

The democratic revolutions in China and the former Soviet Union were made possible at least in part by the availability of fully privatized, high-speed communications. One writer has noted that public officials listen to too much talk around the conference table and too little around the kitchen table. The kitchen table FAX machine may be on the verge of abolishing that distinction.

- Volunteer, vote, and pray. In our commercial age, advertisers know that they must reach a specific audience a predetermined number of times (gross ratings points) if they are to be sure that their message has gotten through. What is true for mere products is all the more so for the complicated issues of heart and mind encountered in public policy. Persistence, mixed with respect and appreciation for our system of government that invites and rewards participation, is the most vital ingredient of all.

A legislator is, after all, a representative — there is little reason to expect that he or she will exemplify virtues that the community as a whole does not already possess. No plea for a legislator's attention should be any more compelling than that of parents for the well-being of their cherished children. With these principles in mind, parents can do their share to ensure that the law provides the maximum in protection to children in a world that, with all its threats and pitfalls, is ripe with opportunities for good. Above all, our children must know that they are wanted and needed, endowed with special qualities by a Creator who made both them and the land in which they are blessed to live.

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