

Mr. Speaker, there is a serious safety problem on our highways. My bill attempts to address this problem by directing DOT to study the problem in-depth and recommend to Congress ways to address the problem and reduce the number of accidents related to truck drivers falling asleep at the wheel.

Last year Republicans and Democrats on the Public Works and Transportation Committee, of which I am a member, strongly supported this provision. I urge all my colleagues to lend their support to the bill.

H.R. —

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. COMMERCIAL MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS.

(a) STUDY.—The Secretary of Transportation shall conduct a study of methods to reduce accidents on Federal-aid highways caused by drivers falling asleep while operating a commercial motor vehicle used to transport freight.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall transmit to Congress a report on the results of the study conducted under subsection (a).

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

HON. TIM JOHNSON

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 9, 1995

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, Fred Wertheimer, president of Common Cause, recently wrote House Speaker GINGRICH a letter in which he urged the Speaker to schedule and support early action on comprehensive campaign finance reform legislation, as well as strong gift ban and lobby reform legislation.

Attached to Mr. Wertheimer's letter were several statements that Speaker GINGRICH has made in the last several years on this important subject, and I am submitting the text of the two documents into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD today.

COMMON CAUSE,

Washington, DC, January 4, 1995.

House Speaker NEWT GINGRICH,
U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER GINGRICH: On August 22, 1990, in a speech to The Heritage Foundation, you said: "The first duty of our generation is to reestablish integrity and a bond of honesty in the political process. We should punish wrongdoers in politics and government and pass reform laws to clean up the election and lobbying systems. We must insure that citizen politics defeats money politics. This is the only way our system can regain its integrity. Every action should be measured against that goal, and every American should be challenged to register and vote to achieve that goal."

We agree.

As you become Speaker of the House of Representatives today, you have a unique moment in history in which to make good on your words. You have a unique opportunity to lead an effort to reform the corrupt system in Congress which you have criticized throughout your House career.

As you also stated in your speech before The Heritage Foundation: "Congress is a broken system. It is increasingly a system of corruption in which money politics is defeating and driving out citizen politics. * * *

[H]onesty and integrity are at the heart of a free society. Corruption, special favors, dishonesty and deception corrode the very process of freedom and alienate citizens from their country."

I am enclosing other examples of statements you have made over the years about the importance of integrity in government and the need for political reform.

You and the newly elected Republicans in the House have told the country that you are committed to changing the way Washington works.

But citizens throughout this nation clearly understand that there is no way to change the way Washington works without fundamental reform of the corrupt influence money system. This requires effective campaign finance reform and a tough gift ban for Members of Congress.

In your words, "The first duty of our generation is to reestablish integrity and a bond of honesty in the political process."

In your words, "We should punish wrongdoers in politics and government and pass reform laws to clean up the election and lobbying systems."

In your words, "We must insure that citizen politics defeats money politics. This is the only way our system can regain its integrity."

In your new position of leadership, you now face a clear choice. You can make good on your words and lead the effort to clean up Congress. Or you can ignore your words and become the chief protector of the corrupt influence money system in Washington.

Common Cause strongly urges you to make good on your words by supporting and scheduling early action on effective and comprehensive campaign finance reform legislation, a strong gift ban and lobby reform legislation.

Sincerely,

FRED WERTHEIMER,

President

QUOTES FROM HOUSE SPEAKER NEWT GINGRICH ON GOVERNMENT INTEGRITY AND POLITICAL REFORM

[From the Washington Post Op-Ed, Feb. 21, 1979]

Thomas Jefferson wrote to John Adams sometime after the nation's founding: "This I hope will be the age of experiments in government, and that their basis will be founded on principles of honesty, not of mere force. We have seen no instance of this since the days of the Roman Republic, nor do we read of any before that. Either force or corruption has been the principle of every modern government."

There's something wrong if we allow the experiment Jefferson helped start sink back to a government based on corruption. And that something is a much greater wrong than the individual sins of one particular congressman.

The American people deserves laws made by those who respect the law—not those who steal from them. And not those who tolerate such stealing.

