

All Purpose News Story, Part III

Candidate Misspoke About Retraction, Aides Allege

By Gregg Easterbrook
Special to TWM

CROCK POT, Wisc.—Presidential hopeful (1) committed another verbal gaffe today, telling a campaign audience that “ (2) .” This was seen as an apparent contradiction of his earlier statement, “ (3) ,” made in a televised debate with one of the —, — other nomination contenders.

Aides scrambled to convince reporters that the candidate's statements should not be (4)

Appearing at his — lunch of the day on a whirlwind campaign tour,

the candidate spoke before the (5) , where he accepted the (6) . He told the predominantly conservative group he favors (7) . Just hours before, however, he told an audience of liberal voters that he supports (8) .

Later, the candidate sounded a new campaign theme, declaring, “Today our country is in grave danger of losing (9) . We must immediately begin large-scale production of (10) .” Sources close to the campaign said this strident new theme was meant to show the candidate as a tough man “who's not afraid to stand up to the Russians.” However, aides noted, the candidate will still avoid any

confrontation with (11)

Asked about the latest polls, which show him (12) , the candidate quickly responded that (13) . He said he did not expect to be seriously damaged by recent disclosure of his (14) .

A key test will come, aides said, at next week's (15) , where the candidate has promised a new hydro-electric dam, post office, deep-water port facility and S.A.C. air base for the votes of (16) .

Meanwhile he rejected criticism that he had begun full-time campaigning too far in advance of the actual nomination process. “The incumbent president has mired this country in unprecedented depths of economic problems, international crisis and (17) ,” he said. “Haven't two weeks of these disastrous policies been enough?”

Story Answers

- (1) Roger Staubach
Paul Volcker
Diane von Furstenberg
- (2) “Afghanistan is more free than Poland.”
“I have lusted in my heart after congressional pages.”
“Tree pollution causes acid rain.”
- (3) “Poland is Afghanistan's Vietnam.”
“I will never lie on the American people.”
“If all the dollar bills in the federal deficit were stacked in a pile, they would fall over.”
- (4) taken out of context
taken in context
quoted for attribution
- (5) American Association of Productive Investors
New York City Conference of Open-Minded Intellectuals
National Association of Upper-Income Heads of Householders in Targeted Zip Codes

- (6) William Agee Award for Economic Leadership
Edward Koch Citation for Humility
Demograph of the Year Award

- (7) summary execution of social workers
the gold standard for school lunches
mandatory pregnancy

- (8) banning of chemical additives in used cars
federally funded day-care centers for golden retrievers
free rock concert tickets for juvenile delinquents

- (9) World War III
World Wars IV through VIII
Super Bowl XVII

- (10) nuclear warheads that can be purchased with credit cards
made-for-TV movies that kill people but leave coffee tables unharmed
breeder reactors we can give to Russia as gifts

- (11) realtors' PACs
the Teamsters
middle-class social security recipients

- (12) up 0.000057%
down .003048%
either holding his ground or gaining or losing, possibly

- (13) the only poll that counts is the one on election day
polls are the voice of the people
his own private poll showed that he is already president

- (14) financial misdealings with his illegitimate children
videotaped group grope with three Arabians disguised as FBI agents
conviction for treason

- (15) preliminary Iowa caucus scheduling session
New Hampshire polling place site selection meeting
Puerto Rico 4-H Club Grandfathers' Day Dinner straw ballot

- (16) two sorghum farmers
three retired highway patrolmen
Ed Quintero, honorary master of ceremony

- (17) bad weather
lack of parking places
women with headaches

BEYOND DUMPING:

The Surprisin

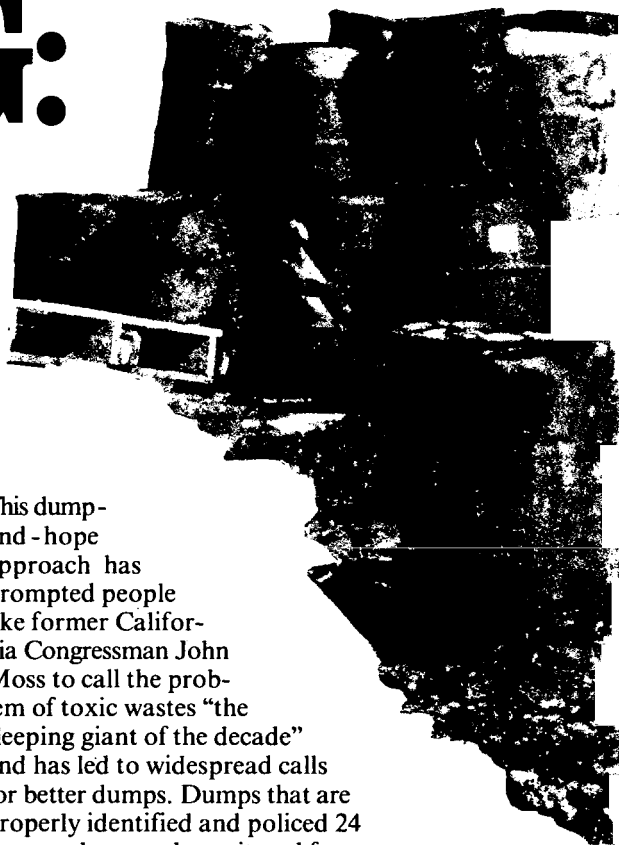
By Bruce Piasecki

A familiar advertisement by Monsanto proclaims, "without chemicals, life itself would be impossible." Without toxic wastes, life would still be possible, but it certainly would be bleaker.

This isn't an apology for the 77 billion pounds of these wastes that are produced each year in the United States, but a realization that they have become an integral part of our daily life. Sulfuric acid and mercury are inevitable by-products of the pulp and paper industry. The manufacture of life-saving drugs produces zinc and other heavy metals. The textile industry generates toxic dyes and organic chlorine. Even the common doorknob requires electroplating, which generates large volumes of rinse waters and sludges laced with cyanide. For America's major industries, toxic wastes are as ubiquitous and inevitable as the garbage trucks that prowl through America's neighborhoods each morning to cart away old newspapers, broken egg shells, and other assorted trash.

Just because we generate toxic wastes doesn't mean they have to kill us. But as Love Canal and a host of other examples demonstrate, they're doing just that, though that should come as no surprise when you consider what we do with our lead, mercury, chlorinated hydrocarbons, PCBs benzene, cyanides, and various other poisons. For the most part we simply dump them—into landfills, abandoned wells, holding ponds, open fields, and even old Titan missile silos. And then we cross our fingers and hope for the best.

Bruce Piasecki teaches at Clarkson College of Technology in Potsdam, New York, and is now editing a book on toxic waste controls.



This dump-and-hope approach has prompted people like former California Congressman John Moss to call the problem of toxic wastes "the sleeping giant of the decade" and has led to widespread calls for better dumps. Dumps that are properly identified and policed 24 hours a day—and monitored for generations. Dumps that confine waste in corrosion-resistant containers. Dumps with impermeable liners to prevent groundwater contamination. Dumps that aren't right next door to housing developments, drinking water supplies, and children's playgrounds.

But dumps nevertheless. Yet as the toxic waste cognoscenti know, the search for the perfect dump is about as fruitful as trying to build a perpetual motion machine. Containers corrode and leak. Rainwater seeps into underground storage areas. Aquifers supplying drinking water eventually become contaminated. In one case in Texas, for example, wastes supposedly pumped into a 9,000-foot-deep well came back to haunt nearby residents in their kitchen sinks. A report by Princeton University's Hazardous Waste Research Program last summer graphically illustrated the problem: