

Rep. Stephanie Tubbs Jones (D/OH) October 2001, Cleveland (tape)

Ladies and gentlemen, good evening. The reason they had me back is because they I understand the principles and I understand as Rev. Preston said, "blessed are the brief," so that's why I keep coming back (laughter). Actually, this only my second time speaking, but I managed to work my way through your event every year assuming I have the opportunity. I'm going to be brief. I am thankful to have an opportunity to be with you this evening. I know that there are some other of my elected colleagues in the audience and I am going to take the liberty of introducing two of my good friends, Judge _____ from the Court of Common Pleas and Judge Richard _____ from the Court of Common Pleas. And we were also joined earlier by Senator Eric Fingerhut whose expecting a baby in ten days and he was going home to put together another piece of equipment Mervin is now 18 and you remember..... you bought to go with you, save your money and put it somewhere else and..... you're going to buy it anyway. So enjoy it. But he did ask that I give you greetings from him as well.

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I am joined this evening by one who has become a good friend of mine. When I first met this gentleman I didn't even know who he was. But he sold me this bill of goods and said I'm writing about Congressman Stokes and I want to write about you, too. So, this is Professor Dick Fenno from the University of Rochester (stand up, Dick, so people know who you are) (applause). cause he keeps coming back. I'm so glad to have him with me this evening. I also want to say good evening to the young men who are part of the volunteer group who accompanied Tim Johnson. I had the pleasure of meeting some of them at the door earlier. But others I did meet during the interview and keep up the work that you are doing. It's only through your leadership and I don't believe you're a leader for tomorrow--you're a leader for today--because you set the example among the people that you are with. And so I just ask the people to keep on working, keep on doing what you're doing. If I can be of help, please don't hesitate to call on me.

Next, I'm here to speak free. I have a written speech that my staff worked very on and I'm struggling to decide whether I want to use it cause they take back in the office that I either read them or I don't. And there are some things that I would like to say. Also, I want to say hi to Earl Williams from--what's the name of your group? Mt. Pleasant. I was there speaker last week. How many of you were at that dinner last week? Earl--cause I might

say some of the same stuff, you know, that I won't be repetitive. But, I'm glad to be here and I am blessed to have an opportunity to represent you in the House of Representatives in the U.S. Congress. There are a couple of things that have gone on this week that I feel compelled to discuss with you very briefly, because I don't get the opportunity to always talk about why I did what I did in the midst of all that's going on. I want to take a couple of minutes and do that and then come back to the celebration of our neighborhood because you deserve to celebrate the work that you do in the You do know that my mother-in-law, Ruby Jones and Jake Jones, lived in that area for many, many years and she was a working and doing back in kind of exciting to visit a house where your husband grew up and have your son go to school where your husband was a high school student, made a very wonderful experience for him and our family.

Well yesterday, in the U.S. Congress--maybe it wasn't yesterday, I tend to get confused, am I in Cleveland or am I in Washington--well, it was yesterday, that we were dealing with the anti-terrorism bill and I voted in opposition to the anti-terrorism bill and not because I'm not a patriot, or not because I don't believe in the sanctity of our country, but having served as a judge, and having served as your elected prosecutor, I understand the value of the rights and liberties that we enjoy by the American people. Wonder why everybody likes our country. It's because we enjoy freedoms and rights and other people come to us to continue to enjoy those rights. Well that bill, in the name of patriotism and anti-terrorism, now provides--that, for example, John and I'm not pointing to you, but I think your name comes up first, if John were being investigated at Buckeye Development Corporation, and the police decided to tap the phones at Buckeye Development Corporation, not only could they listen to John's calls, but they could listen to your calls, and they could listen to your calls, and they could listen to your calls. And we all think that we don't do anything to worry about on the telephone, right? However, we open ourselves to that type of system. Now see if it was done in the name of terrorism, then perhaps there would be some firm set provisions on that bill, that once we resolved that issue, it would no longer be in place. But there are no such provisions. You know, to hold the responsibility of being prosecutor in your hands, having been there is a serious responsibility. You have to carry it lightly and understand the power that you're invested with. And I opposed John Ashcroft for Attorney General so I don't have to say any more (laughter). Do you understand that we've been working over the past few weeks and trying to support the airline industry. And I support the airline

industry. I voted to be assured that we got a new run way in the city of Cleveland so that we would not lose Continental Airlines. I voted because I know that air travel is important to Buckeye Development Corporation and every other development or business in our community. But I couldn't vote for the legislation either. Know why? Not only did we pay the airline to try to keep them out of bankruptcy, but they, for example, in court judge, when somebody gets paid, they get paid for their economic loss, but they have to establish the economic loss in the court room. Well, the airlines got paid a little bit more. They, for example, they had 10 people flying on their plane everyday for the past month. Not only did they get paid for the 10, they got paid for the 20 seats that weren't even full. In addition, the law provided that if you were the CEO and you accepted money from this airline pool, that if you were making \$3 billion dollars, you could still make \$3 billion dollars, you just couldn't make \$3 billion more dollars. That's a problem for me when there was no money provided for the workers in the working place, at all. No unemployment compensation, no cost, no..... there was no

..... business is the engine that keeps our country rolling. But the reality is you can't support business and not workers, because the workers are what make business flow. Two other things: those are the two things that I would point out most to you. I would say to you that right now, we are operating in what appears to be a bipartisan veil. But reality behind the scenes, many of us continue to fight because in the midst of all that's going on in our country, we cannot afford not to remember that there are people who have no job, there are seniors who need prescription drug benefits, and when was the last time you heard about a Social Security lock box? There is no such thing as a Social Security lock box. That all went out the door with September 11th. Please do not believe that I was not touched by September 11th and that I am not a patriot, because I am. In fact, I was so touched, my 52nd birthday was the day before and really stated getting worried because the Oklahoma bombing stopped us on my mother's birthday and I said, "Mom, what is this about our birthdays--it's causing us this is a real dilemma." But I just know that we are in a country strong enough to be able to survive what we've been through, and not lose sight of what our people want to be apart of the United States and not lose sight of the fact that we have been through many, many things and we still remain strong and ever vigilant. And I know that we can do that in the midst of that. The wonderful thing is, I like about our country is we have a right to free speech and I can be heard and I've tried to be heard in Washington on your behalf and I thought you'd like to know what I was doing.

Now, real quickly, I belong on two, three committees in Congress. One of them is Financial Services or banking, the other one is Small Business, the third one is Ethics. From Financial Services, my subcommittees are Housing, the second one is Insurance Capital Markets of Government Sponsored Enterprises, the third one is Oversight of Banking and Financial Institutions. My second committee is Small Business, subcommittee is Empowerment. What you do day-to-day is particularly important to me because I believe in economic empowerment, and I believe that economic empowerment is the equalizer. And by that I mean that if you put people in jobs where they make a decent wage, you allow them to live in housing that's affordable, decent, safe,