

IVI-IPO 2004 CONGRESSIONAL OUESTIONAIRE - Section 1

DATE: 1/4/04 DISTRICT: 6th PARTY: Democratic

NAME: Tom Berry

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NUMBER OF PETITION SIGNATURES FILED: 2220

NUMBER REQUIRED: 600

A) Elective or appointive public or party offices previously held including dates:

Precinct Committeeman, York Township, 1972 to 1997

Member, York Township Democratic Organization, 1972 to 1997

Member, DuPage County Democratic Central Committee, 1993 to 1997

B) Other elective offices for which you have been a candidate.

Democratic Nominee for U.S. Congress, 6th District, 1994

Democratic Nominee for Illinois State Representative, 78th District, 1996

Democratic Nominee for U.S. Congress, 6th District, 2002

C) Principal business, education, professional and civic activities of the past ten years.

York Township Committeeman of the Year, 1996 to 1997

Legislative Representative, United Transportation Union Local 528, 1971 to 1999

Assistant State Legislative Director, United Transportation Union, 1994 to 1996

State Legislative Director, United Transportation Union, 1996

D) What subjects have you studied ands what experience have you had which will be most helpful to you in the office you seek?

Background in economics, labor law, political science and labor education.

Served as State Legislative Director (IL), United Transportation Union, Served as Chairman UTU Local 528, 1971 to 1990. Experience working with Government Agencies, Interstate Commerce Commission, Federal Railroad Administration, OSHA, EPA, EEOC, U.S. Department of Labor and with legislators at all levels. 44 years C&NW Transportation Company & Union Pacific Railroad. Navy Veteran, member Veterans of Foreign Wars.

E) Activities for other candidates. Please be specific.

Not Applicable. Don't understand the question.

F) Please list all endorsements you have received so far.

I have many endorsements from previous elections. However, for this election it is too soon for endorsements.

G) As concisely as possible, please state why you feel you should be endorsed over the other candidate(s). What goals for the office you seek are most important to you personally?

I have far greater experience and commitment in an effective representative capacity than does my opponent in the current primary election.

The most important goals are 1) to insure that we have people elected to congress who will live up to the constitution and not cave in to pressure from the executive branch to abdicate responsibility and authorize the president to declare war at a future date, 2) We need to work for genuine reform-universal comprehensive health coverage that does not diminish existing benefits, maintains choice of doctor, contains costs, requires employers to contribute to the cost of care, and guarantees high quality non-rationed service. We need a National plan, not state alliances. We need to recognize that 67% of employers who provide insurance cover direct benefits for more than 85 million people and typically pay 6% in administrative costs, compared with a cost of 16-40% for those who choose conventional insurance. We don't need a fox to guard the hen house; the insurance company should be removed from the basic equation. Health care providers (including pharmaceuticals) should be regulated on their profit margins to the cost of capital to stimulate reinvestment in the industry, capital expansion, more jobs and more taxpayers. We can upgrade on the single-payer concept for the most cost efficient delivery vehicle to reduce administrative costs. Also, internal mechanisms can be put in place to effect malpractice settlements before resorting to court action.

3) The Newt Gingrich contract with America was to let the free market system solve all our problems; that's what the Republicans have adopted. They have turned it all loose. We have corporations leaving the country with their exploits and taking the jobs with them. The people of Mexico are not loosing their jobs to the people in China because they will work even cheaper. It is a race to the bottom. Obviously we need to work to strengthen labor laws, and we need to effect a more level playing field to ensure that free trade is also fair trade

H) Please outline the place of patronage, personnel codes, race, gender, and sexualorientation in establishing criteria for hiring and promoting public employees.

Patronage has no place. Race, gender, and sexual orientation should not be in the determining criteria. Personnel codes should reflect the goals of the Federal Fair Employment Practices Commission.

I) What is your campaign budget? How much have you raised to date?

This campaign has yet to raise or spend \$5,000.

J) How many people are on your campaign staff/ How many volunteers are on your list?

10 on staff. 25 volunteers.

IVI-IPO 2004 CONGRESSIONAL QUESTIONNAIRE - SECTION 2

Foreign and Military

1. a. What should be the US role in multi-national alliances such as the UN, NATO and the International Criminal Court?

