

SHAME, from page 2

Martin, who lost in the primary in the race for the thirteenth U.S. House seat last fall, is using his contacts and recent legislative experience to give huge advantages to giant corporations that already have plenty of expensive lobbyists.

If the current Senate Health and Human Services Committee takes up any anti-tobacco legislation this session, what impact will Bill Martin have on his former committee? Will he help defeat bills that seek to improve N.C. health care at the expense of Big Tobacco?

North Carolina needs a waiting period (like many states have) to prevent former legislators from immediately cashing in on their influence.

David Mills

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About Our Featured Guest

David Mills is the Interim Executive Director for the Common Sense Foundation, a progressive, independent, nonpartisan think tank based in Raleigh. Since 1994, the Common Sense Foundation has spoken out for those who have been locked out of the public-policy debate in North Carolina.

David came to the Common Sense Foundation from the Durham-based Center for Death Penalty Litigation, where he worked as an investigator for three years. David holds an undergraduate degree in religion from Princeton University and a Master's in Divinity degree from Union Theological Seminary in New York City. A Charlotte native, David has lived in Durham since 1996.

David A. Mills
Interim Executive Director
Common Sense Foundation
www.common-sense.org

UCS Urges Fuel Economy Measures

The Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) has recently encouraged citizens to take action as the Senate works on the energy bill, S.14. The comprehensive bill, under consideration on the Senate floor, contains fuel economy provisions that will increase our dependence on foreign oil and increase global warming, as well as gasoline prices at the pump. The Senate is in the mark-up phase, as additional amendments are created and voted upon.

Environmental advocates claimed victory on June 10th, when the Senate passed an amendment presented by Mary Landrieu (D, La.), proposing that the President reduce U.S. oil consumption by one million barrels of oil per day by 2013. The U.S. presently consumes nineteen million barrels per day, making it greatly dependent on imported oil.

The UCS, a group of over 60,000 scientists and citizens, encourages the Senate first of all, to oppose

**An American Restaurant
HUBRIS IS SERVED...**

by Chris Hollywinkle

[Scene: A dimly lit American restaurant with a little Wagner playing in the background]

Waiter: How are you tonight?

Patron: I'm fine.

Waiter: May I recommend the Hubris this evening?

Patron: No thank you.

Waiter: It's our special....

Patron: No thank you.

Waiter: I must insist....

Patron: I was thinking of having the Peace and Prosperity entree with Liberty salad.

Waiter: I'm sorry, sir, but those items are no longer available.

Patron: That was my favorite.... What happened??

Waiter: We are now under new management. We have a new menu. Would you like some time to look it over? I must say that you will regret it, if you don't try the Hubris.

Patron: No, thank you. This place does seem different—I didn't expect the body scan at the door and it looks darker in here.... What's with the curtains?

Waiter: Our new cook doesn't like to be watched.... I think you should try the Hubris. It is excellent this evening. Everybody else is having it.

Patron: No, thank you. What else do you have?

Waiter: The specials of today are: Guantánamo Bay Detainees—individually gagged and hooded, lightly tortured, and some of them are very young and fresh. Immigrant Stew— isolated indefinitely under strong lights, abused and traumatized, left without the will to object. The Preemptive Strike, an oil-based recipe, stuffed with false allegations and soaked in dreams of empire, guaranteed to shock and awe. The Patriot Act, made with shredded bill of rights and fostered on a cowardly congress. Poindexter's Nightmare with Orwell's eyeballs, arranged in such a way that it almost appears they are looking at you. And finally, and especially, the Hubris, which I think would be best....

[The lights go out - sounds of a slight muffled struggle]

Patron: What happened to the lights???



Waiter: One of our patrons is being moved to the Delta room.

Patron: What's that?

[The lights return]

Waiter: You don't want to know.... I am urging you most strongly to have the Hubris now....

Another Patron: Whasamatter, buddy? Hubris not good enough for you? You think you are better than the rest of us?

Waiter: Why won't you have the Hubris? It is an arrogant pompous, filled with lies and deceptions, covered in a chicken-little fear-mongering, and soaked in a mixture of false patriotism and moral relativism to make it exceedingly smooth going down.

Patron: I find the lies difficult to swallow.... I was interested in something else....

Waiter: Oh, I see we have a Taliban lover tonight!

Patron: I never cared for the Taliban. The Taliban has always made me feel repressed.

Waiter: Perhaps you would like the Dissenter's Protest in a bed of Lazy Socialists and Godless Communists? It comes with a liberal helping of unwashed and unshaven Hippy Greens in Anarchy on the side....

Patron: What else do you have?

Waiter: Well, we have the Cheney Halliburton, the Wolfowitz/Libby Imperium, and Rumsfeld's Remarkable Ruminations... We also have some fine Spineless Democrats with a Republican Lite dressing...or some very tender Media Pushovers with sheep dip.... but the Hubris is really your only choice. Everyone else is having it. It comes with freedom fries....

[The waiter motions to the side]

You simply must try it. I must insist....

[The Hubris is served...]

Patron: I didn't order this!

Waiter: It doesn't matter. It is all we really have. You must take it.

Patron: But I am a life-long patron...and a stockholder!!!

Waiter: Everything will be fine, sir. Your ignorance and inattention will bring your just desserts.

the bill, for both its harmful fuel economy provisions and for its proposal of additional criteria the Department of Transportation (DOT) must ponder before increasing the fuel economy standards. But what is most important at this moment, as amendments are offered and voted upon, is that Senators support those that eliminate the harmful provisions, and oppose those that weaken fuel economy standards.

The UCS has urged support for the Durbin amendment. This amendment, likely to be introduced, would raise fuel economy standards for passenger cars and trucks to forty mpg and 27.5 for pickup trucks, including vehicles weighing up to 10,000 pounds. The current standard is 27.5 for passenger cars and trucks, and 20.7 for light trucks, which includes SUVs. The UCS urges opposition to

amendments like the Levin amendment, which will add more special technical criteria for DOT to consider before making essential fuel economy decisions.

Our country is the world's largest consumer of oil, and two thirds of it is used in transportation. Raising fuel economy standards is seen as the most cost-effective solution to the problem of energy supply and consumption, and the Detroit-based industry already has the technology to achieve this goal, according to UCS.

The UCS encourages citizens to take action. For more information visit the Union of Concerned Scientists, <http://www.ucsaction.org>.

Andrea Barilla