

A Personal Odyssey

After the meeting of the Social Issues Department in Chicago (July 2012), I was asked by Dr. Prudy Gourguechon and Ms. GERALYN Lederman, our PR person, if they could interview me about the 25-30 years I had served as co-chairman, chairman and member of the Social Issues Committee. I decided I would rather write something, giving me the opportunity to check my notes, the letters that I wrote to the Executive Committee after each meeting, go over the past history of the Social Issues Committees, my own history, and the issues that the Committee dealt with; hence this document. In reviewing the document, I realized how repetitious it seems, but actually what we dealt with in the past 30-35 years, we are still dealing with today.

I had some knowledge of why the new president, Dr. Arnold Cooper, chose me to head the new committee started in 1980. He knew I had worked during my analytic training in the '50s as a therapist at Northside Center for Child Development, an interracial clinic run by Drs. Mamie & Kenneth Clark. Incidentally, it was from this very clinic that an amicus brief was submitted to the U.S., Supreme Court that upheld the lawsuit of Brown v. Board of Education, which led to subsequent integration in schools throughout the nation. Dr. Cooper also knew that I had been asked by Dr. Elizabeth Davis, who in turn had been asked by the Commissioner of Health of New York City, to help start a Department of Psychiatry at Harlem Hospital. Harlem Hospital served an area of 300-400 thousand people and had only a clinic run by 2 "psychiatrists" who studied bumps on people's heads. Elizabeth asked me if I would help her develop a residency training program; she would be the administrator of the department and I would teach.

We had known each other because we were both graduates of Columbia Psychoanalytic, and we were both analyzed by Dr. Viola Bernard. Dr. Davis retired from Harlem after about 20 years, and I stayed for another 24 (a total of 44 years) teaching psychiatry and analytically-oriented psychotherapy twice a week. Dr. Cooper also knew that I had been the delegate to the Executive Council of the American Psychoanalytic for 6 or 7 years representing Columbia (APM) and knew that I could conduct myself politically quite well.

Committee Business

When we met for the first time in 1980, the Committee consisted of only three people: Dr. Ted Cohen from Philadelphia, Chairman of the Vulnerable Child Workshop (a subcommittee of the former Social Problems Group) working with them for many years; Alex Burland from Philadelphia; and myself from New York City.

From my years as delegate to EC, I was aware of the ambivalence of the members of our organization about analysts speaking publicly about social issues.

Actually, the Social Problems group became a standing committee of the EC in the '60s. I knew that we had to speak gently.

The first issue was a letter from The Dr. Alan Gutmacher Institute of Family Planning asking that we add our voice to those opposed to current legislative proposals requiring that parents be notified when minors sought contraceptive counseling. The Executive Council (EC) approved our letter written by Dr. Burland and was sent on to Washington. It is cited in a work by psychoanalysts in the area on adolescent sexuality to support our contentions. We called this "the squeal rule" that violated the patient's privacy and confidentiality.

The second letter was written by me and rewritten by President Arnold Cooper. Forwarded to the Reagan Administration, it requested they live up to their obligations under Title IX ensuring that women's sports programs in all institutions of learning be funded to the same extent as men. Both of these letters (Gutmacher and Raskin/Cooper) contributed to the eventual achievement of these rights.

In the early to middle '80s, because I had been a delegate to the Executive Council, Alex Burland suggested that I become the Chairman of the Social Issues Committee. The next problem we undertook was sexual abuse in childhood. Both of us had such cases in practice and we approached the chairman of the Program Committee to establish an ongoing workshop. This workshop went on for many years and increased our notoriety. It led to many meetings, more recognition for the Committee, and a published paper written by Alex Burland and myself on people in analysis who had been sexually abused during childhood. It was reprinted in 1990 in a book entitled Adult Analysis and Childhood Sexual Abuse, edited by Howard Levine.

Many new members joined our committee, making it become geographically, ethnically, racially and religiously diverse. Dr. Helen Stein was an early member. Soon we were joined by Drs. Brenda Solomon, Ian Canino and Milton Hollar; also Irma Bland, Joseph Coltrera, JoAnn Fineman, Stanley Cath, and Hossein Etezady.

