

turn around and use other moneys to lobby Congress. But we all know that money is fungible and that one of the things that our subcommittee is going to do is track down how that money, in the case of the National Council on Senior Citizens, 95 percent of their funds is actually spent. Does any of it spill over, and is it used for lobbying activities? Does it indirectly subsidize those lobbying activities? Is there an inherent conflict of interest when somebody lobbies for spending, that they turn around and apply to receive as a grant recipient? I think the taxpayer has a right to know, and our committee is committed to getting to the bottom of this issue, making sure that we get through all of the distractions and red herrings and honestly tell the American taxpayers the truth about welfare for lobbyists so that we can put an end to that in this Congress, and we are committed to not doing business as usual, but doing the taxpayers' work and ending welfare for lobbyists once and for all.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York [Mr. OWENS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. OWENS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to reclaim my 5-minute special order scheduled for this evening.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

PLO COMPLIANCE WITH MEPFA

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my colleagues for allowing me to reclaim my time.

Mr. Speaker, in light of yesterday's signing ceremony at the White House I felt compelled to come to the floor today to comment on an aspect of the Middle East peace process that has troubled me for some time. That subject is the failure of the Palestine Liberation Organization to live up to the solemn commitments to which it agreed when it signed the Declaration of Principles, the DOP with Israel on the White House lawn on January 13, 1993.

It has now been over 2 years since that historic day, a day on which the PLO and its leader, Yasser Arafat, agreed to be held accountable for its actions by the international community in exchange for territorial and administrative concessions by the Government of Israel.

□ 1600

As witness to the accord, the United States pledged its political, financial,

and moral support to the peace effort, making clear that it expected the PLO to transform itself from a terrorist organization to a lawful administrative entity to be known as the Palestinian Authority [PA]. The United States pledged the sum of \$500 million over 5 years to the PLO to assist the Palestinians living in areas controlled by the PA with their development efforts.

What we have seen over the last 2 years has been a grave disappointment, as the PLO has blatantly violated its commitments under the DOP.

The PLO has failed to prevent terrorism emanating from the territory it controls and has shown little inclination to prosecute known terrorists or to extradite those individuals allegedly responsible for criminal acts inside Israel.

As recent video tapes of Yasser Arafat demonstrate, he continues to exhort his people to violence against Israel and advocates a Jihad—or holy war—to regain Jerusalem. Even as we speak, Arafat is building up a paramilitary force in Gaza nearly three times what was permitted under the DOP, replete with automatic weapons and a modern security apparatus.

Just last week, the Palestinian Ministry of Information issued a statement condemning the Senate's attempt on the fiscal year 1996 Foreign Operations Appropriations Act to institute a small degree of oversight over funds going to the PLO, calling Congress "racist" and its action a demonstration of "hatred towards the Palestinian people, its leadership and its national rights."

As a representative of the American people and a strong supporter of Israel, I am outraged that the PLO would essentially say "Forget you and your money" when we ask them simply to live up to their word. I'm afraid I cannot sit by and hope that the PLO will suddenly decide to abide by the commitments it made 2 years ago. I feel it is my duty to cry foul when I believe the American people are being had and our national interest is at stake.

The administration has mounted a full court press to persuade Congress and the world community that the PLO remains committed to the peace agreement even when their violations are numerous. As a result, the PLO has learned that there are no sanctions for violating their agreements.

That is why I have agreed to cosponsor H.R. 1960, the Middle East Peace Compliance Act of 1995, introduced by my distinguished colleague, MICHAEL FORBES.

In essence, the bill says that should the PLO demonstrate "substantial, material and timely" compliance with its commitments under the DOP as well as with certain requirements under U.S. law, then the President is authorized to transfer funds to Palestinian institutions and activities directly, and not through the PLO or the PA. Only in this way can we ensure that the funds reach the people for whom it is intended.

Further, the PLO would be required to assist U.S. law enforcement agencies in the apprehension and prosecution of any member of that organization responsible for the killing of an American citizen. The bill also requires that U.S. assistance only be used for humanitarian purposes and economic development—no military activities.