The US should fully participate and exercise a leadership role in these alliances.

b. What should be the policy of the IMF and World Bank toward countries that are essentially bankrupt?

Action should be taken, where possible, to forgive such debt in order to allow room for such countries to return to viability.

2. What should be Congress' role in formulating foreign policy?

We have a congressional form of government, not a presidential form of government. Congress, by definition, should be the leading formulator of foreign policy.

3. Should the US wage war without a declaration from Congress?

Absolutely not. Congress has the power to declare war, not the president. No president should be trusted with the power to declare war. This, by our constitution, is reserved for the Congress.

4. a. Do you support funding to assist conversion of the defense industry to civilian applications?

Yes, where it makes common sense to do so.

b. Do you agree with current proposed level of funding for the military? If you agree, explain. If you disagree, how would you distribute the funds.?

Yes. At this time our soldiers are in harm's way, and they need our full support. When this war is over, it will be a different story.

5. Do you support

a. continued funding for WHISC (the re-named Army School of the Americas)?

No. This spy school should have ended long ago.

b. Fast-track authority.

No. The history of fast-track produced NAFTA, without labor or environmental protections. Giving the President the authority to do what Congress should have done is not the answer to governing properly, or living up to our Constitution, or for that matter setting a level playing field to promote both fair and free trade with our neighbors on this planet.

6. Do you support the way the drug war is being carried on, both abroad and at home? What would you change?

NO. Today, 50% of incarcerations in prison are drug related. At home we need to concentrate more attention on prevention and treatment, and less attention to jailing drug abusers.

7. Do you support

a. normalization of relations with Cuba?

Yes. It should have been done years ago.

b. the Helms-Burton Act?

No. The Helms-Burton Act should be repealed.

Environment

8. Do you support the environmental policies of the current administration.?

No.

9. How do we balance the need to protect the environment with our need for economic development?

1) Illinois has lost approximately 90% of its wetlands. These areas are critical for reducing flooding, providing wildlife habitat, and removing water pollution. Illinois depends on federal law to protect its wetlands, but recent court decisions have dramatically curtailed federal wetlands protection, leaving tens of thousands of acres of Illinois wetlands open to destruction. The Bush administration issued guidance and proposed rulemaking that changes and limits the definition of "waters of the United States" under the Clean Water Act to exclude from protection many wetlands, intermittent streams, small lakes and ponds. Congress now needs to act to protect "isolated" wetlands and provide protection against common activities that destroy wetlands.

3) The Bush Administration has recently weakened the Clean Air Act's New Source Review program, allowing factories to make substantial changes without installing modern pollution control technology. We need to take action in Congress to turn back these changes, and to decrease, not increase, pollution.

4) American companies have too often been implicated in human rights abuses, environmental destruction and labor rights violations. U.S. corporations have no legally binding obligation to disclose specific environmental and labor information about their offshore operations as they must in order to operate within the U.S. We need legislation requiring U.S. Based multinational corporations to disclose basic information on their human rights, labor, and environmental practices much in the same way they disclose domestic information.

5) The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the World Trade Organization (WTO) have been used to weaken environmental protection in the United States and abroad. The downward pressure on environmental, health, labor and safety standards could increase with completion of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTTA) and the Doha Round of WTO talks. Unfortunately, Congress cannot exercise its normal constitutional powers as a check and

balance on the executive branch with respect to trade agreements because Congress gave it away by allowing fast-track procedures that deny Congress its normal power to make amendments or to conduct a thorough debate. We desperately need reform of current and future trade rules so they can no longer undermine environmental, health, labor, and safety protections? We need to repeal fast-track procedures, and return the power to Congress to fully debate and amend trade agreements. Without a worldwide level playing field on environmental, health, labor, and safety standards, we cannot win in a race to the bottom. We will instead whipsaw ourselves into the status of a third world country.

On the other hand, with a level playing field, we can both improve our environmental protections and grow our economy, promoting economic development throughout our country.