Drs. Solomon and Fineman started a workshop on psychological development of women. Drs. Solomon., Fineman and myself were eager to expand the workshop on the subject, so we met with Dr. Ruth Fischer, a member of the women's caucus. Thus was born a broader approach of the Committee; a workshop headed by Drs. Fineman and Solomon working in conjunction with Dr. Fischer. The third workshop was Ted Cohen's Vulnerable Child, and a fourth workshop on AIDS which had become such a scourge in the '80s was started.

At this stage, we were now an established committee, influential on a national basis (hopefully) via position statements regarding several substantial social issues. We were recognized as a voice of the Executive Council of the American Psychoanalytic Assn. Our meetings were held once or twice a year, three hours long with free-flowing exchanges. As Chairman, I did not direct the discussions. The final half-hour was always reserved for Ted Cohen and the Vulnerable Child. Now we were facing two additional prominent issues of the last two decades of the 1900s: abortion and homosexuality.

As regards abortion, in light of increasing Federal restrictions on family planning under Title X, threats to the relationship between doctor and patient, threats to *Roe v. Wade*, we felt we had to repeat in the '80s what our previous committee had said in the '70s:

1. We support a woman's right to choose whether or not to continue her pregnancy.
2. We view an abortion as a medical procedure to be agreed upon by the patient and her physician, and one which should be removed from legislative politics.

Turning then to the issue of homosexuality, in the early '70s one of the delegates had asked the EC for some sort of statement that would best embody the position of APsa regarding homosexuality. The climate then was most hostile to any dynamic formulation. The gay liberation groups were both vocal and militant. The APA's (American Psychiatric Assn.'s) meeting was disrupted, as was the local meeting of my own society at the Academy of Medicine in New York. The APA, under pressure to say something about homosexuality, conducted two nationwide polls of its members. Since they couldn't discuss it openly at a meeting, they polled their membership on whether homosexuality was a pathological entity or an alternate lifestyle. What the APA finally agreed upon in 1973 was a statement about homosexuality and civil rights.

Our organization had been conspicuously silent. Aware of the increasing epidemic of AIDS and the marked increased discrimination against homosexuals, we started a workshop at Apsa on the impact of AIDS, not only on psychoanalytic practice but we also began to formulate a position statement condemning the blatant discrimination against victims of AIDS, potential victims and high-risk groups. Because of our failure to act, Dr. Richard Isay (a member) had become more forceful in urging us to do what I felt should have been done years ago. I then heard from Dr. Charles Socarides who claimed good results in helping homosexuals change their sexual orientation. I asked him for printed reports of his results and he delayed in sending me anything except for a daily phone call to inform me not to deal with the issue. A matching call from Richard Isay every afternoon made me feel stronger than ever that we had to issue a position statement. Ultimately, in 1993, a statement written by the

Social Issues Committee was passed by the EC confirming that Apsa would accept overt homosexuals for training as psychoanalysts and that homosexuality was strictly a civil rights issue.

It was only in recent months of 2012 that we learned through Dr. Robert Spitzer's apology to the gay community in the New York Times that Dr. Charles Socarides' results were not based on scientific evidence. (see attached letter from Dr. Richard Isay).

WEDNESDAY, MAY 30, 2012

TO THE EDITOR:

Re "Welcome End of a Pseudothory"
(editorial, May 24):

Dr. Robert L. Spitzer was important in the American Psychiatric Association's 1973 decision to remove homosexuality as a "disorder" from its Diagnostic and Statistical Manual. But those of us who had been lecturing and writing about the psychological development of gay men for the two decades before he published his research and had been seeing gay men in therapy, including many who had been in destructive "reparative" therapies, knew how flawed his study was.

I did not take his findings seriously. By the time his research was published in 2003, the effort to change homosexuals to heterosexuals had already been discredited, and most mental health professionals believed it to be harmful. A decade ago, there were, and unfortunately still are, those who will use questionable science and outdated theory to support their cultural or religious bias or a personal agenda.

RICHARD A. ISAY, MD

New York, May 24, 2012

The writer, a clinical professor of psychiatry at Weill-Cornell Medical College, is the author of "Commitment and Healing: Gay Men and the Need for Romantic Love."

On the following page, the Executive Council Statement is an almost verbatim copy of the Social Issues Committee's position statement.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL STATEMENT ON HOMOSEXUALITY

The American Psychoanalytic Association reaffirms its (previously stated (1) opposition to any public or private discrimination against homosexually oriented individuals.

