

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

for a number of these tax-exempt foundations that were set up by Speaker GINGRICH and that were associated with him. The time has come for an independent counsel to look into every one of these foundations. Anything less than that is really a betrayal of the American people.

USE OF SURPLUS FEDERAL PROPERTIES FOR PUBLIC SAFETY NEEDS

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

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I want to offer my condolences to the families and loved one of those killed in Saudi Arabia yesterday, another act of terror. Madam Speaker, under current law, the Bureau of Justice may transfer any surplus property which they administer over to the State and local authorities provided that the property is used for the establishment of prisons. I am introducing a bill that would allow State and local authorities to use surplus Federal properties and other public safety needs such as police and firefighting training facilities. This will help prevent terror and lawlessness in our own country. Prisons may still be built under this measure.

This bill provides flexibility to make the best use of these facilities, based on local needs.

This is particularly helpful for communities attempting to reuse closed or realigned military bases. I work closely with the Bureau of Justice on this measure and it has bipartisan support. I intend to introduce this legislation tomorrow. Please join me and cosponsor this important measure.

ETHICS COMMITTEE MUST STOP STALLING

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

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, the Los Angeles Times details how House Speaker NEWT GINGRICH used six nonprofit foundations to funnel money for his own political profit. I quote:

From 1984 to 1994, Gingrich and his cadre of key advisers used no fewer than six nonprofit groups to extend the reach of GOPAC, the partisan committee that fueled the successful 1994 Republican drive to gain control of the Congress. Together the foundations were part of a loose network of Gingrich-related enterprises dubbed Newt's world.

This is outrageous, it is unseemly and it is illegal. It violates Federal tax law that prohibits exempt organizations from any, any form of partisan politics. Those are the issues, serious issues. The serious questions are, why has not the Ethics Committee pursued the ethics complaint filed in January 1996 that alleges the misuse of the tax-free foundation called the Abraham Lincoln Opportunity Society? Why has not the committee forwarded these al-

legations to Special Investigator Cole? Can it be that in NEWT's world the laws that the average person must abide by do not apply?

FUNDS FOR ELDERLY AND DISABLED HOUSING, SUPPORT FOR THE LAZIO AMENDMENT

(Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Lazio amendment to restore funding for housing for the elderly and disabled. The Lazio amendment would restore \$140 million for section 202 elderly housing and section 811 housing for the disabled. This amendment is deficit neutral because it is offset from reductions in HUD's annual contributions fund, HUD's unallocated dollars.

By adding these funds over the life of these buildings, tens of thousands of our Nation's seniors and disabled persons will have housing opportunities they would otherwise not have. These funds not only provide affordable housing; they also provide those key supportive services that mean independence to seniors and our disabled citizens.

Madam Speaker, I strongly urge all Members on both sides of the aisle to support the Lazio amendment.

MORE ON THE ETHICS COMMITTEE

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, it is a shame to have used children to raise funds for political campaigns. I believe an independent counsel is needed.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the majority whip, the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. BONIOR].

Mr. BONIOR. Madam Speaker, I want to respond to the majority leader who came to the floor this morning. We have had repeated stories now, in the Washington Post, the Washington Times, the Atlanta Constitution Journal, the Los Angeles Times, papers all across this country, revealing that, as my colleagues have stated on the floor, there were six separate tax-exempt foundations in which the Speaker's committee GOPAC funneled money to the tune of about at least \$6 million through.

We have waited for 6 months for the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct to act on a complaint that I filed 6 months ago. No action has been taken, not even an action to do a preliminary inquiry to investigate. They have not referred it to the outside counsel.

It is incumbent upon them to act in one way or another or to dismiss this case. But to sit there, let the clock run out, idle away the time so they can es-

cape without any consequences by the end of this session is irresponsible. It is disrespectful to this institution.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRIES

Mr. DOGGETT. Madam Speaker, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. GREENE of Utah). The gentleman will state it.

Mr. DOGGETT. Madam Speaker, if no motion to table is filed to immediately cut off debate on the privileged motion this afternoon on this matter about the Speaker's ethics, then will the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. LINDER] and all of his side have an opportunity to speak and ask questions at that time?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair is not ruling on that at this point. It would be appropriate to bring up at a later time.

Mr. LINDER. Madam Speaker, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state it.

Mr. LINDER. Madam Speaker, I have just heard several Members speak on the floor of the House with respect to matters that they claim the Ethics Committee is doing or not doing with regard to claims made against the Speaker. Is it appropriate, under the rules of the House, to refer to matters that are before the Ethics Committee when no one is supposed to know what they are discussing?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will respond to the gentleman's parliamentary inquiry as follows:

It is an essential rule of decorum in debate that Members should refrain from references in debate to the conduct of other Members where such conduct is not the question actually pending before the House by way of a report from the Committee on Standards of Official conduct or by way of another question of the privileges of the House. This principle is documented on pages 168 and 526 of the House Rules and Manual and reflects the consistent rulings of the Chair in this and in prior Congresses and applies to 1-minute and special order speeches.

Neither the filing of a complaint before the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, nor the publication in another forum of charges that are personally critical of another Member, justify the references to such charges on the floor of the House. This includes references to the motivations of Members who file complaints and to Members of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct.

Clause 1 of rule 14 is a prohibition against engaging in personality in debate. It derives from article I, section 5 of the Constitution, which authorizes each House to make its own rules and to punish its Members for disorderly behavior, and has been part of the rules of the House in some relevant form since 1789. This rule supersedes any claim of a Member to be free from questioning in any other place.