

“TOWN HALL” REPORT WITH REPRESENTATIVE JACK BERGMAN

Monday, Oct 30th, 2017

By Linda Pepper

I took notes on every question and/or speaker and tried to capture the important points of each questions. Very early I realized there would be almost no specifics from Rep. Bergman. He said he was a data guy, however that was not reflected in his answers. The speakers had more facts and data in their questions than we heard in the answers.

There were 41 questions from 37 people. The Cherry Queen had 3 questions that I presume he had prepared his answers for, and one lady got 2 comments in with her turn at the podium. Three people gave comments only.

There were 9 questions on the ACA/Health Coverage. Six questions were asked on Climate Change and the Environment. Line 5 drew 3 questions. Eight questions were asked on Tax Reform and the Federal Budget. Education and Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos got 2 questions. The other topics were the First Amendment, the Second Amendment and Gun Rights, Federal Response to Disaster, DACA, Possible Firing of Mueller, Visas and need for Laborers, Poverty, Particularly for Women and Children, and Sex Education Programs at TCAPs. Two interesting questions were: How are you making sure that constituents who do not agree with you are still being heard? He answered that he was delivering on the platform he ran on which is Federalism, Strong Borders, and Keeping the Federal Government Out of Your Business.

The last questioner asked if Bergman was proud of Trump and why. He answered yes, but then retreated and ended the session in spite of people calling that they wanted to know why. He did let the word leadership slip, but perhaps realized he didn't want to go on record about his support for Trump.

I classified answers as (1) Informative, (2) Political Platitudes, (3) No answer or he will study it or react if it happens, and (4) Comment by the Speaker only. I classified 15 as Informative and they were concentrated in the first 16 questions with only three coming later. Informative meant he addressed the question and used some specificity in answering it. Twelve answers were Political Platitudes where he said something that might relate to the question, but were like “we need to be fiscally responsible”. Eleven times I wrote down no answer, or that he would study it or, as in the Mueller firing question, he refused to consider it until it happened.

I realize that this is subjective but I did my best to convey his attitude and meaning. I must point out that he often condescended to his constituents, calling us “kids,” and” boys and girls”. He also said that this not a debate when people tried to pin down his answer. I went home very discouraged because he seemed minimally informed, and said several times that he was only in his first year. He did not seem well prepared on many current topics. He seems a very weak representative for the First District of Michigan.

Apparently, we were reported in the Record Eagle as a “Rowdy Crowd”. We were not. Some people did not appreciate the prayer at the beginning and said the Pledge of Allegiance instead. Many speakers said that they thanked him for his military service and service in the Congress. The loudest upset was when he ended the session without revealing why he was proud of Trump.

	SUBJECT	INFORMATIVE ANSWER	POLITICAL PLATITUDES	NO ANSWER OR WILL STUDY OR REFUSED NOW	COMMENT ONLY	ADDED COMMENTS
1.	Health Care/ACA	X				Blamed People's Life Style Choices for High Cost
2.	Line 5	X				
3.	Climate Change & Environment	X				Part of Bipartisan Climate Caucus
4.	Education/ Vouchers			No Answer		
5.	Line 5	X				Target of Terrorist Threat
6.	First Amendment	X				Very short – No Discussion
7.	Health Care/ACA		X			
8.	Second Amendment	X				Very short – No Discussion
9.	Balanced Budget	X				
10.	Climate Change/Env.			X		
11.	Fed. Response to Disaster	X				Package not Fiscally Responsible
12.	Second Amendment		X			
13.	Tax Reform/ Budget	X				Sm. Business increased, Simplify tax code, Decrease IRS
14.	Health Care/ACA	X				Says 33K on ACA – May not be accurate
15.	Budget & EPA	X				Appropriations funds programs, not budget committee
16.	DACA	X				Congress should deal with DACA
17.	Tax Reform		X			
18.	Climate Change/Env.			X		How could he support Carbon Tax?
19.	Climate Caucus				X	

20.	Education/ DeVos		X			
21.	Line 5		X			Replace to 2017 standards
22.	Mueller Firing			Not discuss unless it happens		
23.	Climate Change/Env.			X		More study
24.	Tax Reform		X			
25.	Health Care/ACA			X		
26.	Visas & Laborers	X				
27.	Budget/ Tax Reform		X			You cannot tax your way out of fiscal problem
28.	Poverty - Women & Children		X			Opportunity for jobs and educ. For all
29.	FERPA Vote			X		Same Person as 30.
30.	Boycott			X		Was difficult to follow
31.	Climate Change/Env.				X	
32.	Health Care/ACA	X				Health Care to States
33.	Flooding	X				Not sell ins. In flood prone areas
34.	Health Care/ACA		X			
35.	Health Care/ACA		X			Upset speaker "You do want to kill me"
36.	Health Care/ACA			X		
37.	Voices of voters who don't agree with you	X				Elected on platform of Federalism, Strong Defense, Fed Govt out of your business
38.	Health Care/ Budget		X			Speaker discussed National Sales Tax
39.	Budget/Tax Reform			X		Wouldn't say if small business is \$15 million
40.	Sex Ed Prog in TCAPs			X		
41.	Proud of Trump			X		Yes but stopped

						session rather than answer.
	TOTAL	15	12	11	3	