

Congressman Michael McCaul

Speaks Out About the Texas T.E.A. Parties

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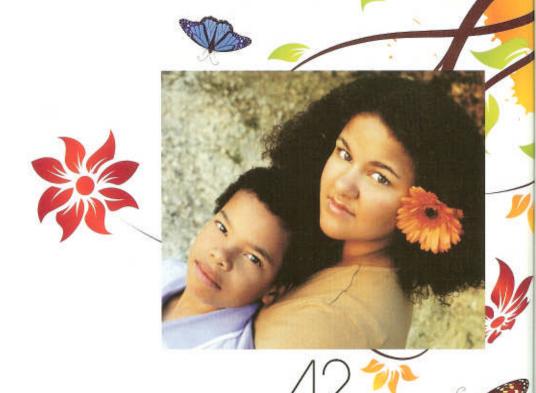
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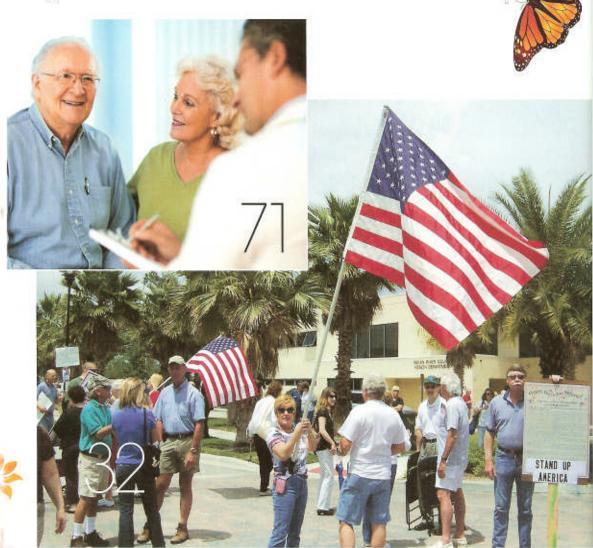


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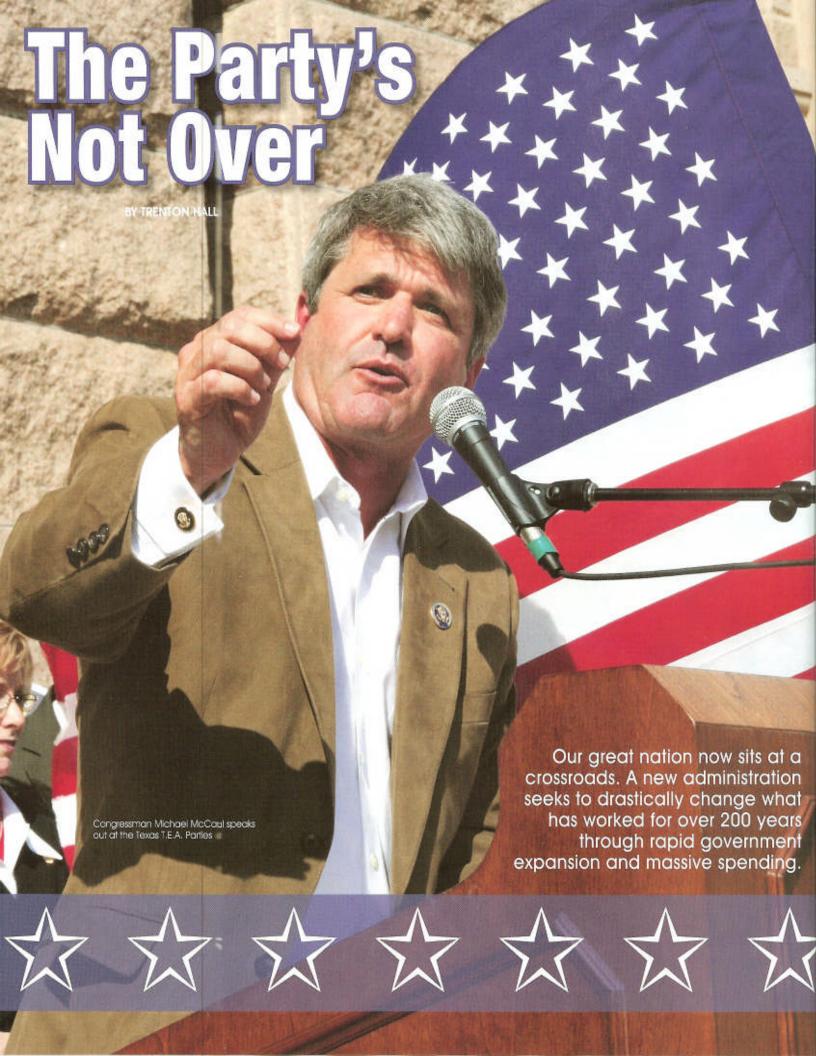
FEATURES