Prejudice cannot serve as a realistic reasonable or appropriate basis for depriving anyone of his or her civil rights, or of the opportunity to participate in the activities of the community. We support legislative measures directed toward countering the impact of prejudicial attitudes and practices, realizing full well that legislative measures cannot change how some people think and feel.

It is the official position of the American Psychoanalytic Association, embodied in its standard of training and principles of ethics that our component institutes select candidates for training on the basis of their interest in psychoanalysis, talent, proper educational background, psychological integrity, analyzability and educability, and not on presumptions based on diagnosis, symptoms, or manifest behavior, including sexual orientation. It is expected that our component institutes will continue to employ those standards and criteria, not only for the selection of candidates for training, but for the appointment of all grades of faculty as well.

-
- 1) On May 5, 1989 the Executive Council affirmed a statement presented at the Board on Professional Standards the previous day. The statement reiterated was "The Fellows of the Board on Professional Standards reaffirms our traditional philosophy and principles as embodied in our By-Laws, Principles of Ethics and Standards of Training, mandating that admission to and progression in our psychoanalytic training programs are to be based on careful evaluation of personal integrity, analyzability, and educability, not on presumptions based on diagnosis, symptoms or manifest behavior."

On October 15, 1989, the Executive Council endorsed the American Psychiatric Association's 1973 Position Statement on Homosexuality and Civil Rights deploring "public and private discrimination against homosexuals" and "urging the enactment of civil rights legislation at the local, state and federal levels that would offer homosexual citizens the same protection now guaranteed to others on the basis of race, creed, color etc."

Our committee meetings continued to be a forum for various social issues. We had spent enough time and energy discussing teenage pregnancy, the psychic structure of people born and raised in single parent homes, and of course the very tragic epidemic of AIDS in our population. Our recent discussions on AIDS have generated a new workshop that held its first meeting in December of 1988. The workshop, "The Impact of AIDs on Psychoanalytic Work" was chaired by Drs. Brenda Solomon and Milton Hollar. The discussion at the coming meeting will focus on the current political climate that threatens to deprive women of their right to decide whether they want to bear a child. Although the American Psychoanalytic Assn. has taken a pro-choice stand on this issue in the early 70's, the controversy during the last and current presidential administrations has erupted again.

We continue to sponsor other workshops. The Vulnerable Child Discussion Group considered "Special Vulnerabilities in Reconstituted Families" at the last meeting in New York. This May meeting in San Francisco marks the twentieth anniversary of the Vulnerable Child subcommittee, and we are greatly indebted to its chairman and founder, Dr. Theodore B. Cohen for his untiring devotion and hard work over the past two decades in organizing and maintaining high quality workshops that have attracted large audiences. The subject of this current meeting – What We Have Learned."

The last workshop – "Special Problems in the Analyses of Patients who were Sexually Abused during Childhood" – held its yearly meeting in December. The workshop is co-chaired by Dr. Alexis Burland and me. Our meeting was extremely well attended, and general interest remains high.

A few years back, in a letter to our committee, Dr. Simons – then president of our organization – asked the Social Issues Committee to enumerate a set of principles by which the Association could be guided in making statements on Social Issues. This request prompted us to review various issues on which the American has taken a public stand.

In the 1960's, the American co-sponsored a Joint Commission on Mental Health for Children and issued a position statement: Action for mental Health.

In the early 70's, the Social Problems Committee that preceded our committee, endorsed the position of the APA on National Health Insurance, urging that benefits for psychotherapy and psychoanalysis be provided on the same basis as other health services. In the next year, the American spoke of its concern in protecting the confidentiality of the patient-physician relationship. We also discussed the issue of abortion in the early 70's and published a pro-choice stand. We opposed the war in Vietnam. We deplored the use of psychiatric opinion in assessing the fitness of a political candidate. We decried the use of psychiatric hospitalization as a political device.

In the 1980's, on 3 separate occasions, we as an organization wrote to the President of the United States urging him to meet with other world leaders to reduce nuclear arms and spare the world from nuclear annihilation. We showed our concern for human rights in Argentina, and most recently joined with many organizations in opposing the "Squeal Rule" instituted by the Department of Health and Human Services of the past administration.

In 1981, we felt the issue of abortion was still alive and controversial even though the 1973 decision of Roe v Wade had not yet been overturned. Little by little, however, the ability of women to exercise their procreative rights was being eroded.

