

serve to close the various loopholes in current lobbying law and make the rules mean what they are supposed to mean.

Because it was necessary to send to the President a clean bill—any amendment adopted to H.R. 2564 would have ultimately served to kill lobbying reform in Congress for yet another year—Members of Congress were forced to withdraw and vote down a number of well-intended and worthy amendments.

Sadly, one of those withdrawn amendments was offered by the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. DINGELL]. Mr. DINGELL's amendment would have made a step in the right direction in stifling the atrocious lobbying procedure associated with so-called astroturf lobbying in which lobbying firms falsely use a person's name in a telegram or letter in an effort to influence a Member of Congress on pending legislation.

In August, during consideration of H.R. 1555, the Communications Act of 1995, my office received thousands of these computer-generated form telegrams. They were supposedly from my constituents outraged over the telecommunications deregulation and reform legislation. But after my staff and I contacted over 200 of those whose names and addresses that appeared on the telegrams, our results revealed that only a tiny fraction of "senders"—I am talking about only a handful—even knew their names has been used in this way, and one gentleman had long been deceased.

Mr. DINGELL's amendment to establish a penalty of a fine or up to 1 year imprisonment for lobbying firms who falsely uses a person's name in a computerized telegram or postcard is a necessary step in ending these despicable lobbying techniques. I urge all my colleagues to support it when introduced as free-standing legislation.

While I strongly support Mr. DINGELL's language, I also believe it is important for Congress to enact legislation that would require full disclosure of expenditures on this so-called astroturf lobbying. Neither H.R. 2564 nor the Dingell amendment requires disclosure of expenditures on astroturf lobbying. I believe this important information should be included in the registration and reports filed by lobbyists or organizations that lobby. This could be accomplished through separate legislation which I hope will be introduced this year.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Mr. DINGELL for offering his amendment today and for withdrawing it. I hope we can get together and put our minds to work and introduce a strong lobbying reform bill this year. Mr. CANADY, chairman of the Subcommittee on the Constitution of the full Committee of the Judiciary and lead sponsor of H.R. 2564, is also committed to working on another lobbying bill. With a year left in the 104th Congress, I believe this will be achieved.

ROMANIAN NATIONAL DAY—
DECEMBER 1

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 29, 1995

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, on the eve of Romania's National Day on December 1, I would like to take a few moments to recognize

the strides it has made since overthrowing communism just a mere 5 years ago.

Romania, like many of its neighbors, rejoiced when it was finally able to break free of communism and join the West. Having lived through some very rough years of a Stalinist inspired dictatorship, the Romanian people and their government are firmly dedicated to establishing a modern democracy.

Once obtaining its new-found freedoms, Mr. Speaker, Romania went on to achieve a number of firsts. For example, in 1989, Romania became the first country in central Europe to adopt a new Constitution, approved by a new, freely elected Parliament and by national referendum. Romania was also the first country in the region to have three rounds of free elections in 6 years, including parliamentary, presidential, and local. Finally, Romania achieved the distinction of being the first central European nation to join the Partnership for Peace [PPF] on January 26, 1994.

I am pleased to note, Mr. Speaker, that the Romania Government regards its bilateral relationship with the United States to be very special, and is intent on developing an intense cooperation in all fields with the United States—political, military, economic, and cultural. For example, at my invitation on behalf of the Congressional Research Service Task Force on International Parliamentary Programs. Mr. Adrian Nastase, President of the Romanian Parliament—equivalent to our Speaker of the House—is currently leading a delegation to Washington to institute modernization techniques for running the Romanian Parliament.

The Romanian Parliament is currently busy debating a law on political parties, and several other bills—on competition, on real estate promotion, on a forest code, on labor protection—demonstrating that democracy is hard at work in Romania. Ironically enough, when recently asked which issue is currently the most important one before the Romanian Parliament President Nastase answered that the budget has taken precedence before all other political issues. I guess some things do not change from Parliament to Parliament, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Central and Eastern Europe experienced tremendous hope with the fall of the Iron Curtain. The people of these countries and their governments are now facing the sobering challenges to build anew a free and modern state. On the occasion of Romania's National Day, I congratulate Romania for its accomplishments to date and join with my colleagues to wishing Romania well in its future.

HONORING KENNETH R. KORNHAUSER, FRED MILSTEIN, AND LEONARD COOPER

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 29, 1995

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with the members of the Suffolk Association for Jewish Educational Services [SAJES] and my constituents in the fifth congressional district as they gather to honor Kenneth R. Kornhauser, Fred Milstein, and Leonard Cooper for distinguished service in advancing the cause of Jewish education in Suffolk County, NY.

