

March 4, 1982

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some problems that Ronald Reagan, the President, was causing for the GOP which is the Republican Party. He said that he is dismayed, this is Packwood, about the problems being caused by the President, and they are being caused because the President often responds on a totally different track than the issue at hand, so in a sense the words "female and male athletics" or whatever are being discussed but there is something beneath. There is a different track that is really on people's minds but it won't be brought out forthrightly. So here is what Packwood said, and this article is from the Omaha World Herald, March 2nd, 1982: He attributed the problem to what he termed an "idealized concept of America" by Reagan that is basically white, male and Protestant. That view, Packwood said, is destroying the Republican party's appeal among black, hispanics and Jews. "That will hurt us more in the long run than the economy", he said. He said he feared that Reagan's positions on abortion, the Equal Rights amendment, and the handling of tax exemptions for schools practicing racial discrimination will cost lasting damage to the party. By the way, Senator Packwood is a white male, Protestant, over 40. "The Republican Party has just about written off those women who work for wages in the marketplace", Packwood said, "We are losing them in droves. You cannot write them off and the blacks off and the hispanics off and the Jews off and assume you are going to build a party on white Anglo-Saxon males over forty. There aren't enough of us left", he said. This is what we are really talking about on this bill and a lot of other things that happen in this Legislature. There is a certain arrogance that goes with privileged and favored position, a tendency to view one's own situation as being the situation faced by everybody else but there are very few white males, whether they are Protestant or not, over forty or under forty, who would consent to occupy the position foisted on black people and women in this society. Now if the women would get smart, they are a numerical majority, they could change things by voting but they have been whipped down so much they have been made to feel totally powerless. In the case of numerical minorities such as that comprised by black people, we have to use other means because voting is not going to work. We don't have enough numbers, and in those places where we do have the numbers, they either weaken the voting rights bill so we can't vote at all or they gerrymander us in such a fashion that when we vote we are voting for nobody. These are the issues that I think are wrapped up in this bill and these types of discussions. Listen to who takes which position, consider the positions they take on other issues, and you will find it is that self-satisfied, somewhat self-righteous individual who feels I made mine through talent and ability, you make yours. It reminds me

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