

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

11-8-99



City of Chicago

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Senators consider switch from GOP

Maryland's Neall most likely to go

By Tom Stuckey
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ANNAPOLIS — Sometime this month, state Sen. Robert Neall said, he will decide whether he will remain a Republican or return to his political roots by switching to the Democratic Party.

And he's not alone: Virginia state Sen. Warren Barry also mullied hanging up his Republican hat but is expected to announce today, to the relief of Virginia's governor, that he will remain in the GOP.

Mr. Neall's acknowledgment that he is considering a change and rumors that another Maryland Republican senator might switch enlivened an otherwise dull political season in Maryland state government this fall.

Rumors about Mr. Barry's future surfaced after Republican leaders criticized him for donating more than \$85,000 to his son's successful campaign for Fairfax County sheriff — as a Democrat. The party activists were angered that the elder Mr. Barry, who represents Fairfax, helped his son oust longtime Sheriff Carl Peed, a Republican.

An unidentified party official told the Fairfax Journal that Mr. Barry and Gov. James S. Gilmore III, a Republican, have sorted out their differences and Mr. Barry will remain with the Republicans, maintaining their landmark 21-19 Senate majority, captured for the first time ever last week.

"Republicans can't afford to let him leave," said Craig Bieber, executive director of the Virginia Democratic Party. "They need his vote to keep the majority in the Senate. I'll bet they'll do whatever they can to keep him happy with their party."

In Maryland, Democrats, delighted that Republicans are even considering joining their ranks, have been courting Mr. Neall and Sen. Patrick Hogan of Montgomery County, offering them a comfortable home in the Democratic Party. Republican leaders have been lobbying the two men to stay with the party that sent them to Annapolis.

Mr. Hogan now says he will not switch parties. Asked if he considered it, he said, "I consider everything, but I decided I like where I am. I won't let people down who helped me get here."

That leaves Mr. Neall — like Mr. Hogan one of a dwindling band of centrist Republicans in the state Senate — as the focus of attention by both parties.

If he were to change parties, Mr. Neall might be able to move up into a Senate leadership role because of his friendship with Democratic leaders. The likelihood of gaining a leadership role would increase if he were to be elected to another term in 2002.

But Mr. Neall also could face retaliation from voters in his affluent, suburban Anne Arundel County district if he became a Democrat.

Richard Bennett, state Republican chairman, said losing Mr. Neall would be a stain on what he called a very good year for Maryland Republicans.

"I'm not going to spin you," he said. "I don't want to lose Bobby Neall."

A switch by Mr. Neall would not

bring about a sea change in the Maryland Senate. Democrats control the Senate 32 to 15, and a 33-14 edge would not be that different.

But a party change would have considerable symbolic value. And it would further deplete the ranks of centrist Republicans at a time when some influential state and national Republican leaders worry that the party appears to many voters to have moved out of the mainstream and too far to the right.

You can get an indication of just how important a party switch by Mr. Neall would be to political leaders by looking at what happened when little-known Mayor Jack Gullo of New Windsor changed his registration from Republican to Democratic last month.

He was welcomed into the party at a news conference with Gov. Parris N. Glendening, Lt. Gov. Kathleen Kennedy Townsend and House Speaker Casper Taylor. Paul Ellington, state Republican executive director, bid him good riddance and said that Mr. Gullo's political career was over.

"I'm ashamed of Jay Gullo for turning his back on his constituents," Mr. Ellington said.

Mr. Neall, one of the state's most prominent Republican officials, would be a much bigger loss for Republicans. He is a moderating influence to the Senate Republican caucus and also adds a suburban presence to a delegation dominated by senators from rural districts.

Mr. Neall has been frustrated for some time by attacks from people within his own party who don't think he's conservative enough. He finds it ironic that some of those same people are now leaning on him not to switch.

"Maybe they don't want to have to come up with a new whipping boy," he said.

Delegate Michael Busch, a Democrat and fellow Anne Arundel County legislator, said he thinks Mr. Neall just does not feel at home with a Senate Republican delegation that took a sharp turn to the right in the 1998 election. Conservatives knocked off two centrist Republican incumbents, replaced a third centrist who did not seek re-election and claimed a fourth seat formerly held by a Democrat.

In the clubby Senate, Mr. Neall hangs around mostly with Democrats. He is respected for his fiscal acumen by top Democratic leaders such as Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller and plays a significant role in developing fiscal policies that normally would not be accorded to a member of a minority party.

As a member of the House of Delegates, the House minority leader and now a senator, Mr. Neall has never been seen as a partisan lawmaker. One of the major complaints against him by conservative Republicans has been his friendship with ranking Democrats.

Democratic leaders believe Mr. Neall would like to rejoin the party he abandoned in his 20s, but is uncomfortable with all the attention focused on his decision. He says he doesn't understand why everybody is so interested and, if he had his way, would put his announcement in an envelope and slip it under the door.

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11-3-79

Minister
we need to
know how
much we are being
used and whether
they're leaving
us yet. R

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Group With DeLay Ties Pays for Ads Pressing Democrats on Social Security

By GREG HITT

Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

WASHINGTON — A nonprofit group with ties to House Majority Whip Tom DeLay of Texas is financing a series of radio ads pressuring vulnerable Democrats over Social Security.