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n April 15th, Tax Day T.E.A. (Taxed Enough Already) Parties were held in cities across the country and attracted over a million protesters. The concerned citizens came out to protest high taxes and record government spending under the new administration. It is a grassroots movement with organizers coming from all walks of life but sharing one common purpose—To voice their anger at needless government expansion and wasteful tax dollar spending.

I visited with U.S. Congressman Michael McCaul to get his thoughts on the effectiveness of the April 15th Tea Parties and to see what is next for the conservative

movement,

Texas LIVE: What are your thoughts on the Tea Party movement and where do you see it going from here?

McCaul: I call it 'The Awakening' because there are people each day waking up to the fact that we have a government in power now with one party controlling and spending an enormous amount of money, \$8 Trillion since the bailout. It is borrowing more money than we have ever borrowed before. It is putting us in more debt than we have ever been in before. It will have to tax us greater than ever before in order to pay for it. This is something that most American people don't want.

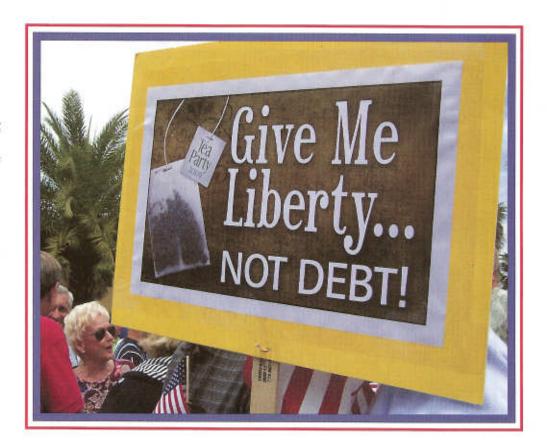
The way we stop this madness in Washington is to get the grassroots movement behind this so that conservatives can take back Congress. The liberals are in control and the conservatives don't control the decisions. We are trying to stop as much of it as we can. The Conservative cause, I think, will see a tremendous comeback.

When you look at the Founding Fathers, it is very clear that this is not the country they intended it to be. They broke

from a tyrannical government that was oppressive in its taxes and we today, have a government that is literally taking over our financial institutions, our auto industry. They believe that the Europeans are smarter than us. They think the only way to make America better is to first, blame America for all the world's problems and secondly, to import European ideas that they think are better than America's. They want to adopt the Cap and Trade Policy that the Europeans have tried and failed at. They want to import government-run healthcare that the Europeans have, which is a failure. They want to import European socialism which has been a failure. I think Americans have the best ideas.

We broke from Europe for a reason. Our Founding Fathers were willing to sacrifice their lives for a principle that was the original conservative cause. It was about liberty and freedom of the individual over the government. The liberals in Congress believe that the government should have more power over you. There is a distinction between the empowered and the entitled. The empowered are the ones who have the jobs, who create the jobs, and who pay their taxes. The entitled crowd believes that the government should provide everything for them, whether it is housing or healthcare or you name it.