Through innovative and creative leadership, Kenneth R. Kornhauser has provided a solid basis of support to the advancement of quality Jewish education. A member of Temple Beth Torah, Kenneth is an involved board member of an array of Jewish organizations that include the Suffolk Y Jewish Community Center, the Gurwin Jewish Geriatric Center, the United Jewish Community Center of Long Island, and SAJES.

Honoree Fred Milstein also is being recognized for his endless dedication to the Suffolk Jewish Community. He has exemplified himself and enhanced the community through his active and effective participation as a member of the Suffolk Jewish Center, and as a board member of SAJES, the Solomon Schechter Day School of Suffolk County, B'nai B'rith, the World Jewish Congress, and the Suffolk Jewish Communal Planning Council.

Extraordinary is a word that befits SAJES' third honoree, Leonard Cooper. Because of his extraordinary talents for enhancing the Suffolk Jewish Community, SAJES confers upon him an award of special recognition. Leonard has served with great distinction and effectiveness as the first president of the Suffolk Y Jewish Community Center, and he is also a board member of the Gurwin Jewish Geriatric Center. In addition, he has served as campaign chairman for the United Jewish Appeal on eastern Long Island.

Without compensation or demand for recognition, these men have given of their great skills and talents to the uplifting and betterment of our community. It is with great pride that I call upon all my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in paying tribute to Kenneth R. Kornhauser, Fred Milstein, and Leonard Cooper. May their good works and selfless deeds serve as an example for all Americans to follow.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 29, 1995

Mr. COX of California. Mr. Speaker, earlier today, I was unavoidably detained and unable to return to the Capitol in time to record a "yes" vote in favor of H.R. 2564, legislation to toughen disclosure rules for lobbyists.

The passage of H.R. 2564—on the heels of last week's landmark vote to completely ban all gifts from lobbyists—adds to this new Congress' already impressive list of achievements in changing the way Washington does business.

On the first day of this Congress, the new Republican majority in the House of Representatives delivered on its promise to drastically cut congressional staff. We have continued to deliver on this pledge, cutting spending in the legislative branch, reducing committee staff by one-third, and completely eliminating three full committees and redistributing their duties.

We have also instituted internal term limits on the Speaker and committee chairmen, and ended the practice of ghost voting in committee, requiring instead that Members themselves be present to vote. And, the crown jewel of our internal reforms thus far—the first Republican bill signed into law by Bill Clinton—was legislation requiring that the laws of the land apply to Congress as well.

While there is still more to be accomplished on our congressional reform agenda, these significant reforms—including H.R. 2564—will do much to end business as usual in Washington, and to restore honesty and integrity to Congress.

CELEBRATING ROMANIA'S
INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 29, 1995

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, in a couple of days, on December 1, Romania will celebrate its national day of independence. This 1995 celebration will mark the 77th time the people of that nation have commemorated the founding of their country. Unlike many of the past national days, however, Romania's celebration

this year is one that is full of hope for the future.

As many of my colleagues know, earlier this fall, Romania's President, Ion Iliescu, came to Washington to meet with President Clinton. He also met with a number of our colleagues here in the House. The message he carried was simple. Romania is irrevocably marching down the path toward a democratic political system and a free-market economy.

This march has not been an easy one—reversing 40 years of communist rule is difficult. Romanians have borne real economic hardship since the 1989 revolution that overthrew the dictator Ceausescu. Nevertheless, major economic indicators for a healthy Romanian economy appear auspicious. Inflation is expected to be only 29 percent this year, less than half the 1994 rate. There has been more foreign investment, including U.S. investment, during the first 6 months of 1995 than there was in all of the previous 4 years. The agricultural sector, the first sector to benefit from pri-

vatization, has produced an almost record crop of wheat, allowing Romania to be a net grain exporter for the first time in years. A new stock exchange has opened, drawing capital to Romania, and the government has initiated a comprehensive privatization scheme empowering individual Romanians to become owners of the country's manufacturing sector.

Taken together, these successes bode well for Romania's economic future—a future we are encouraging through our granting of most-favored-nation status to Romania and by extending to it the benefits of the Generalized System of Preferences Program.

I urge my colleagues to join with me in extending our best wishes to the people of Romania on the occasion of their 77th—annual—day of independence. I also hope my colleagues join with me in acknowledging the progress Romania has made in meeting the twin goals of economic reform and political democratization.