

January 19, 2006 PRESS RELEASE

## **RESPONSE TO MEADVILLE TRIBUTE EDITORIAL**

I am happy to respond to the Meadville Tribune editorial.

Civility is an important value, not just in politics but in all aspects of life. It is, however, not the only important value. In a political campaign there are others of equal importance. They include integrity, honesty, and fairness.

I was somewhat surprised that in your editorial you lumped my behavior together with that of my opponent, for I believe that no personal attack of Mr. English ever came from me. On the other hand, the English campaign consistently misrepresented my ideas and writing with well-financed onslaughts which ultimately led to some pretty horrible depictions of me as a Nazi. It was, in fact, your very paper, in an article by Ryan Smith (October 6, 2004), which began to expose those misrepresentations and the reasons for them, for which I thank you.

I repeat here, as I did two years ago, that what I will say during this campaign will deal only with Mr. English's votes, quotes, conduct, and philosophy as a candidate and as my Representative in Washington. I have never been interested in his childhood, personal life, favorite movies, reading material, or any other issue not relevant to his representation of me and the people of this district.

I will also, as any good citizen should, reserve the right to defend myself against misrepresentations, particularly when they are as offensive as those of the 2004 campaign.

As to debates, I will be happy to engage in them this time as I did last time. You may recall that it was not I who ducked any of the debates. That, again, was a tactic of my opponent. I would also like to point out that in 2004 none of our debates was covered by any major broadcast organization. This means that very few voters actually saw them and thus got to judge the two candidates. I say this because it speaks to the issue of fairness. If very few people see the debates, then the candidate with the most money can always get his or her message across with mailing and media ads. Your challenge of civility to the candidates should thus to my way of thinking be augmented by a challenge to all the media to bring our campaign and the issues of the election to as many voters in the district as possible.

I would also like to point out that often the press releases I send out either do not get published at all or get edited to an unfair degree. Let me give you an example. When I announced my candidacy, I personally visited many of the papers in the district, handing them my press release with all of its supporting documentation. None printed the release in its entirety. In the case of your paper, you printed my position on all the hot-button issues (which I gave you to avoid the misrepresentations of 2004) for which I thank you

again, but omitted what I considered the most important thing: my positive plans of action for the people of this district. I discussed the economy, health care, social security, pensions, homeland security, and the corruption in Washington. Not a word of that found its way into print. Since I am sending this to you electronically, I am attaching that and all of my releases for you. I cannot tell you what to print, but I am asking you to print them in their entirety.

I would also like it understood that it is the job of a challenger to point out what he or she thinks are the political weaknesses of an opponent. When I say that Mr. English has consistently broken his word to the people of this district as exemplified by his pledge to abide by term limits (March 29, 1995), his pledge to allow less costly prescription drugs to come from Canada (August 15, 2000), and more recently his pledge to unions to vote against CAFTA, these are not attacks of a personal nature. The integrity of someone in office is a political issue, and in this climate—the climate of DeLay, Abramoff, Frist, Libby, apparently illegal domestic spying, lies about weapons of mass destruction, secret energy policy meetings, a flawed 2000 Presidential election, violating the anonymity of CIA agents, political payoff jobs in FEMA which caused so much agony after Katrina—integrity is an important issue. So if Mr. English takes Abramoff or DeLay money, my pointing that out is not personal. If he has allied himself with the sale and corruption of Washington through campaign money or paid trips, that is not personal. It is the public's business.

Finally, I would also like to point out that as a trained researcher, I try very hard to quote accurately and to cite sources for what I contend to be true, as I did for Mr. English's broken promises (above) in my announcement press release. In the press releases attached to this response, the sources for everything I say are included. I am human. I may make mistakes, but in this department, I try to apply the integrity which I learned as a researcher for my doctorate.

I will continue in this campaign to speak only of the issues which I think are important to the people of this area. I will try to tell them in a positive way what I will do for them if elected, and I will point out—with all the accuracy I can—the policies, statements, and actions of Mr. English which I think have not benefited the district. I will not engage in any personal discussions of Mr. English, but will reserve to right to defend my reputation against any acts of libel, slander, or misrepresentation. And I will try to do this in appropriate ways, using appropriate language. More than that, I don't think any good candidate can do.