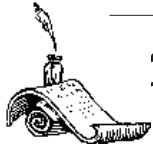


MAJORITY REPORT

Volume 2 Issue 2

Thanksgiving, 2005

Giving Thanks.... and Staying Focused



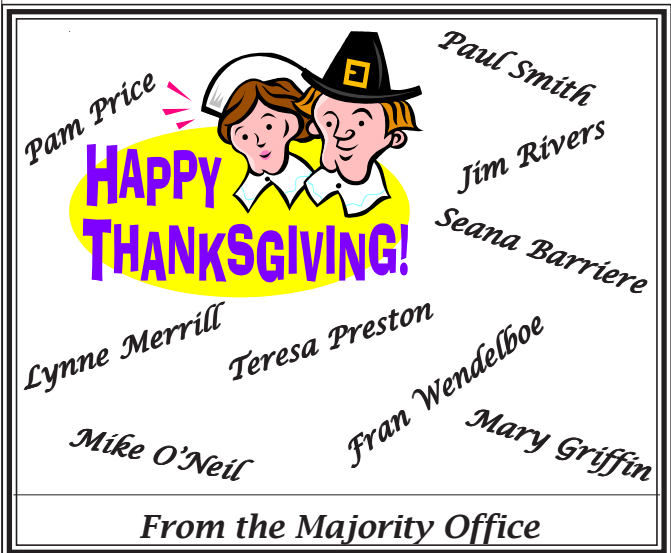
*From the desk of
the Majority Leader...*

It is most certainly that time of year when we should all give thanks for the freedom that we as Americans enjoy. We should be especially thankful for the men and women of our armed forces who make sacrifices on a daily basis so that we may continue to enjoy these freedoms. While we should be mindful of their efforts every day of the year, Thanksgiving is certainly a special time of deep reflection.

We in the Majority Office also appreciate your efforts and the time you spend working to make it a better state for our constituents. A special thank-you goes out to those of you who took time just before the holidays to come to the State House to deal with the energy crisis facing our low-income and senior citizens. The plan to help the needy of our state began with Republican leadership in both the House and Senate and, in the end, passed with overwhelming bipartisan support.

On Friday, Speaker Scamman appointed four House members to the Low-Income Electric Assistance Program Review Committee that was created to review monthly reports submitted by the PUC and to recommend legislation related to the issues covered under SB 228-FN-A. Republican members named to the committee were Neil Kurk, David Kidder and Sam Cataldo.

Unfortunately we were not successful in overturning the governor's veto of HB354, dealing with executive department rules. The legislation would have allowed House and Senate policy committees to vote for a joint resolution on final agency rules. The bill also made vari-



ous changes to the adoption procedure for rules, and extended the study committee on improving the rulemaking process. As Representative Whalley pointed out during debate on the floor, there needs to be a healthy competition between the legislative and executive branches of government.

It is unfortunate that even most of the democrats in committee who were among those who voted OTP unanimously (19-0) and had the bill placed on the consent calendar, chose to support the executive branch and the veto. The good news is that we will have another "bite at the apple" this session with proposed legislation relative to the rulemaking process that will allow us to fix the problem.

The holidays are an important time to spend with family and friends. Once January rolls around it will be time once again to focus on our goals and objectives. The way we as Republicans came together on the fuel assistance crisis and delivered for the people of our State is an indication of what we can accomplish when we all work together.



2006 Republican Legislative Priorities

Economic Development & Fiscal Responsibility

- Encourage economic growth and job creation through legislation.
- Eliminate burdensome regulations that negatively impact NH businesses.
- Be fiscally responsible in managing any budget surplus by first addressing the Rainy Day Fund and any unexpected needs.

Ethics & the Voting Process

- Ensure the integrity of the voting process.
- Strengthen guidelines for contributions, gifts and ethics in state government.

Safety, Rights & Liberties

- Support legislation that will protect private property.
- Pass the NH Child Predators Act.
- Resolve illegal alien trespass by closing any loopholes in NH statutes.
- Protect NH residents from identity theft.

Education Initiatives

- Examine options for parents & students.
- Encourage competition among schools.

Affordable, Accessible Healthcare

- Oppose mandates that could drive up the cost of healthcare.
- Support innovative legislation that will improve upon the affordability and accessibility of healthcare.

We intend to focus on legislation that falls into any of the categories that comprise our 2006 Republican Legislative Priorities. These bills will then be prioritized within these individual categories. The passage of SB 228-FN-A was a good example of Republicans working together to pass legislation that was good public policy. It was important in July that we send any surplus to the Rainy Day Fund to deal with any unexpected needs, such as the fuel assistance crisis and the disaster in the southwestern part of the state. We must continue to work toward growing the Rainy Day Fund further in order to protect the state's bond rating.

The State Party has asked for your help!

On December 6th there will be a special election for the seat vacated with the passing of Rep. John Alger. Chris Whitcomb is the sole Republican candidate for that seat, and he can use your help. It has been reported that the democratic challenger is showing up everywhere that Chris shows up. *We need a person of Chris Whitcombs qualifications and character joining us at the State House.* The State GOP has asked the Majority Office to pass along to the membership the following information with regard to a phone bank. The party has five phone lines that are available



NHGOP HQ, Main St., Concord
Tues., Nov. 22 & Wed., Nov. 23
Tues., Nov. 29 & Wed., Nov. 30

Time: 6-8 PM

If you are in Concord, please spare an hour and head over to the State GOP Headquarters and **help ensure our majority!**