Title X of the Public Health Service Act of 1970 had allowed for the establishment of federally funded family planning clinics, Planned Parenthood, etc. wherein doctors could discuss all options concerning family planning with their patients. It did not permit the doctors to perform abortions at these clinics.

A recent directive issued in 1988 by the Department of Health & Human Services encroached further on the rights of the four million poor and welfare women who attended these clinics, such as Planned Parenthood. The directive forbade the discussion of abortion as an alternative for family planning by the staffs of the clinics. What a woman was now told is that abortion is not an appropriate method of family planning – a condemnation of abortion.

This prohibition was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court. In short, the Court held that since the government funded the family planning clinics, it could dictate policy.

Not only does this prohibition gag physicians and prevent them from freely exercising their ability to practice their specialty, it also deprived women of vital information about abortion.

Those of us who treat Medicare patients have had our fees regulated by the government. Insurance companies were making it more difficult for us to treat patients as we wish. Whenever outside forces subsidize, they eventually control. Four years ago, doctors in federally-funded family planning clinics could at least talk about abortion to their patients, even though they couldn't perform them. Now they couldn't even mention abortion as a viable option.

Our final note – about 40% of medical students these days are women. Many, many candidates in our institutes are women. It is important for our image that we state our positions clearly. Therefore, the Social Issues Committee would like this Executive Council to consider and adopt the following resolution:

As an organization that has supported a woman's right to choose whether or not to continue an unwanted pregnancy, The American Psychoanalytic Association deplores and condemns the action of the President and Congress of the United States for refusing to allow physicians in federally-funded family clinics to give information about abortion to their patients.

This prohibition not only limits our freedom speech, but is an unwarranted intrusion in the relationship between doctor and patient. It prevents us as physicians from adequately discharging our duties to our patients. The clinical implications for the mental health of women deprived of such counseling are grave.

Because of our repeated pro-choice statements that were always approved by the Executive Council, two members of the Apsa resigned. Furthermore, in 1991, I received a stinging letter in TAP from Dr. Francis F. Barnes. I am including both his letter and my response. (see attachs.)

Another letter was sent by George Zavitzianos, M.D. in a 1992 edition TAP. His feeling was that the Social Issues Committee should refrain from making any holy statements and resolutions since they are anti-analytic. (see attachs.)

In the mid 90's, in response to the steering committee and their desire to get publicity for the American, the members of the Social Issues Committee have been writing essays for the media., The topics are listed below:

The Government and the Vulnerable Child
Foster Care – Invisible Children
Considering Violence
Sexual Abuse Revisited
Domestic Violence and Psychoanalysis
Talking to the Elderly
Race Relations – 1994
Children Who Beget Children
Day Care in America
Black Anti-Semitism
The Plight of Divorced Women
Problem of Cocaine Babies
Availability of Good Education for Minorities.

It is our fervent hope that these essays will be published in newspapers or popular magazines with the help of the Public Information Committee of the American.

Most of our discussion centered on the new incoming Republican-controlled Congress. Their threats of drastic cuts in social programs, orphanages for children of unwed mothers, dismantling of Federal regulatory agencies, etc. are frightening.

Dr. Bruce Sklarew of the Committee on Community Psychiatry joined later. The Social issues Committee supported him in his effort to get our organization to become more aware and involved in matters that concern both our committees.

The deteriorating state of race relations and the increasing division between Black and White America was the first social problem for discussion at our next meeting in 1996. It was totally obvious to all of us that the Black experience was totally different than the White in our country. Dr. Irma Bland volunteered, along with Dr. Brenda Solomon, assisting, to write about what a psychoanalyst could offer to further understanding and

healing the divide.

Our next focus shifted to our concern about the thrust of the Congress – its desire to cut social programs, the fate of children of the poor, health care, education, and the shifting to the states what had been Federal responsibility. We were also concerned about the attacks on a woman's freedom of choice.

Another issue for discussion was the seeming increase of cases of false accusations of mass sexual molestation and satanic worship.

Dr. Robert Pyles joined us to discuss the workings of the Coalition for Patients' Rights and their success in promoting freedom of choice of physicians for patients. The Bennett bill was explained to us in more detail.

In 1996, the session began with a review of the two recent steering committee meetings. We focused on Dr. Bruce Sklarew's position paper in which his committee—Psychoanalysis, Community and Society, the Committee on Racial and Ethnic Diversity complained that other committees were given more prominence in the program at our semi-annual meetings.

