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interest, not "local purposes or local prejudices." Coburn came to the nation's attention last October when he proposed taking the \$223 million earmarked for Alaska's bridge to nowhere and using it to repair a New Orleans bridge destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. Because the threat to Alaska also threatened Congress' code of comity, c-o-m-i-t-y--that's for the transcriber, because somebody could very well think it was comedy, c-o-m-e-d-y--mutual respect for everyone's parochial interests, his proposal lost by 67 votes. I understand those lopsided votes. But rather than do the decent thing--listen up--apologize, tug his forelock, and slink away chastised, he refused to stop talking about it. He gets praise for refusing to stop talking about something he believes in. But you all know I have never been deterred from talking about what I believe in, no matter what anybody says. But I've not been praised by a syndicated columnist for doing it. Let me continue. He refused to stop talking about it, made it an embarrassment to the Senate, and catalyzed revulsion against spending that is both promiscuous and parochial. I've embarrassed my colleagues...

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...into doing some things they ought to have done. Continuing: Civilization depends on the ability to make even majorities blush. So it is momentous news that shame may be making a comeback, even on Capitol Hill, as a means of social control. And embarrassment is Coburn's planned cure for Congress' earmark culture. I'm not quite through. I'll finish it the next time I'm recognized. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Chambers. You may continue. This is your third time.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes, thank you, Mr. President. Quote within what I'm reading: "Quite time-consuming" was the laconic description of Coburn and John McCain in a letter to colleagues, of their threat to bring the Senate to a virtual standstill, with challenges to earmarks. Bring the Senate to a virtual standstill! I identify with that. This man and I are kindred spirits, but unfortunately, I have no John McCain with enough