

was going for kids. What did it go to? It went to elect Republicans.

VOTE TODAY TO HELP THE DISABLED AND THE ELDERLY

(Mr. LAZIO of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAZIO of New York. Madam Speaker, this morning we are going to have an opportunity to stand up for the most vulnerable members of society, the disabled and the elderly. There will be an amendment that was debated on the floor yesterday that will be up for a vote. We will have a chance to step forward and to do something important in terms of providing shelter and housing to give people the ability to have a meaningful life who have disabilities and who are elderly.

Now, when we talk about the word "disabled," it is almost a sanitized word, but let us think about it in terms of the veteran who has returned from the war and who is in a wheelchair and lost his legs, or the 90-year-old grandmother who is in a wheelchair and wants her own home, not a nursing home, or the young girl who has lost her sight, and the young man who was born so mentally challenged that he needs the help that only a community house can provide to him.

In 1996, we were spending about \$387 million out of a \$30 billion budget for housing for the disabled. We are now talking about reducing funding down to \$174 million. Please vote for the Lazio amendment that will restore about \$40 million of that.

WEST GEORGIA STATE WILL INVESTIGATE CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES OF SPEAKER

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, get in line. Even West Georgia State in the Speaker's home State is investigating the charitable activities of Speaker GINGRICH. Newspaper after newspaper, conservative and liberal alike, have questioned the Speaker's activities and his fundraising apparatus.

West Georgia College Foundation oversees the Speaker's reading charity, something called Earning by Learning. That charity pays schoolchildren to read books, and Speaker GINGRICH has said the charity is all volunteer, with all proceeds going directly to children.

But let me quote from Speaker GINGRICH's hometown paper, a paper which has supported him regularly.

The vast majority of the charity's money was paid not to children but to college instructor Mel Steely and several of his colleagues. Steely, who served as Gingrich's campaign manager in 1986 and a congressional aide in the 1990's, is the charity's coordinator. Some of the work done by Steely

and paid for with charitable funds apparently focused on Gingrich's reelection chances and was written on the Marietta Congressman's campaign stationery.

Madam Speaker, that is simply wrong.

CALL FOR APOLOGY TO MEMBERS SERVING ON COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT

(Mr. ARMEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ARMEY. Madam Speaker, 10 good men and women from this body, 5 from each side of the aisle, have responded to the request of their colleagues and their leadership to serve on the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, known as the ethics committee. They have taken a responsibility on that most of us would shun, most of us would avoid, and they have done so with integrity, discipline, and the confidentiality required by the rules of the House.

These 10 good men and women deserve to be respected and appreciated. They do not deserve to have their work or their integrity called into question by people who are so full of zeal for vengeance on another of our Members they would ask this committee to violate its own standards.

I have seen a lot of speeches given from the well of the House, but never have I seen speeches that expressed so much disdain and lack of regard and appreciation for those 10 among us who would take on the toughest job we have to do. I would suggest apologies are in order.

MOVE TOTALITY OF COMPLAINTS AGAINST SPEAKER GINGRICH TO INDEPENDENT COUNSEL

(Mr. STUPAK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, the Los Angeles Times said Gingrich politics got boosts from nonprofits. GOPAC's use of six tax-exempt agencies raises questions by legal experts and special counsel. Questions by legal experts and special counsel.

With all due respect to the majority leader, this House is under a cloud of suspicion that does not seem to go away because of the actions of the Speaker and GOPAC. As a former police officer, I just cannot understand why the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct has failed to investigate and has failed to refer this matter to a special prosecutor.

Take the totality of the circumstance, the six investigations, and send it to the independent counsel. It is foolish for politicians to be investigating politicians. Let us get it to the independent counsel, let us get to the bottom of these questions by legal ex-

perts and other specialists in the field and get it off this floor. Get the cloud off our head. Move it to the independent counsel.

TIME TO REFORM THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

(Mr. BONILLA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BONILLA. Madam Speaker, it is time to reform the Endangered Species Act and our people have waited long enough. Private property owners are sick and tired of the Federal Government stepping in and taking their land because the ESA cares more about bugs than about people.

There has been a lot of talk in this Congress about reforming the ESA to make it work for people and species. I commend the gentleman from Alaska, Chairman YOUNG, and the gentleman from California, Mr. POMBO, for the tremendous efforts in developing legislation to reform ESA. But this bill deserves our immediate attention. This is why I have chosen to go the extra mile for hard-working farmers and ranchers who have suffered the consequences of a bad law.

Today I am beginning the process of submitting a discharge petition to get much-needed ESA reform to this floor as quickly as possible. The current ESA legislation has failed to recover species. The ESA has saddled property owners with outrageous fines because of Federal designation of critical habitat.

ESA reform establishes a cooperative framework for these landowners to work together with the Government to protect species. The people of Texas want to conserve species and to protect the environment. I ask everyone in this Congress to support me and sign the Bonilla discharge petition.

APPROVE THE PRIVILEGED RESOLUTION AND STOP THE COVERUP

(Mr. DOGGETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DOGGETT. Madam Speaker, I would say to the gentleman from Texas [Mr. ARMEY], the only apology that is due in this House is one from him for obstructing the investigation which ought to be occurring; an apology that is due to the American people.

I think one of the world's most majestic monuments is that which sits in this city honoring Abraham Lincoln. But apparently not content with that, NEWT GINGRICH and his crowd decided they would erect a second monument to Lincoln. They called it the Abraham Lincoln Opportunity Foundation. It was supposedly created to help poor teenagers, but it was converted into a vehicle to recruit more Gingrichites for Congress.

