

Nader Study Biased -- Mrs. Griffiths

By W.W. EDGAR

"It is one of the worst bits of research I ever have seen."

With these few words, Congresswoman Martha Griffiths (D-Detroit) who is seeking her 10th term as a representative from the 17th district, lashed back at Ralph Nader, the critic who caused a bit of consternation in the automobile industry and now has sighted his guns on Congress.

Between handshakes, pancakes and sausages at her own annual fund-raising venture last Thursday night, she landed several telling blows in her own behalf and the other members of Congress.

"I UNDERSTAND," she said, "that the researchers doing the work for his (Congress) were told to dig into the records and find something wrong with every member."

"Why, some of the charges are downright absurd."

"For instance," she went on, "in his original transcript, he stated that I was opposed to the amendment to deduct child care and that I was not interested in anything but how tax laws applied to women."

"That was a laugh. Everyone -- or everyone but Nader -- knows that I introduced the amendment to deduct child care and that my record on women's rights is outstanding."

Pausing for a second or two to shake a few more hands in the gathering of close to 1,000 persons who attended the traditional pancake dinner she continued:

"I told his (Nader's) group that if that portion of the profile was published they would be the laughing stock of the country."

ASKED ABOUT the charge that the members of Congress spend too much time trying to solve problems for their constituents instead of sticking to legislative matters, she chuckled.

"Sure, I try to help as many of my constituents as I can," she went on. "That's part of the service a member of Congress can render. And

Wendt Gets Promotion

Donald E. Wendt, former manager of purchasing at Burroughs Corp. in Plymouth, has been appointed director of procurement for the systems manufacturing and engineering group.

Wendt will be responsible for planning overall procurement objectives.

those who don't serve their home state voters in that manner don't do much legislating, either."

"You'll find them over at Burning Tree playing golf or at some Club. They're not spending the time on legislative matters."

"Then there's a congressman like Wilbur Mills, chairman of our Ways and Means Committee, who spends most his time trying to run the State of Arkansas. That isn't spending time legislating or concentrating on national legislative matters."

INTERRUPTED AGAIN by some of her well wishers, she returned to land another verbal blow.

Like the polished boxer who keeps doing fancy footwork while jabbing a rival, she called attention to another section of the profile.

"While criticizing members of Congress for trying to settle too many individual problems for their constituents -- like I do -- Nader then asks:

"What did Mrs. Griffiths ever do for Detroit?"

With the same fiery look in her eye that makes her a champion in women's rights debate, she asked --

"What does he want me to do -- build a monument downtown?"

"When the researchers visited my office," she went on, "we opened up all of our records for them. There was nothing hidden. That's why the Nader paper is such a poor example of research. It almost seems as though the profile was written before the researchers went to work."

NADER MAY HAVE upset the apple in the auto industry with his charges, but to Mrs. Griffiths, who has built up a reputation for meeting problems head on, he did little more than make her angry with what she termed "the worst bit of research I ever have seen."



REP. MARTHA GRIFFITHS
"That Was A Laugh"

Now in the midst of a campaign with a re-vamped district, Mrs. Griffiths is enjoying the scramble for votes just as exciting as she did in the early '50s when she was elected to Congress for the first time.

"I have always loved campaigning and the excitement of it," she confided, "and this year more than some of the others. But things have changed a lot. The old trailer that I took up and down the streets in my district having tea with the housewives is now only a

memory. Instead, I am spending my weekends at shopping centers, grocery stores, and drug stores greeting people in the hope of being re-elected."

Her old district was northwest Detroit. Now she also covers Southfield, Lathrup Village, Farmington and Redford Township.

WHY WAS THE OLD trailer discarded?

Some folks thought it should have had a place in the Smithsonian Institute as part of Americana, but Mrs. Griffiths explained its passing from the political scene.

"In the first place," she said with a twinkle in her eye, "I rented the trailer. It wasn't mine."

"But now Congress doesn't get as much recess time as we had in those days and it is too cold and dark by the time I could get around."

"That's why I have switched from the little neighborhood teas to the super-markets and shopping centers. I have to confine a week's campaigning to the weekend. But it's fun. And I am going to have a few

tea parties -- just to keep up the tradition."

BETWEEN THE pancakes and handshakes the conversation turned to her newsletter from the Nation's capitol, titled, "The View from My Window."

"Each month you list the names of the guests who drop in to your office for a visit and pick up a pamphlet or two. This might be interesting to them and be a keep-sake of their visit," she was told. "But the general public would be more interested if you listed the lobbyists who come to call."

The champion of women's rights allowed a broad grin to cross her face and admitted: "It might be a good idea."

"As a matter of fact," she said, "very few lobbyists visit my office. I don't know why, but they just don't. When they do, I'd be glad to furnish the names for you."

This was Congresswoman Martha Griffiths at her best-meeting problems head on.

ALL THROUGH the conversation and the greeting of

friends, the name of Sen. George McGovern, Democratic candidate for president, wasn't mentioned.

This was Martha's night, and she was making the most of it -- even to strengthening her reputation as one who never ducks an issue and meets problems head-on. She not only greeted friends, but took time to land a series of stiff jabs on her latest critic -- Ralph Nader -- and she did it with the deftness of a skillful boxer.

Then, as the conversation ended, she called back -- "I won't forget to send you the names of the lobbyists."



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