



## GRANDSTANDING. POLITICIAN'S PR MACHINES IN HIGH GEAR

By Kerry Schmidt 03-20-2005

I have waxed loudly and often in the past on how sick I am of hearing about the baseball steroid junk.

But given what went on last Thursday, besides being laughable and nonsensical, forced me to put my two cents in one last time (I hope).

Now I must state that while I am a conservative, right-wing Bush supporter, I hear-by say that last week's congressional hearings on steroids was one gigantic, bi-partisan crock of bleep!

I don't know about all of you, but when I voted for my congressmen (or women, to be PC, blah blah), I did not intend them to waste time on such an insignificant issue.

As Pulitzer Prize winning author and columnist George Will, tongue-in-cheek, so eloquently stated, the House (Committee of Government Reform) committee's duties now apparently include warning children "that dangerous and illegal behavior is dangerous and illegal."

Remember, I am bi-partisan here.

Within our country's borders, while we have a growing economy, we also have soaring gas prices, social security that is in deep doo doo, the costs of health care, if available, are rising and the falling American dollar is because Asia, in particular, is growing in economic power, along with many other pet peeves among partisan political lines.

And, let's not forget we are at war. Not with Iraq, but with a world-wide consortium of fanatical Islamic terrorists whose stated objective is to force the world into their form of religious beliefs and standards. Then you have all the other people in the world who hate one another: Arabs and Israeli's, Syria/Lebanon, North/South Korea, Pakistan/India and others. Plus, Iran and North Korea are building atomic weapons.

In other words, there are some real problems on this planet, yet a number of our elected officials feel that it is their sacred duty to get all the self-serving publicity they can by telling us it is their sacred duty to clean up steroids in baseball.

You bet your booty, that is exactly the reason I voted for whom I did!

These saviors subpoenaed six players, along with MLB executives. They excused Jason Giambi from testifying, however. Since he is one of only three players who openly admitted to steroid use, should I ask why he was excused?

Senator Joseph Biden took his ego and went on "Good Morning America" last Thursday. He said, "This is about who we are as a nation." Right! My country is solely about steroid use in baseball. What a crock.

21 politicians who sit (on their fat a.....) on the Government Reform Committee, headed by Tom Davis – R- VA, and Henry Waxman – Dem, CA. saw a great chance to get wide coverage on TV to show how they will save America from death and destruction.

"An independent congressional investigation is needed to remove the cloud hanging over baseball," said Waxman. Thank you Jesus (whoops, can't say that in Congress). I can finally sleep tonight knowing that these upstanding congressional watchdogs are saving me from impending doom.



“Ah Senator, I am eligible for my social security in a couple of years, how’s that going,” I ask. “Shut up you irresponsible mutant, I’m saving America,” was his answer.

Forget that Waxman and his wonder workers failed to mention that congress has already convened hearings on steroids at least four times since 1973, and nothing has changed. In fact, when legislators finally criminalized anabolic steroids in 1990, thereafter was when the home run explosion began.

Senator John McCain, whom I admire, in January said the new steroid policy in baseball “appears to be a significant breakthrough.” However when he actually read it, he said “baseball has misrepresented to me the substance of (the policy). Yep, these guys are sharp.

I can just picture Ted Kennedy up there, with his bottle of Chevas Regal, talking to us about government reform and ethics and all his moral turpitude.

Here is one of my favorite stories within this story. Keith Ashdown, VP for policy for something called Taxpayers for Common Sense (wait, common sense in Congress? Oxymoron, with accent on moron ), a so-called watchdog for congressional spending (yep, he watched our tax dollars going to the dogs), said he thought the hearings were appropriate (because they got on TV). But, and this is the only thing that anyone involved said that makes sense, Ashdown added, “there’s something totally comical about the idea of Jose Canseco in front of a congressional hearing.” Yo Rocky!

I will not pontificate in any detail on my thoughts on this steroid issue. I’ll only briefly repeat my main point, which is that the owners and management are hypocrites. The monster home runs are the reason for the increase in attendance and thus more revenues. Until players’ tests come back positive, they are innocent until proven guilty. Period.

I am much more upset that a bunch of politicians, laughingly from “government ethics and control committees” will use up hundreds of hours and thousands of tax payer’s dollars to play do-gooders in front of TV cameras.

Too many of these same politicians have lined their pockets, and those of their constituents with those same tax dollars, all the while smiling and telling us they are keeping us safe and sound.”

When gas prices fall below two bucks, when I know my social security will be there, when I know Medicare will not be bankrupt, when there is democracy in the Middle East and elsewhere, OK. But first, actually do something, like take care of the 10,000 other problems that are far more important than you getting lots of publicity before the first pitch is thrown out.

Pure and simple, our government has far more important things to worry about.