[From the Congressional Record, Aug. 10, 1988]

[W]e are now moving into a period into which for all practical purposes the House is becoming a House of Lords, and aristocracy of power. House Members increasingly are elected for a lifetime, so you either change them the first time out, or at most possibly change them at the end of their freshman term, but for all practical purposes people have lost the ability to change who they now have loaned power to. * * *

Now I would just suggest that from the standpoint of the citizen, not the standpoint of an incumbent politician but from the

standpoint of the citizens there are fundamental problems with a system in which the incumbent knows that the odds are better than 49 to 1 that they will be reelected if they run. * * *

I will be proposing in September a package of fairly dramatic reforms but they do not just address PACs. They also have to address the question: How do you help the challenger have a fair chance to defeat the incumbent? * * *

[W]e have to start fundamentally reforming the structure of congressional elections and the structure of incumbency advantage, because in the absence of doing that I think we are in a system which is going to grow steadily sicker, and I think that is a very, very real problem. I do not think this is something to be shrugged off.

And notice, I did not this afternoon just talk about Republicans or Democrats. I said incumbent advantage.

[Forward to "The Imperial Congress", 1989]

Madison, Jefferson and Hamilton tried to ensure against the rise of an imperial Congress. Yet, as the separation of powers continues to erode, the present-day Congress has become the most unrepresentative and corrupt of the modern era. It is a Congress that lusts for power but evades responsibility for its actions.

[From the National Press Club, Apr. 27, 1989]

And in 1974, in the middle of Watergate, I ran for office for the first time. I announced for Congress in Georgia, against a 20-year veteran who had never been successfully challenged. * * * I said, in my kickoff speech, "The American people are angry, an anger built up due to continuing frustration from a government which says one thing and does another; and they become increasingly dissatisfied when the men and they have chosen are apparently corrupt, condoning corruption, or totally indifferent to their feelings." And I would suggest to you that is a long tradition. * * *

[From the Christian Science Monitor, June 6, 1989]

[To produce more competitive congressional races] it's my very strong view that we want to shift the balance of resources toward the challenger.

[From the Congressional Record Feb. 6, 1990]

I am very committed to campaign reform. I am particularly committed to campaign reform which expands the number of people who are participating in American politics, and which allows the over and the challenger a reasonable chances to effect their will.

[From the Speech to the Heritage Foundation, Aug. 22, 1990]

Congress is a broke system. It is increasingly a system of corruption in which money politics is defeating and driving out citizen politics. * * *

[H]onesty and integrity are at the heart of a free society. Corruption, special favors, dishonesty and deception corrode the very process of freedom and alienate citizens from their country. * * *

We must reestablish as the first principle of self-government that politics must be an inherently moral business. The first duty of our generation is to reestablish integrity and a bond of honesty in the political process. We should punish wrongdoers in politics and government and pass reform laws to clean up the election and lobbying systems. We must insure that citizen politics defeats money politics. This is the only way our system can regain its integrity. Every action should be measured against that goal, and every American should be challenged to register and vote to achieve that goal.

[From the States News Service, Nov. 1, 1991]

Congress is now in as great a crisis as the executive branch was in Watergate.

The American public has correctly perceived a decaying, corrupt system dominated by Democrats. * * * We are prepared to draw the distinction between a Congress you can be proud of and the decay the Democrats have brought to the institution.

[From This Week With David Brinkley, Mar. 15, 1992]

[Y]ou're familiar with a 19th-century statement by Lord Acton that power tends to corrupt—absolute power corrupts absolutely. [Congress] is a 19th-century institution which has been protected and hidden from the public and each successive onion layer that's peeled off, the country gets madder at the Congress. It sooner or later has to have a reform administration that cleans the whole place up.

[From the New York Times, Apr. 18, 1992]

Those of us who are fighting for change and fighting for reform are going to survive, and we're going to have to work pretty hard at it. * * *

I have a very clear tradition of trying to clean up the House. I think the average voter's more mature after they get through the first wave of anger than to say let's throw everybody out.

