

The American people, who sent us here in the first place, know this and, I believe, support our efforts on our children's behalf.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FAIR ELECTIONS ACT

HON. RICK WHITE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 1995

Mr. WHITE. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the Fair Elections Act.

This bill creates a nonpartisan commission which will have 90 days to recommend reforms to the laws that govern congressional elections. The commission's recommendations will be unamendable and placed on a legislative fast track. The time has come for Congress to take itself out of the debate and turn the decisions over to an independent group devoid of politics.

Our current Federal election laws are flawed and have been since they were enacted following Watergate. Several aspects of that initial campaign finance reform effort were found to be unconstitutional by the Supreme Court. However, Congress never substantively revisited the pieces that were left standing. Therefore, the current election laws consist of an incomplete and complex web of regulations—a web which has not worked and is in need of a complete overhaul.

An overhaul is necessary because the current election laws have produced a system that is biased toward incumbent Members of Congress and where special interest financing has a disproportionate influence over the process. These items must be corrected but it must be done in a responsible manner that restores trust and confidence in Congress and those who serve here. We must not, in our haste for reform, further muddle the process by adding regulations which only perpetuate the advantage of incumbency.

Therefore, as we move forward with campaign finance reform, it is important that Congress engage in a substantive debate and approach the process with three objectives firmly in mind: First, we must encourage fair and open elections that provide voters with meaningful information about candidates and issues. Second, we must eliminate the disproportionate influence of special interest financing of congressional elections. And third, we must work to create a system where incumbent Members of Congress do not possess an inherent advantage over challengers.

It is my belief that the Fair Elections Act will result in real campaign finance reform that accomplishes those objectives.

For too long, Congress has allowed partisan politics to influence campaign finance reform efforts. Any campaign finance proposal that has seen the light of day in recent years has essentially been an incumbent protection plan, the bills receiving attention this year not excluded. Congress has not been willing to level the proverbial playing field where incumbent Members of Congress and challengers compete. Nor has Congress been able to move the campaign finance debate above partisan rhetoric and inject legitimate academic discourse and empirical findings into campaign finance reform proposals.

The Fair Elections Act will finally allow Congress to correct the deficiencies of previous

reform efforts. By establishing a 12 member commission in which no more than 4 members may be of the same political party, we will create an environment which is nonpartisan. That is, we will establish an arena where the partisan gloves that have doomed past reform efforts are removed and legislation is produced which incorporates new ideas and solutions rather than recycling the stale rhetoric of recent years.

Real reform is about making sure our Federal campaign finance laws do not protect the incumbent. As a freshman, one of the lessons that I've learned is that Congress is the last body we should count on to do a fair, and quick, job of reforming our campaign finance laws. It has become clear to me that, unless Congress is forced to take an up or down vote on this issue, we are never going to get politics out of the process. No reform passed in this Congress will take effect until the 1998 election cycle. Therefore, rather than simply tinker around the edges, significant reform will only take place by forming a commission to revamp the entire system.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 1995

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the House of Representatives considered a number of bills under suspension of the rules, and I missed two recorded votes.

During the consideration of legislation in the House, I was in California to attend the formal introduction of the International Institute for Surface Transportation Studies, an initiative that was created by Congress as part of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Infrastructure Act of 1991 (Public Law 102-240).

Had I had been present, I would have voted "nay" on the Archer motion to postpone the vote to override the President's veto on the debt limit legislation, rollcall vote No. 788, and I would have voted "aye" on H.R. 657, legislation to extend the Federal Power Act deadline for construction of three hydroelectric projects in Arkansas, rollcall vote No. 789.

A SPECIAL SALUTE TO FATHER AUSTIN COOPER: MARKING 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 1995

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, as a Member of Congress, I take pride in acknowledging individuals from my congressional district who have demonstrated outstanding leadership in the community. Today, I rise to salute an individual who has dedicated his life to serving others. For the past 25 years, Father Austin R. Cooper, Sr., has served as rector at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Cleveland, OH. Earlier this month, starting on November 5, 1995, St. Andrew's began a special month-long celebration to mark his tenure as a leader of this historic church. I take special pride in saluting Father Cooper on this important mile-

stone. I want to share with my colleagues some information regarding this gifted individual and his service of ministry.

Father Cooper is the son of the late Benjamin and Louise Cooper, who came to the United States from the West Indies. As a young man, Father Cooper graduated from St. Augustine's College where he received a degree in sociology. He received a master of divinity degree from the Seabury-Western Theological Seminary in Evanston, IL. On May 13, 1961, Father Cooper celebrated his ordination as a priest. During his ministry, this gifted leader has served in churches located in Florida, New York, and Texas.

