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Speaking Up

Dorothy Glancy

Santa Clara University School of Law, dglancy@scu.edu

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mining company control of matters of their own interest was completely effective in Arizona, and the phrase arose for their representatives that they "wore the copper collar."

In contemporary Arizona, particularly during this recession, which has closed many mines, the spirit is changing; a concern is emerging in some reaches of public and economic life of a need to resuscitate the industry for the general welfare. Union domination over labor affairs in the mines that are left is considerable.

By placing an extraordinary event in American labor history into the context of political history, Byrkit has made a substantial contribution to economic history.

SPEAKING UP. By Millicent Fenwick. Harper & Row, 10 East 53d Street, New York, New York 10022. 1982. \$12.95. 187 pages. Reviewed by Dorothy J. Glancy, professor of law at the University of Santa Clara.

Rep. Millicent Fenwick is not in the habit of talking down to people. Maybe that is one reason she decided to call her new book of collected writings *Speaking Up*. Indeed, the book rings with the straightforward clarity of thought and statement that has been the hallmark of her distinctive political style. Her book is especially noteworthy for its wit and elegance of expression, but she also has something to say.

Fenwick is far more than a pipe-smoking, 72-year-old grandmother who once worked for *Vogue* and later became the model for the Lacey Davenport cartoon character in "Doonesbury." She also is a straight-talking, clear-thinking, independent-minded legislator who has put together an interesting book about the substance and process of law making. In a sense *Speaking Up* belongs to the genre of books that politicians author when they are running for office. Fenwick is running for the U.S. Senate from New Jersey, but her book is much more than a campaign manifesto.

The book is a collection of some of the letters, articles, and speeches Fenwick has written during her seven years in Congress. Most of the text is taken from newsletters written to her constituents in the Fifth Congressional District of New Jersey. These are letters of the highest type. They help draw her constituents together by expressing and helping build consensus on issues that range from public assistance programs

to foreign relations. In this age of instant telecommunications and an often celluloid political process, it is a surprise and a delight to find a politician with the ability to write forthright, literate, personal explanations of why she has chosen one course of action over another.

Fenwick has organized her book into four parts. In the first, "Freedom and Self-Discipline," she addresses our system of government, which she sees as dependent on the delicate balance suggested by the title. But she also characteristically gets down to brass

tacks about leaks, vandalism, special interest lobbies, and voluntarism. She even explains why she is a Republican: "A Republican speaks of 'Freedom to . . .'; a Democrat of 'Freedom from. . .'. I'm a Republican."

In "The Business of Government," Fenwick turns to a series of policy issues, from trucking deregulation, to the marriage tax, to environmental protection. She insists that justice inform both the goals and the mechanisms of government. "Congressional Reform — A View from the Inside" looks at the ways laws should and should not be

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made. Here Fenwick turns her sharp-eyed scrutiny on Abscam, slush funds, and campaign contributions. She also writes about "Foreign Affairs," including subjects from human rights to terrorism.

In *Speaking Up* Fenwick consistently calls for compassion and respect for others. She speaks up for common sense and practical problem solving. Perhaps most important, she does so with a calm voice of civility, expressing clear ideas with care and eloquence. That sort of voice too often has been absent in modern political discourse.

STRICTLY PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL: THE LETTERS HARRY TRUMAN NEVER MAILED. Edited by Monte M. Poen. Little, Brown and Company, 34 Beacon Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02106. 1982. \$10.95. 210 pages. Reviewed by Paul D. Pearlstein, a practicing lawyer in Washington, D.C.

Some folks drink. Some folks beat their spouses or pets. Harry Truman wrote missives!

Truman's critics may believe that the man from Missouri posted all of his mail, but that was not the case. "Give 'em hell, Harry" penned hundreds of blistering, spontaneous reactions to his daily piques. Once his anger was spent, he often instructed his personal secretary, Rose Conway, to "just file it."

These "spasms" are collected in this voyeuristic, behind-the-scenes glimpse of Truman. The author, a life-long Trumanophile, is a professor of history at Northern Arizona University who assembled this collage at the Truman Library.

The book consists of Truman's unpublished letters and notes organized by time and topic and interspersed with Poen's editorial comments. These letters and written musings do not display a brilliant, literary talent; they show a very feisty human being with a sense of concern and an abundance of personal indignation. A desk note of June, 1946, reveals Truman's "atomic" solution to some current problems:

"Declare an emergency—call out the troops. Start industry and put anyone to work who wants to work. If any leader interferes, courtmartial him. [John L.] Lewis ought to have been shot in 1942, but Franklin didn't have the guts to do it. . . . Adjourn Congress and run the country.

"Get plenty of Atomic Bombs on hand — drop one on Stalin, put the

United Nations to work and eventually set up a free world."

Hardly the holography of a restrained statesman.

Truman's personal letter to Paul Hume regarding his critique of Margaret's singing ability is the stuff of legends, but the substance usually is misquoted. Truman never called Hume an S.O.B. in the note he actually sent. But he did hope that Hume would "accept that statement as a worse insult than a reflection on your ancestry." Even after this barb, Truman still palpitated with anger. On February 1, 1952, he wrote his comments on Hume's latest piano recital critique to Philip Graham, publisher of the *Washington Post*: "Why don't you fire this frustrated old fart and hire a music reviewer who knows what he's talking about? At least you should send somebody with him to a piano recital who knows the score." Fortunately (or unfortunately?) this letter never reached the mailbox.

Poen's collection captures several aspects of Truman's personality. There is Truman the commander in chief: "I fired MacArthur for insubordination and a misstatement of the facts to me at Wake [Island]."

Truman the Pendergast machine pol: "I have always believed in Santa Claus I guess. It was my opinion until my association with Barr, Vrooman and Bash that most men had a sense of honor. Now I don't know. 'The Boss' says that instead of most men being honest most of them are not when they are put into a position where they can get away with crookedness. I guess I've been wrong in my premise that 92% are ethically honest. Maybe 92% are not ethically honest. . . ."

Truman the president besieged by his press: "The men who write columns for the classified press sell their writing ability just as the light (lite?)-of-love ladies sell their bodies to the madam of a bawdy house. They write columns on policy in domestic affairs and on foreign affairs from the rumor source, and as long as the 'madam'—the publisher, will pay them for this sort of bawdy thing, that's what they want."

And Truman the humble neophyte president: "This head of mine should have been bigger and better proportioned. There ought to have been more brain and a larger bump of ego or something to give me an idea that there can be a No. 1 man in the world."

Truman's crustiness and candor are often a bit raw, but in the context of the