[From States News Service, Oct. 19, 1993]

[The ability of millionaires to spend large amounts of personal funds on their campaigns has become] a dagger in the heart of a free society.

[From the Washington Times, Oct. 20, 1993]

[PACs are a] grotesque distortion of the popular will.

[From National Public Radio, Oct. 20, 1993]

What you have today is a system where very powerful chairmen and very powerful Members basically call PAC lobbyists and say, "If you every want to get your boss in to see me, you better give five grand to my candidate in District X." And you end up with a spectacle of a grotesque distortion of the popular will as the Washington lobbyists take back-home money and use it to buy Washington access.

[Letter to the Wall Street Journal, Oct. 26, 1993]

[L]et me simply state my policies: I believe the speaker of the House should be honest. * * * The House should be open and accountable. It is a place of honor for our country and the men and women who serve within it.

[From the Dallas Morning News, Nov. 10, 1994]

I am the most sincerely committed change agent of the Washington power structure. * * * In a naive way, I actually mean all this stuff. If you are the Washington power structure that has to be horrifying.

[From the Republican Transition Press Conference, Nov. 14, 1994]

We wanted to maximize the opportunity for substantial change. Over half the conference is freshmen and sophomores. It's very important to understand this country has sent a very powerful signal for change. * * * This is a city which is like a sponge. It absorbs waves of change, and it slows them

down, and it softens them, and then one morning they cease to exist.

We want to, every way we can, bias the opportunity in favor of the American people actually getting the changes they are asking for, and obviously, every Member is going to play a major role, every Member is going to participate.

[Address to the House Republican Conference, Dec. 5, 1994]

[People] want us to be a Congress with integrity. They want us to be a Congress with courage. They want us to be a Congress with dignity. And they want to be able to look at this building on the Hill once again as the great, shining symbol of free self-government by a free people.

[From the MacNeil/Lehrer NewsHour, Dec. 16, 1994]

Well, I hope the President will join us, for example, in moving to zero out political action committees. I've always favored—in recent years, it seems to me, that political action committees have grown to be instruments that no longer serve the public interest. They serve special interests. I am very prepared to try to work out something which would zero out political action committees. I think there are other steps we can take. Congressman Bob Michel had a tremendous idea of requiring members to raise half their money in the district they represent. That would dramatically change the balance of campaign fund-raising in America. I would look forward to working with the President on those kinds of things. And I think there's progress that can be made.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, January 10, 1995, may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JANUARY 11

9:00 a.m.

Labor and Human Resources

To continue hearings to examine Federal job training programs.

SD-430

9:30 a.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Organizational meeting to consider committee business.

SD-538

Energy and Natural Resources

Organizational meeting to consider committee business.

SD-366

10:00 a.m.

Appropriations

Organizational meeting to consider subcommittee membership, committee rules of procedure, and committee budget for the 104th Congress.

S-128, Capitol

Foreign Relations

Organizational meeting to consider committee business.

SD-419

2:30 p.m.

Indian Affairs

Organizational meeting to consider committee business.

SR-485

4:00 p.m.

Small Business

Organizational meeting to consider committee business.

SR-428A

JANUARY 12

9:00 a.m.

Labor and Human Resources

To continue hearings to examine Federal job training programs.

SD-430

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

Closed briefing on the current situation in Bosnia.

SR-222

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Organizational meeting to consider committee business.

SR-253

Rules and Administration

Organizational meeting to consider committee's rules of procedure for the 104th Congress and pending business.

SR-301

10:00 a.m.

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

Organizational meeting to consider committee business.

SR-332

10:30 a.m.

Environment and Public Works

Organizational meeting to consider committee rules of procedure and committee budget for the 104th Congress.

SD-406

2:00 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold oversight hearings to examine aviation safety issues.

SR-253

CANCELLATIONS

JANUARY 11

10:00 a.m.

Governmental Affairs

Business meeting, to mark up the proposed Paperwork Reduction Act.

SD-342

POSTPONEMENTS

JANUARY 19

9:30 a.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold oversight hearings to review structure and funding issues of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

SR-485