Father Cooper was chosen as rector at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church on September 15, 1970. For 25 years, he has been a strong leader of that congregation and a guiding force in the Cleveland community. The church has been a beacon of light, providing programs and services to assist families, the elderly, and youth throughout the community. In addition, under Father Cooper's leadership, St. Andrew's Church was not only able to burn its mortgage 9 years ahead of schedule, but the St. Andrew's Church Foundation which was established in 1983 with \$35,000, now boasts assets in excess of one quarter million dollars.

Mr. Speaker, the awards and honors bestowed upon Father Cooper over the years represent the highest tribute to an individual who has dedicated his life to serving others. Father Cooper is the past recipient of the Distinguished Serve Award and the Black Church Religious Award from the Cleveland Branch of the NAACP. He was also recognized by the executive council of the Episcopal Church for his leadership in the struggle for civil rights.

Father Cooper's name is included in published editions of "Notable Americans" and "Who's Who Among Black Americans." He is the cofounder, first secretary, and past president of the Union of Black Episcopalians. Father Cooper is also the former president of the Cleveland Branch of the NAACP. Other memberships include Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and the Prince Hall Masons.

Mr. Speaker, Father Austin Cooper is a leader of both national and international prominence. He has visited the White House to participate in briefings and advise leaders on the issues confronting the Nation. In addition, Father Cooper has led delegations to international conferences in East Africa, the West Indies, and other points around the globe.

Throughout his service in the ministry, Father Austin Cooper has benefited from the support of a caring and understanding family. His devotion to his lovely wife of 30 years, Patricia, is unsurpassed. The Coopers are the proud parents of three children: Austin Rellins II, Angela Patricia, and Kimberly Louise. They are also the proud grandparents of Ashley Arianne.

Mr. Speaker, over the years, I have been the beneficiary of the friendship and counsel of Father Cooper. He is a gifted man of God and a devoted leader. On the occasion of his 25th anniversary in service to St. Andrew's, I take special pride in saluting Father Cooper. I ask that my colleagues join me in wishing him Godspeed as he continues on this important mission of service.

TRIBUTE TO WILLARD B. RANSOM

HON. ANDREW JACOBS, JR.

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 1995

Mr. JACOBS. Mr. Speaker, those who never knew Willard Ransom are unfortunate. Those who did have had their lives enhanced.

As indicated in the following from the Indianapolis Star and the Indianapolis News, he was an uncommon man, one of God's nobleman.

We are all the poorer for his passing.

[From the IPCs News, Nov. 11, 1995]

WILLARD B. RANSOM

A pioneer in the civil rights movement in Indianapolis has passed away.

Willard B. "Mike" Ransom was active in community affairs as well as civil rights work.

With a law degree from Harvard University, he came back to Indianapolis after serving in the Army in Europe during World War II.

He fought for freedom overseas, only to run into barriers to freedom back home.

"The contrast between having served in the Army and running into this discrimination and barriers at home was a discouraging thing," he once explained.

He helped organize the state chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and was involved in local protests against discrimination in the 1950s, several years before the civil rights movement gained national attention. He also successfully promoted the passage of civil rights legislation in the Indiana General Assembly.

His community service was part of a family tradition, as his father, Freeman Ransom, had been active in civic affairs and was general manager of the Madame C.J. Walker Co.

The civil rights movement may be just a period of history for younger people, but individuals such as Willard Ransom opened doors of opportunity and made sacrifices that ought to be remembered with gratitude.

[From the Star, Nov. 9, 1995]

CITY LOSES HONORED CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST

Willard Ransom was an attorney, fought for desegregation and co-founded Black Expo.

Willard B. "Mike" Ransom, a Harvard-educated attorney who led sit-ins and other civil rights actions to fight for desegregation in Indianapolis and who was a co-founder of Indianapolis Black Expo, died Tuesday.

Mr. Ransom, of Indianapolis, was 79.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Nov. 11 at Stuart Mortuary, with calling from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Nov. 10. Interment will be at Crown Hill Cemetery.

Mr. Ransom became active in local civil rights efforts when he returned to his hometown after serving in the Army Air Forces in France and Belgium during World War II, attaining the rank of captain.

"The contrast between having served in the Army and running into this discrimination and barriers at home was a discouraging thing," Mr. Ransom, a 1932 graduate of Crispus Attucks High School, said in a 1991 interview.

He began reorganizing the state chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, traveling the state to encourage people to take direct action for civil rights.

He organized some local protests in the late 1950s, years before the much-publicized sit-ins and marches in the South.

One protest targeted the bus station at the former Traction Terminal Building on Mar-

ket Street between Capitol Avenue and Illinois Street.

"There was a big restaurant there (Fendrich's). And there were so many blacks traveling on buses. We were insulted in that place because no one would serve us," Mr. Ransom said.