10. Do you support oil drilling in Alaska and other protected wilderness?

No. We need to work in the direction of reducing our need for fossil fuel and increasing our ability to economically produce renewable sources of energy

11. Do you support pollution credit schemes? No.

12. What transportation policy do you favor regarding a. infrastructure improvements?, b. Highways, c. Mass transit?, d. high-speed rail?, Amtrak?, f. Air transportation, particularly the proposed O'Hare expansion and third airport

The current O'Hare expansion plans will only take care of projected capacity for the next ten years. To avoid yet further expansion, we have to first recognize that 50% of flights into and out of O'Hare field are local in nature (i.e. Chicago to Milwaukee, Chicago to Springfield, Chicago to St., Louis, Chicago to Indianapolis, etc.), that these flights are both the highest fare per passenger mile and the most marginal operations of the air lines, and that air freight and passenger traffic of these local flights could easily be supplanted to service by rail. Next we have to recognize that only one cent of each transportation dollar goes to rail, leaving the remaining ninety-nine cents to be used for airports and highways, and that the Highway Trust Fund is a sacred cow that will not easily release funds for rail purposes. We need to take action to establish a Rail Trust Fund out of gasoline taxes in order to have a dedicated funding source to improve rail transportation service in the public interest (much as we presently do with the Regional Transportation Authority, i.e. METRA). We need to establish rail links into O'Hare Field from the three railroads that presently run into the perimeter. This will allow for quick transfer of air freight and passenger traffic from rail to air and air to rail. A speedier and more rational high-speed rail operation could be established to supplant most of the airline marginal local flight operations, giving the airport the safety and efficiency benefit of operating well below 100% capacity far longer into the foreseeable future. This will take a substantial amount of freight and passenger traffic off the highway and out of the sky in the Chicago region, will do much to improve the quality of the environment and pleasure of life in this area, and will be very cost effective, vs. additional highway and airport expansion, notwithstanding it will create many good high paying permanent jobs and help build a genuine stronger economy.

There is no reason why we cannot work to both improve Amtrak service and develop high-speed rail. Chicago is the rail hub of the nation. This is where it should start.

Taxes and Economic Policy

13. Do you favor

- a. a more progressive income tax? Yes.
- b. a flat tax? No.
- c. a national sales tax? No.
- d. reduction of the capital gains tax? No.
- e. reduction or elimination of the estate tax? No.
- f. elimination of the corporate alternative tax? No.
- g. tax cuts on stock dividends? No.
- h. any other changes in our tax structure? Please explain.

We need to reverse that portion of the Bush tax cuts that lowered the progressive income tax rate on the wealthiest Americans giving them windfall benefits, putting our country into a far greater deficit operation, and increasing the overall tax burden on the middle class of our country.

14. Do you favor a roll-back of the Bush tax cuts?

Yes, to the degree as described in my previous answer.

15. Do you support total or partial privatization of the Social Security fund? Please explain.

No. We don't need to roll dice with the stock market.

16. What is your position on federal deficit spending vs. balanced budget?

Our federal government has acted to cut taxes for the wealthy and corporations, as well as increase military spending (primarily for weapons that do not protect against terrorism). We need to stop the tax giveaway programs and work to properly balance our National Budget. Sustained deficit spending can only be ruinous for our country. It leads to higher treasury bill rates in order for the government to borrow money to meet its bills, higher window rates, higher prime rates, higher interest rates to society, corporations having to reach higher profit margins in order to pay higher interest rate loans, stagflation, and a runaway economy with no assets left to feed from.

17. Do you support unfounded mandates to local government? No.

Consumer Rights

18. Do you support

a. granting consumers the right to an annual free copy of their consolidated credit report, including credit score? Yes.

b. banning the use of Social Security numbers as identification in consumer transactions? Yes.

c. federal legislation to cap interest rates on consumer loans? Yes.

d. federal legislation to regulate ATM fees and service charges on credit cards and other consumer loans. Yes.

e. federal legislation to give banks and finance companies priority over other unsecured lenders in bankruptcy proceedings. No, this requires more study.

f. allowing states to enact consumer laws which go beyond the protection of federal legislation? Yes.