This has not been the experience of our committee. In the past sixteen years, we have started workshops on sexual abuse, AIDS, and women's issues. Our Vulnerable Child panel is nearing the end of the third decade of its existence. When our committee wants our Association to speak out on a pressing social issue, I have rarely had difficulty in getting access to the Executive Committee and Executive Council to present our resolutions.

Our frustration has to do with getting our words out to the public and the legislators, whom, we hope, will work to improve many of our dismal social conditions. We who work with adults and focus on reconstruction, along with our colleagues who work with children know more about prevention of mental illness and are heard from the least. The press does not look favorably on psychoanalysis these days, and The American Psychoanalytic Association is rarely, if ever, mentioned.

We realize that our Executive Council has to deal with survival issues these days, but we have two suggestions that may help give our organization good publicity and show the public our interest in our society: -

1. Use our honorary membership to engage important people to give a key note address to our Association. We would suggest Senator Daniel P. Moynihan, Marian Edelman (Children's Defense Fund), or Hilary Clinton in that order. If funding is necessary, the Social Issues Committee will try to undertake the responsibility.
2. Encourage each institute to give a course on The Application of Psychoanalytic Principles to the understanding of social issues. We know that many Institutes and societies have reached out to their communities and the contacts have been mutually beneficial. We know many analysts on their own work in ghetto hospitals, and community health projects, etc. As an organization, we will get good publicity and possibly referrals by following through with this idea.

As for national issues, we are very concerned about the impact of the recently passed Welfare Reform Act. There will no longer be a federal guarantee to protect children. Massive cuts in food stamps will affect 14 million children and their families. Federal money for safety-net services like soup kitchens and child protection services has been cut. The states will now assume the problem of welfare within the mandates of the federal legislation. How successful these programs that want able-bodied people to work or be in training in 2 years, remains to be seen. Will there be jobs? What will happen when food stamps are cut off after 3 months? What will be the cost in human suffering?

Drug use is more prevalent in our teenage population. Teenage pregnancy is still a major problem with many children being raised in fatherless homes. Homelessness has increased in urban areas. Safety benefits for illegal aliens have been eliminated. Hunger, child abuse, teenage suicide, the high school drop-out rate all are pressing problems. The nation's social well-being has fallen to its lowest point in 25 years according to researchers at Fordham University.

As a committee, we are as gloomy as the weather in December in New York City as far as social issues are concerned.

**OUR REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL ISSUES TO THE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE –M AY 15, 1997**

With less than half of our membership present, the Social Issues Committee continued its semi-annual survey of the issues confronting our country. Although early reports from some states seem to indicate that welfare reform is reducing the welfare rolls, we are quite skeptical. This dramatic change in our social policy affecting children, the poor, and disabled will take years to evaluate. We need national figures to assess the success or failure.

We were dismayed to see further legislative attempts to encroach on a woman's freedom of choice – i.e. - the continued debate and attempt by Congress to outlaw "partial birth abortions."

We were also saddened by the trend to do away with Affirmative Action programs in Texas and California. At a time when racial tensions are far from quiet, when the economic gulf between rich and poor continues to widen, doing away with Affirmative Action programs seems the wrong approach.

As further proof of the callous disregard of the Congress for our democratic principles, their refusal to deal with the issue of campaign reform increases our cynicism and disillusionment in our elected government. Our lawmakers' decisions- as well as their elections are controlled by the purse with the most gold. Our democracy is in the hands of the "money changers." Brotherly love has been replaced by greed and selfishness.

At my request, the Committee dealt with finding a replacement for me. We will suggest to the Executive Committee that Dr. Mark Smoller, a recent member to our committee, and I co-chair the Committee for the next term. He then will succeed me as Chairman.

If memory serves me, Dr. Smoller took over as Chairman of my Social Issues Committee in 1999 or 2000. I remained with the group for several years as a quiet participant. Unfortunately for me, all were child analysts. They wouldn't deal with the national social issues of poverty, bigotry, lack of education and social mobility that caused child problems, and I began to think of resigning.

At that time, I came across Dr. Prudy Gourguechon's excellent article, "The Citizen Psychoanalyst" in the June 2011 issue of The Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Assn. I called to congratulate her on her article, only to find out that she had never heard of me!! A blow to my narcissism!! After a chat of a half hour, in which I told her of my experiences as former chairman of the Social Issues Committee, and the important work and position statements that I wrote, she offered me the position of consultant to the New Social Issues Dept. Hence, this personal odyssey.