Unfortunately, much of the language attached to the Senate foreign operations bill is unenforceable and weak. Yesterday I agreed to an extension of current law for 30 days, with the understanding that the chairman of the House Foreign Operations Subcommittee, other interested colleagues, and I will work together to craft language that will bring real oversight and accountability into the process.

Let there be no mistake about my position. I support peace as fervently as any man or woman in this Chamber. What I object to is the process for obtaining peace which requires that we turn our backs on our core national values and our responsibility as guardians of the public purse.

Only the people of Israel have the right to determine the course of their own future. It is our job to see to it that when the history of this extraordinary period is written, we, the people of the United States, have not set aside our values, or standards, or our requirements under law to support a myth, not a fact.

CONGRESS SHOULD STAY AND FINISH ITS WORK

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. EVERETT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Colorado [Mrs. SCHROEDER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, I was sorry that two people back did not yield, because I wanted to ask a few questions. I think it is very interesting that some folks are so exercised about the Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts and senior citizens and other people, and called them paid lobbyists and all of this. Yet, when I offered an amendment to try and do the same thing vis-a-vis defense contractor lobbyists and others who were getting 100 percent of their money from the Federal Government, the same folks voted against that. Somehow the Boy Scouts you have to watch every minute, but the defense lobbyists, hey, they are cool, they are our guys. If you think the Boy Scouts and senior citizens have PAC's, you should see what the defense contractors have. You think that the Girl Scouts have clout, you should see what defense contractors have.

In fact, we just saw today a bill rolled out of here \$7 billion over the President's budget, loaded with all sorts of hardware they wanted and golden parachutes and every other such thing. It seems to me if we are going to be really sincere about this, we ought to treat everybody the same, and especially those who are doing it for profit.

One of the big differences between the seniors and the Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts and everything else, if I may point that out, versus defense contractors, is defense contractors do it for profit. Defense contractors make money on this. The others are doing it because they are good citizens volunteering, and think they have something to add.

That is not why I really came. I just saw that while I was waiting my turn. What I really wanted to talk about is the fact that here we are, it is fiscal New Year's Eve. Fiscal New Year's Eve comes the same time every single year. Guess what? Of the 13 funding bills that we should have reported and should have done by now, and a year ago all 13 were done and President Clinton had signed them, we are still in this very queasy, queasy, queasy position of what is going to happen. Yet, we are all going to take off and go out of here. I think that is ridiculous. We ought to stay here, get our work done.

I think it is ironic that the only spending bill, the very first spending bill we got through, and we got through in both bodies first, was our own pay and our staff's pay. That looks a little piggy to me.

Today we just voted down two spending bills because there was no consensus. Now we are going to go out for 10 days and come back, and we still have 11 bills hanging out there. We also have the debt ceiling looking at us. All of this is going to come to a smashing crash in November.

My guess is what is going to happen is that there will be so much confusion when people come back, and it will be so action-packed and everything will be so jammed in, that the hope is that no one asks about details, we will all get stampeded like buffalos, we will be terrified if we do not go along, they will shut the Government down, it will be high drama, maybe we should have Academy Awards for who can give the best scene, but it is really frightening.

If we look just at Medicare, we have not had the Medicare markup. It was supposed to be this week. They are saying Democrats are trying to scare them. I think it is scary when they will not show you, A, a bill, and B, they will not have the markup so people can go home and talk about it. We just had a hearing out on the lawn where we asked the trustees, "Have you been asked in front of Committee on Ways and Means to testify on their bill? Have you seen the new bill on Medicare?" No, they have not seen it, and no, they have not been asked to testify.

We heard everybody saying, "We have to do this, we have to do this because the trustees say we have to do this." Is it not interesting they did not ask the trustees if this is the right thing to do? They accuse us of playing politics, but my goodness, the trustees are the nonpolitical ones. You would think if you really want to be nonpolitical about this, take it to the

trustees. Yet they have not heard the first thing.