Government and Ethics

19. Do you support term limits? Describe briefly.

The ballot box has always been the term limit. If you believe in term limits, then you have a duty to vote my general election opponent out of office. It is time for a change.

20. Do you support

a. public financing of congressional campaigns? Yes.

b. spending limits? Yes

c. abolition of PACs? Yes, with the proper implementation of a. and b.

21. Would you support increased Congressional oversight of federal contracting? Why or why not?

Yes, to insure compliance with Davis-Bacon, and to avoid sweetheart deals that would otherwise raid the public treasury.

Health & Human Services

22. Do you support comprehensive, universal, single-payer health care? Yes, absolutely.

23. Do you favor funding changes for the following:

a. supplemental food programs for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)? Yes, increased funding.

b. food stamp allowances? Yes, increased funding.

c. Head Start? Yes, increased funding.

d. School lunch programs? Yes, increased funding.

24. Do you support

a. increased funding to develop affordable housing? Yes.

b. restrictions to ensure development of low-income rather than market rate housing? Yes.

c. a National Affordable Housing Trust Fund to build, rehabilitate and preserve at least 1.5 million units of primarily rental, primarily deeply targeted housing? Yes.

d. Protection against housing discrimination based on source of income? Yes.

25. What services, if any, should be offered to those whose time on Welfare has run out and do not have adequate income to support themselves and their families.

Health care, Child care if needed, retraining, and an extension of benefits until such time as they secure a job with sufficient income.

26. Do you favor

a. increased federal aid to public education? Yes.

b. vouchers, tuition tax-credits or other direct public support for parochial or private schools? No.

27. Are the provisions of the No Child Left Behind Act the appropriate way to advance student achievement?

No. Today, the No Child Left Behind Act is essentially an unfunded mandate of a wishful outcome based testing experiment. The appropriate way to advance student achievement is through full funding for public school education, smaller class size, higher pay for teachers, incentives for teachers to work in needed areas, additional federal funding for school infrastructure, and strong local involvement and control in the education system. Moreover, in Illinois our State Constitution provides that education will be funded 50% by general state revenue, plus additional amounts from the State Lottery. We have a golden opportunity, with our State in fiscal crisis, to restructure our State Income Tax into a progressive graduated tax instead of the current regressive flat tax, that would not increase State Income Tax on the middle class, but would have the wealthiest returning some of their windfall benefit from the Bush Tax cuts to our State Treasury, so that we can finally fund education as mandated by our State Constitution, notwithstanding that this would also result in a lowering of local property taxes as the State began to pay its greater mandated share of the cost of education

28. Do you support

a. the Human Life Amendment? No.

b. parental or spousal notification or consent to obtain an abortion? No.

c. restoration of Medicaid coverage of abortion? Yes.

d. a ban on so-called partial birth abortions? No.

e. insurance coverage for abortions for federal and military employees and their dependents? Yes.

29. Do you support increased funding for HIV/AIDS research, education, prevention, and services? Please discuss compulsory licensing of essential drugs where needed, in the US, Africa, Asia and elsewhere.

Yes, absolutely. HIV/AIDS is an infectious disease of monumental proportions. Every effort possible must be exerted to tear down barriers and take all such action in cooperation with the world community of Nations to arrest and ultimately eradicate this pandemic disease.

30. Do you support

a. federal funding for stem cell research? Yes.

b. Legislation prohibiting stem cell research? No.

Law, Justice, and Correctional System

31. Do you support

a. admissibility of illegally obtained evidence. No.

b. electronic eavesdropping? No.

c. roving wiretaps? No.

d. capital punishment? No.

e. criminal prosecution of juveniles as adults? No.

f. mandatory sentencing? No.

g. criminalization of hate crimes? Yes.

32. Do you support legislation prohibiting racial profiling in law enforcement? Yes.

33. Do you favor detention of suspects and material witnesses without charges and/or probable cause? No.

Do you favor giving such detainees access to counsel? Yes.

34. Would you support legislation authorizing or prohibiting secret military tribunals? Please explain your position.

No and Yes. No, I do not support legislation authorizing secret military tribunals. Yes, I support legislation prohibiting secret military tribunals. Secret military tribunals have no place in our society.