Political donors to this partisan organization were advised they could

take a tax deduction just as if they were giving to their church or soup kitchen, even though what they were doing was supporting GINGRICH'S GOPAC farm team.

In the name of Lincoln, our tax laws were perverted and our democracy was polluted. It is time for this to end. It is time to explore these misdeeds. Approve the privileged resolution today and get to the bottom of this and stop the coverup.

WOMEN OF AMERICA WANT THE SAME THINGS THE REPUBLICAN CONGRESS DOES

(Ms. DUNN of Washington asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DUNN of Washington. Madam Speaker, when women back home in my district talk to me about what Congress is doing these days, I tell them that Congress is dealing with the very problems that women are concerned about.

Well, what is it that we women care about? We want opportunity for ourselves and our families. We want some sense that there will be a retirement system we can count on. We want personal safety. We want health care security. We want a homemaker IRA because we know that the work that is done inside the home is every bit as important, if not more important, than that work done outside the home.

I have found that my friends at home care about the very same things that this Republican Congress does, helping families keep more of their paychecks so they can decide how to do more for their children in their communities; saving Medicare for our parents and encouraging local answers as we solve the major problems of crime and education and protecting the environment.

Madam Speaker, our solutions are not complicated and they do not require congressional studies. I have found if I listen to the American woman and respect her advice, the answers are all there.

□ 1030

CALL FOR AN INDEPENDENT COUNSEL

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I do agree with my colleague from Texas, majority leader DICK ARMEY, in that the ethics committee members have a tough job, one that a lot of us do not want. But they also need to know when they need to refer it to a higher authority and in particular a special counsel.

Let me quote today's Los Angeles Times when it says:

In cases involving the Lincoln and West Georgia foundations, money that was in-

tended to support troubled innercity teenagers and at-risk third graders was used instead to benefit GOPAC and to compensate a Gingrich confidant.

Six tax-exempt foundations were used to funnel money for political purposes. I know we have talked about tax cuts in this Congress, but that is the ultimate tax cut before we have even voted on it. We get a tax cut to contribute to political campaigns. Not even average folks can do that. That was taken away a good while back on tax reform.

But I think that is why we need to vote today for these special resolutions, the privileged resolutions by our colleague, the gentleman from Florida, HARRY JOHNSTON, to make sure that we have an independent counsel to investigate this use of the IRS tax deduction.

THE GRAY WHALE

(Mr. METCALF asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. METCALF. Madam Speaker, this week the International Whaling Commission is meeting in Scotland. One of the major issues it is considering is whether to allow the Makah Tribe of Washington State to hunt and kill gray whales, which were on the endangered species list just 2 years ago. Incredibly the U.S. delegation to the commission supports the plan, but seven elders of the Makah Tribe strongly oppose the plan. One has questioned the motives of tribal officials, fearing the hunt will become a commercial enterprise.

According to the Seattle Post Intelligencer, one gray whale could fetch as much as \$1 million in Japan. Norwegian whaling interests have offered the tribe harpoons and a boat. Thirteen native groups in Canada have already indicated their intention to resume whaling if the Makah Tribe is given a green light by the IWC. The Makah tribal leaders say they want to take only five whales a year; but then how many more would be taken by the other native groups? Where would commercial whaling stop if it is started?

SERIOUS CHARGES AGAINST THE SPEAKER

(Mr. MILLER of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, unfortunately this House has now been presented with prima facie evidence of the serious charges against Speaker GINGRICH and the manipulation of, violations of, some very sacred laws in this country: the laws of how we conduct our elections and elect our people to represent us, the tax laws that protect the taxpayers of this country and try to encourage people to give money to nonprofit foundations to do good works on behalf of our society and the ethics rules of this House.

Those are the basic laws that speak from us to the people of this country. Now we see that the Speaker has been engaged in a widespread conspiracy to intentionally violate those laws. Now we see that the ethics committee is engaged in a widespread coverup of the investigation. The ethics committee must understand what Speaker GINGRICH understood about the ethics committee many years ago. It does not have the ability and has an inherent conflict trying to investigate the most powerful Member of this House. This investigation should be turned over to the special prosecutor.

FBI FILES AND THE WHITE HOUSE

(Mr. DICKEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DICKEY. Madam Speaker, I come here in somewhat of a solemn fashion. I represent the Fourth District of Arkansas, the home district of the President of the United States. Because of that, I have studiously avoided publicly criticizing him in any way. Today I want to do that. I want to criticize him. I want to criticize the White House. The way that the FBI files have been handled is a disgrace. It is improper. It is causing unrest among the people of America, and something needs to be done about it.

The White House needs to make corrections in this area. We need to hear the full story and not have it dribbled out one press release and one rumor at a time. Mr. President, I ask you to stop this, to confess what has been done, send those people to the courts who have done these felonies and committed these crimes, and let us get on with the business of America.

THE SPEAKER'S ETHICS PROBLEMS

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I have never addressed the issue of the Speaker's ethics problems, but I am very concerned about what I read in the Los Angeles Times today. I do believe there is a need for a wider probe of the Speaker's use of nonprofit foundations for political purposes and appointment of an independent counsel.

This information about the Earnings by Learning project which basically was trying to help third grade students read, and now we find out that the majority of the money was actually paid to individuals who were associated with the Gingrich campaign and with the Republican campaign. It is inappropriate to use tax-exempt foundations that are for nonprofit purposes to help children and then turn around and have the majority of that money used for political purposes.

Now we are finding out that this is not just true in one case; this is true