Mr. Ransom began working as an attorney in 1939 and was inducted into the service in 1941 two months into a four-year term as assistant to the attorney general. He was assistant manager of Madame C. J. Walker Manufacturing Co. 1947-1954 and was general manager of the company and trustee of the Sarah Walker Estate 1954-1971.

He maintained a private law practice during that time and played a major role in passage of all significant civil rights legislation in Indiana since 1946.

Mr. Ransom had been legal counsel to blacks in the Indianapolis fire and police departments and at the time of his death was of counsel to the law firm Bamberger and Feibleman.

He was a director of National City Bank of Indiana, served five terms as chairman of the state NAACP and was a life member of the organization, and was a board member of the Madame C. J. Walker Urban Life Center.

He was one of the founders of Concerned Ministers of Indianapolis and in 1993 received the organization's Thurgood Marshall Award for his work in the civil rights movement.

He graduated summa cum laude from Talladega College in Alabama in 1936, majoring in history. He played on the varsity football and basketball teams for four years and was on the debate team for three years. He received his law degree from Harvard University in 1939.

Willard Ransom was born into a family of community leaders. His father, Freeman B. Ransom, was an attorney, civic leader, Indianapolis councilman and general manager of Madame C. J. Walker Co. The historic Ransom Place neighborhood is named for Freeman Ransom, who died in 1947.

Survivors: wife Gladys L. Miller Ransom; son Philip Freeman Ransom; daughter Judith Ellen Ransom; brothers Frederick A., Robert E. Ransom; sister A'Leia E. Nelson; two grandchildren; a great-grandchild.

TRIBUTE TO COACH FRANK TUDRYN, JR., OF NORTHAMPTON, MA

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 1995

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the distinguished career of one of my constituents, Mr. Frank Tudryn, Jr., of Northampton, MA.

Mr. Tudryn, a longtime teacher and football coach at Northampton High School, is currently engaged in his 25th consecutive season as the head football coach at that school. During Coach Tudryn's tenure, the "Blue Devils" have consistently fielded strong teams. In fact, under his leadership, they have won four league championships and a western Massachusetts crown. As a testament to his team's continued success, Coach Tudryn was named "Coach of the Year" in 1995 by the Valley Advocate.

A graduate of both Northampton High School and the University of Massachusetts, Coach Tudryn has dedicated his life to making Northampton High School a better place to go to school. Since 1971 he has not only

coached football, but taught history and worked as an assistant principal. Many students, including his own children, have benefited from his guidance on the playing fields and in the classroom.

Mr. Speaker, on November 17 of this year, a celebration will be held in Coach Tudryn's honor at the Elks Club in Northampton, MA. I ask my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to Coach Frank Tudryn and his impressive record as a coach, a teacher, and a friend to the city of Northampton.

A SALUTE TO BERNIE FOGEL, M.D.

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 1995

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the true pioneers of health care education in the country today—Dean Bernard J. Fogel, M.D.—who for 13 years has nurtured and developed the University of Miami School of Medicine into one of the Nation's largest and most respected medical schools.

Under Dr. Fogel's leadership, the University of Miami School of Medicine has experienced phenomenal growth, unparalleled achievement, and unswerving commitment to excellence in medical education, research, patient care, and community service. Student enrollment increased by 36 percent; research funding quadrupled; the school's budget tripled; fund raising more than doubled; the faculty grew by 78 percent; and several major research and patient care buildings were constructed, renovated, or purchased.

Though one of the country's youngest medical schools, during the Fogel years the University of Miami School of Medicine has achieved a level of excellence shared by some of the Nation's oldest and finest schools of medicine.

Mr. Speaker, I am particularly proud to note that the University of Miami School of Medicine has one of the most diverse student populations in the Nation. Fifty percent of its student body is female, and the school enrolls half of all African-American medical students in the State of Florida.

In the 13 years Dr. Fogel served as dean, the school established many new research and clinical programs including: the Miami Project to Cure Paralysis; the Center for Adult Development and Aging; the Comprehensive AIDS Programs; the Comprehensive Drug Research Center; the Ear Institute; and the Abrams Center for Health Services, Research, and Policy. The school further strengthened its cancer-related programs by expanding the Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center and building the Fox Cancer Research Center, the Papanicolaou annex, and the Gaudier Building. The Deed Club Bone Marrow Transplant Program was successfully launched and has performed more than 100 transplants. The Winn-Dixie Hope Lodge was also built to accommodate cancer patients and their families.

Under Dr. Fogel's leadership the University of Miami School of Medicine received the Association of American Medical Colleges first-ever Award for Outstanding Community Service, recognizing the unique blend of compassion and commitment that characterizes the school and its nationally acclaimed teaching hospital Jackson Memorial Medical Center.