



Jobs Cars Homes Shopping Travel Weddings Golf Best of Las Vegas Photo/Page Store Search: [] Go

NEWS SPORTS BUSINESS LIVING ENTERTAINMENT FASHION OPINION WEATHER HOTELS CLASSIFIEDS MULTIMEDIA

BANK OF NEVADA Strong. Secure. Committed to Southern Nevada. We're here for you. Call us: 702.248.4200 Member FDIC

RECENT EDITIONS Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat Sun Mon

Opinion

SAVE THIS EMAIL THIS PRINT THIS MOST POPULAR RSS FEEDS POST A COMMENT

Sep. 14, 2009 Copyright © Las Vegas Review-Journal

EDITORIAL: Try civility?

Appearing on ABC's "Good Morning America" Thursday, Vice President Joe Biden said a Republican congressman's outburst during President Barack Obama's health care speech Wednesday night "demeaned the institution."

South Carolina Rep. Joe Wilson shouted "You lie!" during Mr. Obama's remarks.

After the speech, Rep. Wilson apologized for the incident. "This evening I let my emotions get the best of me," he said. "While I disagree with the president's statement, my comments were inappropriate and regrettable. I extend sincere apologies to the president for this lack of civility."

President Obama accepted the apology.

Rep. Wilson's outburst came after Obama said his nationalized health care plan would not cover illegal immigrants.

In fact, Nevada Rep. Dean Heller proposed an amendment this summer that specifically would have blocked illegal immigrants from receiving coverage. Democrats voted down that amendment. Why would they do that if they really intended illegal immigrants to be turned away from any so-called "public option"?

Some Democrats seemed reluctant to accept the apology and move on. "There'll be time enough to consider whether or not we ought to make it clear that that action is unacceptable in the House of Representatives," said House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, D-Md., when asked about possible punishment for Rep. Wilson.

Oh, please.

Presidential addresses to joint sessions of Congress are supposed to be dignified affairs, true enough. But did the Democrats now trying to stretch Rep. Wilson's momentary loss of restraint into a condemnation of his entire party sit respectful and silent during Mr. Obama's speech? They did not.

"Treating a joint session of Congress as a pep rally, with incessant, distracting, and plainly scripted ritual standing ovations, is also inappropriate," notes law professor Frederick Scauer of the University of Virginia.

"We're debating whether the GOP has a civility problem ... because one GOP congressman said 'You lie!' when the president spoke about a provision he himself had just removed from the bill Congress had last seen?" asks Roger Pilon, vice president of legal affairs for the Cato Institute. "Have we failed to notice that the president himself had just called the words of 'prominent politicians ... a lie, plain and simple'? Have we ... forgotten that Senator Harry Reid said 'President Bush is a liar' - and never apologized for it? Have we forgotten the vicious, unrelenting Democratic attacks on Mr. Bush throughout his presidency, or on Sarah Palin, extending even to her children?"

Yes, a return to some level of civility and decorum would be welcome. As would a return to telling the truth.

Share & Save



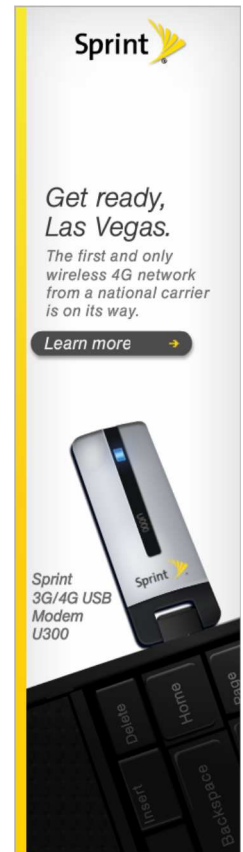
HENDERSON HYUNDAI Advantage FREE MAINTENANCE FOR 3 YEARS WITH YOUR PURCHASE OF A HENDERSON HYUNDAI! Click Here for More! HENDERSON HYUNDAI SUPERSTORE

- Most Popular Stories
• SHERMAN FREDERICK: Obama blows chance to lead
• SHERMAN FREDERICK: Enough is enough, Harry
• VIN SUPRYNOWICZ: Which group of armed men should we fear?
• LETTERS: American health care situation is disgusting
• FROM OUR READERS: Hotels not the only places where sexual assaults occur
• LETTERS: Nobody is dying without medical care
• LETTERS: Nothing to fear from Obama's school speech
• EDITORIAL: More nannyism
• LETTERS: More to business woes than just taxes
• EDITORIAL: Cracks in the welfare state

MULTIMEDIA

- Raw Video: Grizzly Takes Dip in Montana Pool
Iraqi Shoe Thrower to Be Released From Prison
Looking Back: Wall Street Post-Lehman Bros.

Credit.Com Need a 2nd Chance? We have a Credit Card that can HELP! Rebuild Your Credit Guaranteed Approval Up to \$1000 Limit* 60 second Answer Apply NOW!



Sprint

*Get ready,
Las Vegas.*

*The first and only
wireless 4G network
from a national carrier
is on its way.*

[Learn more](#) →

Sprint
3G/4G USB
Modem
U300

Home
Delete
Insert
Backspace



VANLINES.com
THE MOVING EXPERTS

FREE Moving Quotes

Image of a red moving truck in front of a house.

[Contact the R-J](#) | [Subscribe](#) | [Report a delivery problem](#) | [Put the paper on hold](#) | [Advertise with us](#)
[Report a news tip/press release](#) | [Send a letter to the editor](#) | [Print the announcement forms](#) | [Jobs at the R-J](#)

Copyright © Las Vegas Review-Journal, 1997 - 2009
[Stephens Media, LLC](#) [Privacy Statement](#)