

WHY ARE THEY AFRAID OF A LIVING WAGE, CLEAN AIR, AND FREE SPEECH?

Well, the Republicans have launched their long-planned attack on the Representatives who will be Committee Chairs when we take back Congress. It will get nastier than this—the WSJ hides, at least, the degree to which this fear campaign depends on race-baiting and gay-baiting. But let's look at some of the things they fear:

Energy and Commerce would return to the untender mercies of John Dingell, the longest-serving Member first elected in 1955, who was a selective scourge of business when he ran the committee before 1994. The Michigan Congressman would do his best to provide taxpayer help to GM and Ford. But telecom companies would probably get more regulation in the form of Net neutrality rules, and a windfall profits tax on oil would be a real possibility.

Hmm. Provide help to GM and Ford? Even Republican candidate for governor in MI, Dick "Amway" DeVos, is trying to force Bush to help out the automobile companies. Not a bad idea, you know, to try to preserve hundreds of thousands of middle class jobs.

But look what they don't mention about John Dingell's legacy. Dingell is known for several things—the Clean Air Act, the Children's Health Insurance Program, the Medicare Program that works (unlike the donut hole monstrosity invented by Bush's donors)—all programs with solid support around the country.

And they've thrown in Net Neutrality, pretending that Dingell's support for Net Neutrality, which simply preserves the state of Free Speech on the

Internet, is something to be feared. Why is the WSJ, a media outlet, campaigning against Free Speech. (Hint—the dead tree media aren't doing so well with real competition. I guess the WSJ's support for competition only extends to *other* publicly traded companies?) So just with John Dingell, the WSJ wants you to be afraid of Clean Air, adequate medical care for children and seniors, and Free Speech. Whew, I'm quivering from fear.