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Byrd Response to Vice President Cheney's Remarks about the People of West Virginia

Washington, DC... U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd, D-W.Va., made the following statement in response to derogatory remarks made today at the National Press Club by Vice President Cheney about the people of West Virginia.

Senator Byrd's Statement is Below:

"That a man who has ascended to the seat of Vice President of the United States would openly display such contempt and astounding ignorance toward his own countrymen is an insult to all Americans. Now that he and the Administration he represents no longer need their vote, Mr. Cheney apparently feels that he is now free to mock and belittle the people of West Virginia. With his trademark arrogance, the Vice President even added 'You can say those things when you're not running for re-election.""

"This pitiful comment is not entirely surprising when you consider the source. Vice President Cheney's words reflect the attitude of an administration and a party that says what they must to get elected and then turns their backs on those they promised to represent."

Comments made by Vice President Cheney today at the National Press Club

We'd always known about the Cheney family line on my father's side of the family, back to Massachusetts in the 1630s. My grandmother was named Tyler but it turned out she was descended from a Richard Cheney, same last name, who landed in Maryland in the 1650s.

So I had Cheneys on both sides of the family -- and we don't even live in West Virginia.

You can say those things when you're not running for re-election.

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