Potomac River. People get a Royalty Complex.

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