



A Turkey Takes A Stand

By Lois Lewis

NARRATOR 1:

It's several weeks before Thanksgiving. An unusual hearing is about to take place in the halls of Congress. A buzz fills the room as the members of Congress enter and settle into their seats.

NARRATOR 2:

For Trevor Turkey, this is an important day. He knows, as he prepares to make his case before lawmakers and the nation, that he has a chance to make history. Cameras flash as he takes his seat.

SENATOR 1:

Good morning. Our speaker today is Mr. Trevor Turkey from Turkeyville, U.S.A. Sir, you may begin.

TREVOR:

Thank you, Senator. I come to you this morning to talk about Thanksgiving, more specifically, about the plight of turkeys on that great national holiday. For most citizens, Thanksgiving is a time of celebration. For me and my fellow turkeys, many of whom become the main course on dinner tables across this country, it's a sad, sad day indeed.

SENATOR 2:

Mr. Turkey, are you proposing that we abolish Thanksgiving?

NARRATOR 1:

Sounds of shock and dismay fill the room.

TREVOR:

No sir. I'm only asking for a change in the celebration. I'm here to propose a new law that would abolish turkeys as the main course for Thanksgiving dinner.

NARRATOR 2:

The gasps of shock and whispers of dismay grow louder.

SENATOR 1: (hitting his gavel on the table):

Order! Order! Order!

SENATOR 3:

Mr. Turkey, we sympathize with your concerns. But why should we change a tradition that began with the Pilgrims?

SENATOR 4:

What food would *you* suggest as the official main course for the Thanksgiving meal, Sir? Hot dogs? Perhaps we should turn Thanksgiving dinner into a barbeque!

NARRATOR 1:

The sound of giggles fills the hearing room.

SENATOR 1: (hitting his gavel on the table):

Order! Order! Order! Order!

TREVOR:

The Pilgrims ate a variety of foods on the first Thanksgiving -- corn, fish, and squash, for example. All are delicious, as well as nutritious. Fish, in fact, would make a fine main course for Thanksgiving.

SENATOR 1:

Sir, your proposal could affect other Thanksgiving traditions. For example, what about the stuffing? Where would we cook the stuffing?

TREVOR:

You can cook stuffing in a pan or baking dish. In fact, many recipes today encourage cooking stuffing separately.

SENATOR 2:

What about gravy? How would we make gravy?

TREVOR:

Many of today's gravy mixes taste just as good as homemade, Senator.

SENATOR 3:

What about leftovers? No turkey sandwiches or turkey soup?

TREVOR:

Great sandwiches, soups, and salads can be made from leftover fish and vegetables too. In fact, you'll find a number of delicious turkey-free recipes on my Web site "Talking--Not Eating--Turkey.com."

SENATOR 4:

Well, Mr. Turkey, you certainly have thought this through. We'll consider your proposal and let you know when we make a decision.

TREVOR:

Thank you, Senators.

NARRATOR 2:

Two reporters catch up with Trevor as he leaves the hearing room.

REPORTER 1:

Trevor, what are your thoughts about the hearing?

TREVOR:

I presented my case. I can only hope for the best.

REPORTER 2:

Do you think your proposal will become law?

TREVOR:

That's up to Congress. Excuse me. I have a plane to catch.

NARRATOR 1:

Trevor pushes through the crowd outside the building. Some spectators shout their opinions about his proposal.

SPECTATOR 1:

Save our turkeys!

SPECTATOR 2:

Keep our Thanksgiving traditions!

NARRATOR 2:

During the next few days, Trevor appears on talk shows and speaks about his proposal at rallies and protests. At the end of the week, he returns home to his wife, Tonya, and son, Teddy, in Turkeyville.

TEDDY:

Dad's back! We saw you on television. We're so proud of you!

TONYA:

Welcome home, dear. How was your trip?

TREVOR:

I think it went well. The senators plan to vote on my proposal in two more days. We'll know then if my trip was a success.

NARRATOR 1:

Two days pass. Trevor and his fellow turkeys wait nervously for the results of the Congressional vote. When the news finally arrives, Turkeyville television stations interrupt their regular programs....

TELEVISION REPORTER:

We have breaking news! Congress has passed -- by a single vote -- a law to abolish turkey as the main course at Thanksgiving dinner. Fish is now the official food for that holiday meal.

NARRATOR 2:

Trevor and his family jump for joy. Across Turkeyville, turkeys rejoice when they hear the news. Trevor is their hero!

NARRATOR 1:

It's one week before Thanksgiving, and members of Congress are back in the hearing room to hear an emergency proposal.

SENATOR 1:

Ma'am, please tell us your full name and why you're here.

SONYA SALMON:

Thank you, Senator. My name is Sonya Salmon. I'm here to talk about Thanksgiving, or more specifically, about the plight of fish on this great national holiday....