35. Do you support legislation to ban the manufacture, sale and possession of

a. handguns? We need enforceable common sense legislation to insure that handguns do not get into the wrong hands.

b. assault weapons? Fully automatic weapons have no place in mainstream civilian society.

c. ammunition for handguns and assault weapons? Ammunition is hard to regulate. The ammunition used in a hunting rifle is the same ammunition that is used in a fully automatic "assault" weapon. Yet, other ammunition can and should be regulated, such as armor piercing ammunition, which has no place in civil society other than for military purposes.

36. Do you support legislation

1. mandating background checks of purchases of weapons at gun shows, through the internet and through print advertisement? Yes.

2. Increasing penalties for illegal resale of weapons? Yes.

37. a. Should funding for the Legal Services Corporation be increased? Yes.

b. What restrictions, if any, should Congress enact or repeal regarding the scope of federally funded legal services for the poor? None, other than any necessary prioritization of the use of funds on purposes intended.

Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

38. a. Do you favor repeal of the Patriot Act or any of its provisions?

Yes. This law undermines individual freedom and violates civil liberties. Many provisions of the act have been previously sought after by law enforcement and have repeatedly been rejected by Congress in the past. Without a warrant or probable cause, now the FBI can search your private medical records and access your library records. The Patriot Act also allows for unwarranted incarcerations, elimination of attorney-client privilege, for being held without cause, is harmful to the rights of immigrants, and allows for Department of Justice secrecy orders. We have lost freedoms, we have denied fair treatment of non-citizens, and we are no safer or better protected against terrorism as a result of the Patriot Act. Ben Franklin once said: "Those who would give up essential liberty, to purchase a little temporary safety, deserve neither liberty nor safety".

b. Would you vote for Patriot Act II? No.

39. Do you support

a. Federal legislation to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation in housing, employment and education? Yes.

b. Repeal of the Defense of Marriage Act? Yes.

c. A Constitutional amendment prohibiting states from recognizing gay civil unions or same sex unions? No.

40. What is your position on gays and lesbians in the military?

There should be no restrictions.

41. a. Do you support prior government restraint of the press? Yes.
b. Do you support State censorship of the arts? No.
c. What should be the guidelines in determining government support for the arts?

1. The arts should continue to be a required part of the curriculum throughout the Illinois school system.
2. Under federal law, the arts are now recognized as a core academic subject. The arts should be retained both a core academic subject and eligible for federal funds.
3. Artists should be allowed a fair market value deduction for contributions of literary, musical, artistic or scholarly compositions created by the donor.
4. Preferred postal rates for nonprofits should be kept intact.

d. Should funding for the NEA be increased, decreased or stay the same?

Increased.

42. Do you support

a. prayer in public schools No.

b. moment of silence. No.

43: Do you support mandatory drug testing in private and public employment? Briefly state the reasons for your answers.

Yes, provided such drug testing is handled as a medical matter, not a criminal matter. Drug testing programs have been constitutionally sound, not invasive of privacy. We need more prevention and treatment, not punishment and prison.

44. Do you support mandatory AIDS testing for insurance or employment. No.

45. Do you support legislation to redress inequities in pension benefits for women? Yes.

46. Would you support the acceptance of completed ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment? Yes.

Labor

47. What changes, if any in the Taft Hartley Act would you work for?

Repeal of 14(b).

48. Do you support a prohibition on permanent replacement workers? Yes.

49. Do you favor giving federal employees the right to strike? No.

50. What is your position on Affirmative Action with specific goals, targets and timetables for federal employment, grants and contracts and as a requirement for federal contractors and grantees?

Affirmative action needs full enforcement as a means to diminish and eventually eradicate racial and ethnic discrimination in our society.

51. a. Do you support comparable worth legislation? Yes.

b. What steps, if any, should the government take to monitor pay equity between men and women?

The pay should be tied to the position or job, not the person performing the job. In this way no person, man or woman, would receive different pay for performing the same job or position.

52. Do you support a federal living wage law? Please explain why or why not.

Yes. In fact the minimum wage should be upgraded to a living wage.