The ads, which are among the first independently funded political messages of the 2000 election, closely track a television campaign that top House Republicans launched last month amid the escalating budget fight with President Clinton.

The radio spots say liberals in Congress are poised to raid the retirement program to pay for foreign aid and new domestic spending. Though the radio ads urge local voters to call "our congressman," they are paid for by Americans for Economic Growth, a nonprofit group incorporated in North Carolina with headquarters in McLean, Va.

The initiative not only underscores the significance of Social Security as a 2000 election issue, but also highlights weaknesses in campaign-finance laws.

The ads have aired in recent days in the districts of four first-term Democrats, Reps. Rush Holt of New Jersey, Shelley Berkley of Nevada, Dennis Moore of Kansas and Ken Lucas of Kentucky. The four are among the GOP's top targets for defeat as Republicans fight to preserve the party's slim five-seat majority in the House. "It's a desperate attempt on DeLay's part to hold onto the majority," said Rhode Island Rep. Patrick Kennedy, chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee.

Americans for Economic Growth is part of a loose network of conservative advocacy groups that have cropped up this decade, many of them once associated with the fight over government attempts to regulate the tobacco industry.

The link between the group and Mr. DeLay is James Ellis. Mr. Ellis was the group's "registered agent" when it was founded in December 1993, according to North Carolina records, and is now head of Mr. DeLay's political-action committee.

"I wasn't involved in the specifics of it," Mr. Ellis said of the ad campaign. But Mr. Ellis said he was told about the group's efforts by Pat Buckley, its current head and a longtime associate from their days as grass-roots organizers on behalf of the tobacco industry.

"I said, 'Right on,'" said Mr. Ellis, adding he hopes to be more involved in the group in the future. "I agree with what they're doing." Mr. Buckley couldn't be reached for comment.

A spokesman for Mr. DeLay said there is no connection between the congressman and the private group's activities. But Mr. Ellis is an important member of Mr. DeLay's political machine, and, at minimum, the ad campaign highlights the deep commitment that the Texan and his allies are making to preserve the GOP majority.

Separately, a group known as the Republican Majority Issues Committee, headed by Mr. DeLay's former top fundraiser, is trying to raise \$25 million to mobilize conservative voters in 20 to 25 swing districts.

Rep. Berkley has taken a double hit in her Las Vegas district, where both the House GOP campaign committee and the nonprofit group have run ads. "They really have a low opinion of the intelligence of people in my district, and across the United States," Rep. Berkley said. She called Americans for Economic Growth "a set-up Republican front, and a very poor one at that. People know what it is."



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3-17-00
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eLibrary

February 8, 2000

The Legacy of Accomplishment, Dreams, and Vision – the President's Library

"To Learn the Truth in the Morning and Die in the Evening Would be Enough."
Confucius

"As guardian of memories, the architect is a poet and the elusive goal of the perfect – new, but where elements of the past resonate, almost imperceptively, yet all the more intensely – is his grail." Thierry Despont

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The Clinton Library becomes, like a Montecello, like an Alexandria, a place where dreams and memories have a dynamic convergence, and the visitors are uniquely transported by their sense of this space and their sense of its material history, both through a visual portal of the past, as well as a visionary portal of their imagined future.

While the President's physical Library space is critical to evoking this state of grace and awareness, it is the purpose of this outline (for the mission of creating the President's virtual or eLibrary) to focus on the mind and life of the man for whom this Library is endowed. And I would say that any Library, whether virtual or physical, as an archetype for all of us as a place where we learn and dream and grow, becomes everyman's Library for his understanding of heritage, legacy, and a greater future.

I think the concept of eLibrary is essential to the President's Library today. It is complex, but immediate. It has a blueprint, but will change dynamically over time. It has not changed since I was struck last November by its fundamental importance in the overall scheme of developing the Clinton Library, wherever that may be.

First, and above all, this is not simply a website. This is not about commerce or profit, it is not about traffic, it is not about countless chatrooms; although all of these ideas may be incorporated to some extent in the eLibrary. The fact is, the eLibrary over time will not be restricted to the Web.

The eLibrary is about ideas. Specifically, it is about Bill Clinton's ideas, and it is where citizens of the world can come to meet William Jefferson Clinton **today**.

While the nanotechnology of the eLibrary reduces the vast warehouses of documents, photographs, tapes, speeches, and other audio and visual artifacts of this Administration to a virtual chip, that is only a tiny portion of the potential that we are envisioning here.

The eLibrary is a virtual equivalent of the Fireside Chats of Roosevelt, or the Town Halls of this President, where we can tune in to Bill Clinton as a private citizen, get excited with him about changing the world, curbing poverty, ending war, expanding knowledge and wisdom, deploying technology, making a difference.

This eLibrary is purposefully *global* in reach. It is a *platform*. It is a *forum*. It is *entrepreneurial*. It is a *lighting rod* for positive social change. It is new economy, new technology, new vision, and new Internet all wrapped in one cohesive, 24x7 message. The eLibrary is the embodiment of the concept of a medium meeting message. I believe it is worth every investment of time, energy and resources we can bring to bear.

— David Hayden