

Letters to the editor  
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Gary L. Thompson refers to the Roy Meacham's <sup>nm's</sup> "History Lesson" column as "the most despicable, dastardly, scurrilous lie that has yet departed his feeble ~~brain~~." This is because Mr. Thompson <sup>by the way</sup> says, "Mr. Meacham compared all " the Republican members of Congress, " not merely the know-nothing, who have taken control in the House, "to the Nazi party of the 1930s."

Mr. Thompson's political preferences and his prejudices are clear, as is his lack of knowledge of what he writes about.

I lived through and have some recollection of <sup>the</sup> those days of the early 1930s. There are startling parallels, as Mr. Meacham wrote. If Mr. Thompson is capable of reading anything not in record with what he wants to believe rather than what is, he can find confirmation of this in a book I am reading, "Germany, Hitler & World War II," <sup>by</sup> the eminent scholar Gerhard L. Weinberg. It was published only last year by the Cambridge University Press, of one of the world's greatest institutions of authentic scholarship.

Mr. Thompson also says that by "inference" Mrs. Meacham compares Gingrich with Hitler. It is probably lost on Mr. Thompson that there is a form of authoritarianism in the Gingrich plot of using the <sup>continuing operation</sup> ~~function~~ of the government as a means of exporting from the President what he cannot do the American way, with a vote of the Congress that is then subject to the veto of the third of our co-equal branches of government, the President. This is because the Gingrichs do ~~not~~ have the votes to override the veto.

Mr. Thompson says the "mantra" of the Democrats is "if we could just spend more money." Here more recent history is outside Mr. Thompson's ken.

When Ronald Reagan was elected with promises that we keep hearing from some Republicans the nation <sup>is</sup> ~~debt~~, accumulated throughout all of our history by all the presidents before Reagan was only a <sup>third</sup> ~~ther~~ of what he <sup>personally</sup> added to the national debt. And that with <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ resistance of the Democrats, who did succeed in holding back his unprecedented

spending of public moneys that continued under George Bush. Yet despite this and probably having swallowed that line about "Tax and Spend Democrats" when the "Republicans were doing just that, Mr. Thompson says that those he refers to as "the old leftists," who really are those who believe in our system as created by the founding fathers, not the extremists who seek to change <sup>that</sup> ~~that~~, "can finish out their lives unable to inflict the economic damage upon the rest of us" that he says they ~~are~~ dreamt of.

But that, without question, Reagan and Bush did.

The famous philosopher Georges Santayana once said that those who do not remember the past are doomed to ~~relive~~ relive it. It would be a good thing for the country and healthy for them if the "early Thompsons would learn our history so they can remember it instead of spouting their political preferences and <sup>their</sup> ~~this~~ personal <sup>prejudices</sup> ~~prejudices~~ and pretend that is history.

Harold Weisberg

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2/17/96

## Old Leftists Home awaits the faithful

For those of us who dwell upon the conservative side of the political spectrum, Roy Meachum is a constant source of irritation as well as amusement.

However, his column, "History lesson," (Jan. 3) contained the most despicable, dastardly, scurrilous lie that has yet departed his feeble brain. To have compared the current Republican members of Congress to the Nazi party of the 1930s (and I suppose by this inference Newt Gingrich to Adolph Hitler) is something that even the professional liars of the Clinton White House have not yet dared to do.

I realize that to a lot of leftists the very idea that people are responsible for their own lives and not the government is sacrilege. They refuse to see that the socialist utopia that the Democrats have tried to build since 1932 has been a monstrous failure.

We have been told that in order to prove our worth as a nation and as a people, we must accept their way as the only way. To them the only failure is that not enough money has been extorted from those who earned it.

If there is any comparison to be made with the Germans, it is with the Democrats. They are very much like those opposing the Normandy invasion. Desperate to hold on to power, they know that the tide of battle is against them and their only hope for victory is to stop the invasion before a beachhead is established. If they cannot, they are doomed to utter defeat. Their mantra of "if we could just spend more money" will never again muster the legislature army that it once did.

Hopefully, once the budget battle has been won, enough money will be found to build the Old Leftists Home. There, surrounded by pictures of the Wobblies, Alger Hiss, and Ethel and Julius Rosenberg and continuous Joan Baez and Woodie Guthrie music, they can finish out their lives unable to inflict the economic damage upon the rest of us that they once dreamed of.

God speed Republicans, God speed.

GARY L. THOMPSON  
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