

JACK ANDERSON and MICHAEL BINSTEIN

## Serving Up This Year's Top Turkeys

**F**or 63 years, this column has been exposing the turkeys who rule the roost in the nation's capital.

Today we are roasting the top turkeys of the year—politicians whose fibs and follies are worth feasting on this Thanksgiving:

- President Clinton is a turkey for saying earlier this year that he felt "vindicated" by former defense secretary Robert S. McNamara's *mea culpa* in his memoir about Vietnam. Clinton's comment cheapened the sacrifice of the men and women who served in this nation's most unpopular war—and did so without regard for how their service might affect what Clinton once called his future "political viability."
  - Rep. Jim Nussle (R-Iowa) is a turkey for suggesting that the crowded legislative schedule in Congress should take precedence over the birth of a colleague's first child. As we reported in April, Nussle recommended to Rep. Dave Camp (R-Mich.) that he time the birth of his first child through induced labor so he wouldn't miss any votes around the time of his wife's July due date. This from the same man who was pegged by House Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.) to make the House more "family-friendly."
  - Clinton's stealth adviser, Dick Morris, is a turkey for not knowing whether he's fish or fowl. Morris is a hired gun who will work for any Democrat or Republican willing to pay his fee. It's bad enough that Morris's paycheck takes precedence over political principles. Morris gave opportunism a bad name this year by reuniting with the president just months after smearing him during the 1994 election season.
  - One of Morris's former clients, Sen. Trent Lott (R-Miss.), deserves the Butterball Trophy for making our turkey list for the third year in a row. This year, Lott lectured Sen. Mark O. Hatfield (R-Ore.) for voting against the balanced budget amendment, and denigrated Democrats for not making the tough budget choices for "our children's future."
- But in May we revealed Lott's private campaign to persuade NASA to move a production facility—and hundreds of jobs—from Utah to Mississippi. An internal NASA report revealed that it would waste nearly \$1 billion at a time when NASA is strapped. Lott spokeswoman Susan Irby told us: "What do you want him to be, a purist?"
- Rep. Dick Chrysler (R-Mich.) is a turkey for

suggesting we should abolish the National Weather Service. After all, Chrysler recently said, cable television's Weather Channel already does the job. Commerce Secretary Ronald H. Brown had to remind Chrysler that the Weather Channel gets its satellite information from the weather service.

What's next, Rep. Chrysler? Should we eliminate professional sports because we already have ESPN? ■ Sen. Bill Bradley (D-N.J.) is a turkey for not understanding Harry Truman's admonition that those who can't take the heat should stay out of the kitchen. Bradley announced his retirement by proclaiming that "politics is broken," though he spent 18 years in the arena. What exactly has Bradley been doing to fix the system all of these years?

Bradley has preached about campaign finance reform, but he has had few peers when it comes to shaking the Hollywood money tree and protecting tax loopholes for wealthy drug companies in his home state.

■ Freshman Rep. Frederick K. Heineman (R-N.C.) is a turkey for saying with a straight face that he's a pauper—despite his \$133,600 salary and \$50,000-a-year police pension. "In my opinion, that makes me lower middle class," said Heineman. "When I see someone who is making anywhere from \$300,000 to \$750,000 a year, that's middle class. When I see anyone above that, that's upper middle class." In Heineman's eyes, Donald Trump might be eligible for food stamps soon.

■ Colorado Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell is a turkey for switching from the Democrats to the party of Newt Gingrich just three months after carving up Gingrich during an interview with us. He said Gingrich's call for a return to orphanages symbolized how wrong the Republican revolution was.

As a child Campbell spent three years in orphanages, where he scrounged for food by day and ran from sexual predators in the bathroom at night. Campbell attributed the horrors of orphanage life to eventually causing his sister's apparent suicide, and said Gingrich "has never felt the emotional wounds you get in an orphanage."

■ Gingrich is a thin-skinned bird for overheating on Air Force One after the funeral of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. Thanks to the speaker's pique, 800,000 federal workers found themselves furloughed the week before Thanksgiving.