

WVU Archives

01:57:03;06 01:57:36;19 MM1-002- WVU

Control of the purse by the people's representation in Congress. (very dramatic, fist thrust toward heaven) Thank God! By the people's representative-your representative lies at the very foundation of our freedoms. Your freedom. That's what we're talking about. Your freedoms (stutters). Your liberties people. That's what checks and balances and separation of power is all about.

01:57:38;02 01:58:08;14 MM1-002- WVU

As enshrined in the constitution it is one of our greatest protectors of all our cherished freedom. This control of the purse is one of the most effective bulwarks ever constructed to repel a despot, to control a time, or to shackle the hands of an overreaching executive. Money talks.

01:58:06;01 01:58:21;04 MM1-002- WVU

Chip away at this fundamental barrier and one chips away at this cornerstone of the people's liberties.

01:58:30;01 01:59:33;19 MM1-002- WVU-partisanship

Sadly, Congress no longer functions as a truly deliberative body. And the historic time tester and constitutional order that we all profess to so revere is starting to realign itself accordingly. I believe that our constitutional structure is increasingly in peril. And that it is the people's branch that is in most danger of giving way. Congress is excessively concerned with political party matters. (angry) That's the root of it.(pounds on podium)The Bible says that the love of money is the root of all evil. I say something else is the root of much of the evil today-...political party matters. (dramatic pause)It didn't happen when the constitution was written. Petty partisanship! I see it until I'm sick of it- petty partisanship.

01:59:33;19 01:59:50;26 MM1-002- WVU

Talking about the Congress-wants to increasingly to delegate portions of its legislative authority including its power over the purse to other entities.

02:00:04;15 02:00:32;28 MM1-002- WVU-line item veto

No. It is not for purposes of the deficit that presidents have wanted a line-item veto. Guess what it is? (very dramatic) They want to control us!! It's greed for more power. Every president in this century has supported the line-item veto judgment (edit here) except...Taft. He was opposed to it.

02:00:31;01 02:02:32;00 MM1-002- WVU-Carter story

Power to intimidate members of congress. Oh, you say Robert Byrd is the, um, king of the road. He has built these four lane highways. I can remember when I was in the state legislature in 1947 with Cecil Underwood, there were only 4 miles of divided 4 lane highways in WV. 4 miles! 1947. And today there are almost 900(ws to audience) But how would you like to, after I put a couple hundred dollars, a bill for Appalachian quarters...President Carter called me up and said, "How are you today. I want to talk with you about a matter. You're doing a great job for those people who've sent you here. Robert I know they're proud of you. And I see you've got 50 million in a bill that's coming up. Now a lot of my advisors are urging me to veto that." Well, some of my advisors, Jimmy, are telling me to take out that item, but I don't want to take it out (laughter and ws of audience laughing). By the way Bob, and my wife doesn't call me Bob she calls me Robert, but the President does it and gets by with it (more laughter). By the way Bob, I've got a nomination coming up, pretty controversial one. I'd like to have your vote on that nomination. Lyndon Johnson

02:02:34;26 02:04:58;28 MM1-002- Lyndon Johnson story

Lyndon Johnson called me once on the telephone on a Sunday afternoon. He said, "Hey, Bob. Tomorrow in the Appropriations committee they're going to vote on a matter and I need your vote." And I said, "Mr. President, I can't vote for that. And I'm not going to vote for that." "Well it's just pilot program.

We can see how it works." And I said, "Yes Mr. President but once you get that pilot program, it's just a matter of time before you go a little further and a little further." And I can't vote for that. So we talked fully 20 minutes and by the time we finished I was as wet as a cake of soap that I'd bathed with this morning. And I went into the kitchen where Erma was fixing dinner. We still call it dinner down there we live. It's a summer afternoon meal. Still call the last one supper. She was fixing a meal and I said, "You know I feel like I've been through a wringer. I feel like I've been through a wringer." I was perspiring. Lyndon Johnson was the expert. (laughing) And finally I just said, "Mr. President. I'm not going to vote for it and more than that I'm going to get a couple of the other senators to vote against it, too on the Appropriations Committee tomorrow." Now, Lyndon Johnson put me on the Appropriations Committee when he was Majority Leader in the senate.

02:04:19:11

And it was very hard to say no to a president of the United States. And I've said no to this one that we have now and I said no to Lyndon Johnson. Suppose Lyndon had had that line-item veto and suppose I put a lot of money into Appalachian Corridors (?). He'd say, "Well Bob, uh, let's help each other a little, help each other a little (grinning). You vote for my nominee and I won't listen to all these dept. heads of mine. I'll protect your item." Think about it. That's the power that this gives to a president.

02:05:13;20 02:06:56;09 MM1-002- treatment of history and constitution

We can correct this deplorable treatment of history in our schools and we must. For only with a thorough knowledge of history, can we ever expect our people to appreciate the gift of the framers or the experience of the struggles going back centuries, which combine to make us free. Senator Oliverio, you and Herald Michael (speaking to them), do what you can to stress education and with education- history. Only with a citizen who understands his responsibilities in a republic such as ours, can we ever expect to elect office holders with the intelligence to represent the people well, the honesty to deal with them truthfully and the determination to promote the people's interests and preserve their liberty, no matter what the personal, political consequences. We can build upon the respect and reverence we still hold for our constitution, but we had better start now Maryanne..before, through ignorance and apathy, even that much slips away from us. thank you very much. (applause and crowd shots of standing ovation)

02:08:27;03 02:08:35;29 MM1-002- b-roll B-roll of
Robert and Erma listening to scholarship being named after Byrd.

02:12:34;00 02:13:27;14 MM1-002- Byrd quotes poetry
(quotes poetry-spiritual context)

I asked the robin as he swang from branch to branch...I asked
the violets...

MM1-002- 02:25:46;29 02:26:18;12 MM1-002- wvu-edu. and
violence

Today's children deserve a safe environment for learning, just
as much as earlier generations did. IN fact, in today's high-
tech focused workforce, a good education is more essential to
success. We must do all that we can to create such an
environment and to provide these children to excel academically
free from violence or the fear of violence.

02:55:14;20 02:57:21;14 MM1-002- more poetry-about edu.

A possible man leader of men...back of the grin that he wears
may be the courage of 10...(quotes poetry about education and
possibility) Lincoln once was a boy...all the great
heroes..trace them all back...Caesar, Jesus...Homer.....each in
his time was a boy.

And of course that applies to the girls, too.