With the help of GERALYN LEDERMAN, our public relations person at ApsA, and Lynn Holm in Santa Fe, N.M., I began writing in the summer of 2012 of my earlier life experiences. I had hoped to finish this before the election that is only 3 days away.

I am finishing this paper after the Presidential election of 2012. The campaign itself was the worst in the many decades I have been voting. It was characterized by bitterness and hatred, racial bigotry, excessive lying, attempts at voter suppression, and a waste of billions that could have been used more productively. Fortunately, President Obama, the candidate who believes in the social issues that concern us has been re-elected. The candidate who believes in profits, not people lost by well over 100 electoral votes.

The recent trial in Arizona about the psychotic who shot former Congresswoman Gabby Giffords in the head, reminds me of a social issue that neither party nor the APsa has dealt with at all: GUN CONTROL. That should be on our future agenda. I am joined in this by Dr. Joanne Fineman, a member of the Social Issues Committee of the 80's and 90's.

This finishes my trip through the past. Sorry for the diversion into politics!

I want to thank Rosalie Landy for her efforts to put this all on paper.

Dear Prudy,

I want to congratulate you for expanding the Social Issues Department to include candidates and also members of my generation with Moisey Shopper, Ruth Fischer and Bruce Sklarew who share our interest. The Child Advocacy group is another excellent idea.

Because of the current political atmosphere I was thinking back to the paper I wrote for you and Gerlyn Lederman our P.R. person at ApsA about my 25-30 years as Chairman, Co-Chair and member of the previous Social Issues Committee. I remember finishing the survey after the election of 2012 where racial bigotry, attempts at voters suppression, womens's issues, gay marriage, class distinction, and the 47% of the voters who the Republican candidate felt would not vote for him were rampant. Congress woman Gabby Giffords had been shot and I mentioned gun violence as an issue that ApsA hadn't dealt with. Since the slaughter of children and Teachers in Newtown, Connecticut 6000 more people have been killed by guns.

I was depressed over the future of my "United" States-and still am.

The issues we dealt with then are still alive. Roe V. Wade is under attack in most Republican states. Rape and sexual abuse of women in our Armed Forces has been rampant. Non-violent marches are being held in North Carolina because of attempts to suppress our black citizens from voting. Gay rights and gay marriage are still in dispute. The Republicans in Congress are holding on to a disproven economic theory called "Austerity" to prevent our first black President from helping the country come out this depression that they themselves have caused.

The Koch brothers who net 115 billion yearly are now trying to buy up liberal newspapers to promote their theory: Smaller government and less regulation. They obviously haven't read their bible: St. Mark 10:25 "It is easier for a camel to go thru the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God".

Another New Testament quote from ~~Steven~~ Steven Finscher (Republican from Tennessee) who is a member of the Agriculture Committee. He has been able to steer 3.5 million in subsidies to his family's farms. He justifies his action by quoting from the bible "one who is unwilling to work, should not eat." So much for food stamps for children, and the poor.

Before taking my antidepressant pill, 2 more quotes-not biblical.

1. "Should any political party attempt to abolish social security, unemployment insurance, and eliminate labor laws and farm programs, you would not hear of that party again in

our political history. There is a tiny splinter group, of course, that believes you can do these things. Among them are...Texas oil millionaires and an occasional politician or business man from other areas. Their number is negligible and they are stupid.”

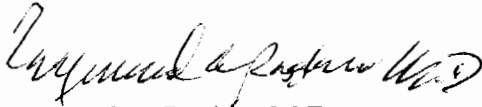
President-Dwight D. Eisenhower, November 8, 1954

2. The New York Times –The wisdom of Bob Dole, May 29, 2013(excerpt)

Already, the mulish behavior of congressional Republicans has led to the creation of the sequester, blocked action on economic growth and climate change, prevented reasonable checks on gun purchases and threatens to blow up a hard-fought compromise on immigration. Mr. Dole’s words should remind his party that it is not only abandoning its past, but damaging the country’s future.

In spite of President Regan’s politicizing “Welfare Queens”, and this motley crew called the G.O.P. in Congress, I still consider myself my Brother’s Keeper.

Sincerely,



Raymond A. Raskin, M.D.

June, 2013