My guess is when we get back, they are going to cram that thing out of there. They will say, "There is no more time." Of course, they just came back from 10 days off. "There is no time, we can have no more hearings, we do not need to hear from the trustees," and we will shove it all into this huge, big snowball that they are going to call reconciliation.

One of the good things that is happening is the O.J. Simpson trial is cranking down. Maybe the news people will start tuning in and finding what is happening here. But I think the average American is not going to be happy to know we ended the fiscal year without having our work done, with 11 bills not having passed this House, with a continuing resolution hanging out there, with no information about the details in Medicare. I do not think that is anything to go home and be proud of. I am not, and I am really sorry we do not stay and do our work.

CONGRATULATIONS TO JASON REESE, NATIONAL YOUTH OF THE YEAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee [Mr. HILLEARY] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HILLEARY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to rise on a happy note and proudly congratulate a truly outstanding young man, Jason Reese, who last week was named the National Youth of the Year by the Boys and Girls Clubs of America.

Mr. Speaker, Jason grew up in public housing in the east Tennessee city of Morristown, abandoned by both his father and stepfather. When his mother went back to school while continuing to work, he took on a great deal of household responsibility, including caring for his two younger brothers.

But Jason has done so much more than help out at home—he became a leader at school, in his community, and in the Boys and Girls Club of Morristown.

Among other honors, Jason maintained an excellent 3.83 grade point average in high school, was awarded the prestigious National Merit Scholarship, and won the east Tennessee High School physics competition.

In the community, Jason has conducted programs for the elderly, helped restore a local park, and he currently volunteers his time helping young children with their homework.

Jason Reese's incredible ambition and strong morals—coupled with the support and guidance of the Boys and Girls Clubs of America—helped him overcome adversity and become the role model he is today. I hope troubled youth around the Nation take Jason's example to heart.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my good friend, the gentleman from Washington [Mr. TATE], who is going to continue to

discuss many of the freshmen's outrage over welfare for lobbyists.

WELFARE FOR LOBBYISTS

Mr. TATE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Tennessee for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, that is exactly right. How it works, the hardworking people of America work hard, they pay their taxes, send it back to Washington, DC, then some bureaucrat to Washington DC grants that out to some organization that turns around and spends that money to lobby for more money from the Federal Government, to the tune of \$39 billion, that is billion with a B, billion dollars every year spent by organizations in the form of public grants.

We had a hearing yesterday. The opposition to our changes, ending welfare for lobbyists, resorted to calling us names, "intimidators", an "Imperial Congress". Let me tell you, we tore down the walls of the Imperial Congress on November 8, 1994. We are trying to change the way things are done.

It is unfortunate they have to throw out things like "red herrings" and accusations and calling us names. I learned a long time ago if you have to start calling someone names, you really do not have much else to say. That is what is happening here in Congress. They do not have much else to say, so they have to call us names. The fact is your tax money, the working people of the United States, is going to organizations.

Let me show you one of these organizations. For example, the National Council of Senior Citizens receives \$70 million—in fact, it is even under, here it is \$72 million every year—and 96 percent of that money, of their budget comes from the Federal Government. That is outrageous. Then they turn around and donate to political campaigns, to the tune of over \$400,000 over the last couple of election cycles.

The fact is they are involved in partisan political activities, including in my district, they are running as another organization, and they are involved in it under a different name, over \$85,000 in television ads spreading the big lie. It is basically taxpayer-funded political advocacy on the dime of the taxpayers.

When I ran for office I knew that the defenders of the status quo would spend every penny they had to try to stop what we are doing, but I had no idea they would be using the taxpayers' money in my district to try to fight it. That is the problem. I am not against political advocacy, and I am not against them lobbying, but what I am against is them using my dime at my expense. It is time they do it on their own dime and on their own time.

It is time to end welfare for lobbyists. It is time to end the dirty little secret in Washington, DC that costs \$39 billion every year. They are the defenders of the status quo. They will do everything they can to stop the changes that the people have demanded. If they