Tangled tongues expose politicians

United Press International

WASHINGTON — Sen. Edward Kennedy, addressing one of the problems of rural America in Iowa ast month, promised that if elected president he would be a staunch champion of the "fam farmily." The Massachusetts Democrat stopped, and asked somewhat plain-tively, "What is there in the air out

here? I did that the last time I was in Iowa, too." Politicians, high and low, have been plagued by twisted tongues for about as long as there have been

political speeches.



Wisconsin capitol is about the state senator from Milwaukee, who when asked about the consequences of his bill, replied, "When we come to that bill, replied, "When we come to that bridge, we'll jump off of it." Some years later, one Wisconsin senator accused a colleague of "sitting on the fence with an ear to the ground on each side." The senator so described thereupon complained bitterly that

comment on the 1972 campaign: Nixon has been sitting in the White House while George McGovern has been exposing himself to the people of the United States." In that same campaign, Brooklyn

Democratic leader Meade Esposito announced to a small crowd at a Car-narsie rally, "Meade Esposito and the Brooklyn Democratic Party are going to be with Sen. McGovern to

may have been lucky to carry one

the bitter end. With help like that, McGovern

foreign affairs as a policy of "speaking softly and carrying a a fly spotter." Ford also had a famous goof in Iowa. Speaking in Ames, the home of Iowa State University, the former president declared he was delighted to be visiting Ohio State. When the

students began roaring, Ford said, "Well, you know we Michigan people have got a thing about Ohio State

One of the most famous gaffes was committed by Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who gave a speech in Minneapolis and declared how happy he was to be in St. Paul.

Another major category of political goof is the mixed metaphor. John F. Parker, in his 1978 book on political humor, quoted an unidentified congressman as describing a proposal as a golden cow that wants its cake and eats it as well," and another law-maker as declaiming, "We need this bill like a horse needs a fifth wheel." A famous story told around the

'Black Santa' decides to move from Arkansas

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LITTLE ROCK — Restaurant owner Robert "Say" McIntosh, the so-called "Black Santa" who baffled Arkansans by serving dinner to the Ku Klux Klan, says he is taking his toys, his sweet potato pie and his love for his fellow human beings to another community.

"I want to motivate people, McIntosh said in announcing his de-parture. "It's been a good learning experience here. I just want to find out more of what I can do. My whole goal here was not to profit off these people, and I didn't.

McIntosh, 36, also known as the Sweet Potato Pie King, distributed toys at Christmas, hosted a dinner

for the Ku Klux Klan and took cleanliness to the limits of fanaticism while preaching brotherhood and peace.

McIntosh said he would visit New York, California and Dallas before deciding where to settle down. His plans for the future are uncertain, he said, but they probably will not in-clude a barbecue restaurant. "I've done all I can do here," he

said. "I've touched all those I'm

going to touch." Each Christmas, McIntosh bought toys for children, then dressed as Santa to distribute them. In recent years, he persuaded others bistribute. In 1976, then-Gov. David Pryor proclaimed Christmas Eve as Robert McIntosh Day in Arkansas.

But McIntosh was also active the rest of the year. In June 1979, he offered a free barbecue dinner to everyone who attended a Ku Klux Klan rally at the University of Arkan-sas at Little Rock — Klansmen, anti-Klansmen, reporters, police and bystanders.

He also offered Christmas dinner to Iranian students in Arkansas last year, but no one showed up. McIntosh hated litter. He used to

get up at 4:30 a.m. to sweep Main Street because the city didn't keep it clean enough to suit him. He was the only known member of the City Beautiful Commission actually to clean up something — piling trash he collected downtown onto the steps of

City Hall to make his point. He drew attention to litter on the outdoor Metrocentre Mall last year

by bringing a pig, a calf and a pony onto the mall. "If we're going to keep the downtown like pigs, we might as well let pigs roam around the mall," he wid said

His last clean-up project was Tuesday at the Highland Courts public housing project to recognize the late Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday, he said.

McIntosh regularly served Thanksgiving and Christmas meals of barbecue and sweet potato pie to anyone who dropped by his restaurant. He said he never refused to feed anyone too poor to pay.