One of the great dangers in society today is the entitlement crowd essentially taking over. One quote I use from Jefferson, "Democracy will cease to exist when you take away from those who are willing to work and give to those who will not."





Texas LIVE: While watching the news, we still see report after report of more spending by the Federal government. Did the April 15th protests make a difference in Washington?

McCaul: I think it will in the next election. That's where the people have the power. I think there is an attempt by Speaker Pelosi and the President to sweep these Tea Parties under the rug as some kind of event without consequences but I think it scared them. The Rahm Emanuel approach was to ignore that they even took place. They are the majority in control and they can pass their agenda right now.

Texas LIVE: Socialism used to be a bad word, but now they don't even bat an eye at it. Why is that?

McCaul: In our lifetime we saw the defeat of the Soviet Union which was based upon Marxist principles. We were in a Cold War for many decades over these ideas and now the idea that we're going to revive that and make that the policy of this country is one of the great dangers occurring in Washington right now. The more people begin to understand that, the more they are going to wake up and voice their power on election day.

Texas LIVE: Will we see government healthcare before the 2010 election?

McCaul: I think as early as July they will try to get through the House the idea that the government, which can't run anything very well, is going to try to run your healthcare. They would use the same European model that allows bureaucrats to ration your healthcare. I believe some form of this will pass this summer through the House.

I think more and more this will start to

get the attention of the American people. Obama is a very likeable guy from a personality standpoint but his policies are very dangerous. He has Nancy Pelosi who fits the bad cop role while he is the good cop, and they are running anything but a democracy. They are circumventing the committee process where the bipartisan work gets done, instead for their major agendas, like the stimulus, they throw it on the floor and before anyone had a chance to read it, there was an up or down vote. They know they have the votes to get it passed. I think we're going to see the same strongarm tactic on healthcare where it gets passed before the American people even have a chance to know what it is. They know if the people know what this really is, they aren't going to support it.

Texas LIVE: If these policies get passed in the next two years, can anything be done to later reverse course?

McCaul: We are doing everything in our power, whether it's talking on the House floor or going back home to get such a loud voice in America against these policies that they will not get through Congress. We can't just defeat these policies with our votes, we have to energize the American people to stand up. People need to speak up against these policies. On election day, we will have a chance to reverse course. My sincere hope is that if some of this stuff does get through, we can change and rectify it.

Texas LIVE: IRS Revenues have been declining during this recession. How can we continue spending record amounts with declining revenues?

McCaul: Revenues have declined obviously because we are in a tough economy, but the policies in Washington have been to increase the tax burden instead of decrease the tax burden on small businesses. This is not a new concept. Look







at what has worked historically and what hasn't. President Kennedy advocated a cut in the capital gains tax rate to get the country moving again and it worked. President Reagan espoused, from an economics viewpoint, cutting taxes on working families and it worked. We can't spend, tax, and borrow our way into prosperity. Even FDR's own secretary of treasury said, "We can't spend our way out of this. We've been spending and it's not working." We're in extraordinary times and history will judge what the right course was. This \$8 Trillion in spending has aggravated the situation and not fixed it.

Texas LIVE: What does the average citizen, who may not follow the news very closely, need to know about what is currently going on in Washington?

McCoul: They need to know the policies in Washington are empowering the government over the individual. This is a direct contradiction to what our Founding Fathers stood for. I encourage people to get out and come to these rallies. These rallies weren't just down party lines. I attended rallies with Republicans, Democrats, Independents, and Libertarians. We have lots of Democrats who come out and say, "I agree with you."

So the answer is "No, the party is not over." On July 4th, Tea Party rallies were held once again all across the nation. As long as the current administration stays on the path of increased spending and pushes us ever closer to Socialism, there will be an ever-growing movement of citizens voicing their desire to return to American ideals.

As our nation faces this crossroads, it is important we understand the future implications of the current ideas and policies being pushed through our Federal government. You can voice your opinion at the voting booth in 2010 or offer your voice in protest at an upcoming Tea Party Rally.