



HAMILTON COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

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P R E S S R E L E A S E F O R I M M E D I A T E R E L E A S E

June 20, 2008

**For further information, contact: Tim Burke
(513) 721-5525**

Recently, Congresswoman Jean Schmidt said on the floor of the House of Representatives that the Chinese were drilling for oil off the coast of Florida. That statement is just not true.

Tim Burke, Hamilton County Democratic Party Chair, called on Congresswoman Schmidt to acknowledge the inaccuracy of that claim. Rather than do so, she responded with a wild letter accusing Burke of having “a loose relationship with the truth.”

Burke has replied offering to correct and withdraw any inaccurate statements he may have made if the Congresswoman will point them out to him. He said he only wants Schmidt to do the same.

“Congresswoman Schmidt owes it to the citizens of the 2nd District to be accurate in the facts she uses to attempt to convince her constituents of the correctness of her policies.. Her recent effort to manufacture a Chinese communist scare off the coast of Florida was simply not accurate. I accept that it was a mistake. All I ask is that she acknowledge it as such and retract that claim,” said Burke.

Attached are copies of the three letters.

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HAMILTON COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

tburke@manleyburke.com

June 20, 2008

United States Representative Jean Schmidt
8044 Montgomery Road, Suite 540
Cincinnati, Ohio 45236

Dear Congresswoman Schmidt:

Your reply letter of June 18th states that my comments have a "loose relationship with the truth." I am unaware of any inaccurate statements in my letter to you. If there are I apologize and I would be happy to retract those inaccurate statements. Please point them out to me and I will do so.

All I ask is that you do the same.

Your statement that "the Chinese are drilling off the coast of Florida" is wrong. The Vice President has acknowledged that is not correct. Even George Will, in a rare correction, retracted his similar statement as inaccurate. The *Enquirer* reports that the Democrats you mentioned in your letter did not claim, as you did, that drilling by the Chinese was currently underway. If any Democrats did make such erroneous statements they should, just like the Vice President and George Will, acknowledge they were wrong and make a correction.

So should you.

If you continue to believe that such drilling is going, where is it located? How far off the coast? Latitude and Longitude? How many platforms are involved? I don't think you will or can answer those questions, because you know your original claim was false.

While I have no reason to believe that you made a deliberate attempt to deceive, you made a statement on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives that was not true, a mistake that should be acknowledged and corrected. That was all I asked. So I was surprised by your vitriolic, wild reply. I shouldn't have been given your history: plagiarizing as your own a newspaper column already published by another member of Congress; suggesting that a nuclear waste dump might be good in the second district; and in another embarrassing speech on the floor of the House, accusing a colleague in Congress, a Marine Corps hero, of being a coward.

I guess Saturday Night Live got it right.

Sincerely,



Timothy M. Burke

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Jean Schmidt

Member of Congress

Ohio

June 18, 2008

Mr. Tim Burke
Chairman of the Hamilton County Democrat Party
6109 Webbland Place
Cincinnati, Ohio 45213

Dear Mr. Burke:

While I have yet to receive a copy of your letter attacking me, I wanted to respond as soon as possible.

I always enjoy your loose relationship with the truth, but this one may well earn you a gold medal for hypocrisy.

A quick search of the Congressional Record would have yielded you some names of folks who said the same thing I did. I understand that research is not something you typically do when you have been faxed your talking points.

Had you taken a few minutes you would have found that Chairman Charlie Rangel, a man we both respect, had placed into the Congressional Record the same claim. He was joined by Senator Byron Dorgan (D-ND) and Representative Mike Ross (D-AR) who made the same claim.

Yet of the four of us, I was amazingly singled out for your venom. I imagine those names were not on your talking points. You may know Senator Dorgan; he is both Chairman of the Senate's Energy Sub-Committee and Chairman of the Democrat Policy Committee.

Further, I find it amazing that the Communists in Cuba have demonstrated a better understanding of the laws of supply and demand than your party.

I know that the extreme environment-wing of your party is pleased that gas prices continue to climb. But the working class families that you so boastfully claim to represent are footing the bill every time they go to the pump. They can afford your energy policy no more.

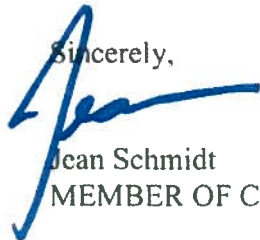
On the issue of my vote not to raise taxes by some \$13 billion on the oil companies, please allow me to explain. Taxes are a portion of the cost of manufacturing a product. When you increase taxes on a company you increase the manufacturing cost; thus, the price it charges for its products will increase. I will not vote for even higher gasoline prices like my opponent this fall has proposed. I will assume by your silence that you have endorsed her proposal to increase the gasoline tax by \$.50 per gallon.

Perhaps the communists might be able to provide both of you some counsel on this economic reality.

Please know that I will do everything in my power to increase the supply of gasoline in this country so that prices may return to a level nearer the price when the Democrat Majority came into office. A majority made possible, in part, by boasting of a "common sense plan" to lower gasoline prices.

If by chance you happen to have a copy of the so-called "common sense plan" would you be so kind as to forward a copy to Speaker Pelosi. She seems to have misplaced her copy.

Sincerely,



Jean Schmidt
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



HAMILTON COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

tburke@manleyburke.com

June 17, 2008

United States Representative Jean Schmidt
8044 Montgomery Road, Suite 540
Cincinnati, Ohio 45236

Dear Congresswoman Schmidt:

In light of the article in this morning's *Enquirer*, on behalf of all of the residents of the 2nd Congressional District, I request that you immediately retract the statements you made on the floor of the United States House of Representatives on June 5th that "the Chinese are drilling off the coast of Florida."

While others, including the Vice President, may have made the same erroneous statement. As you must know by now, as the Vice President has acknowledged, that wild claim is simply false.

It is imperative on you to acknowledge the inaccuracy of your statement and set the record straight. Your constituents are already having enough difficulty dealing with skyrocketing gasoline prices and a failing economy. You don't need to stir them up with false claims of a red scare off the beaches of Florida.

Sincerely,

Timothy M. Burke
Chair
Hamilton County Democratic Party

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