

status quo, leaves open the floodgates of special interest PAC money and increases the amounts that the wealthy can give. This is not reform, it is a fraud.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

(Mrs. MALONEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, today Speaker GINGRICH has an opportunity to do something truly positive for the American people, to save a dying effort for real reform. Basically the Republican bill puts more money into the system, the Democratic bill favors less money in politics. The two bills are miles apart and dead on arrival. The only way to revive campaign finance in the Senate and to pass a viable bill here in the House is to create an independent strong commission that will come forward with a principal plan for an up-or-down vote.

Madam Speaker, Speaker GINGRICH and the President shook hands on it and publicly endorsed the concept. An independent commission is reform's only chance in this Congress. Madam Speaker, only Speaker GINGRICH can make it happen.

WORKING FAMILIES FLEXIBILITY ACT

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Madam Speaker, American working men and women need the Working Families Flexibility Act. Federal labor laws mandate that overtime compensation must be in the form of cash wages, even if the employee would prefer to have paid off or comp time.

The time has come to update these antiquated laws to reflect the evolving needs of today's working families. For some employees, in today's hectic pace, time off is more valuable than money. For working moms, dads, and single parents, time off allows them to better balance the often competing demands of work and family.

Some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle claim that this is an attempt to weaken overtime protections in the law for employees. This is simply not true. The truth is that the Working Families Flexibility Act will give private sector employees the same options and flexibility which public sector employees have had for years. Let's change the law to accommodate the needs of today's workers who want more options and greater control over their working schedules. Support the Working Families Flexibility Act.

WHAT IS MISSING FROM OUR SCHOOLS IS PRAYER

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Madam Speaker, something does not add up. Congress continues to spend more money on crime and cops, more money on jails and prisons, pumps money into schools wherever possible, but you can still find drugs in our schools, guns and violence in our schools. There are even condoms in our schools, God forbid, rape, and even cases of murder in our schools.

About the only thing you cannot find in our school today is prayer. Even though "in God we trust" is written over all our buildings and on all our currency, about the only time you can hear God's name in school is when God's name is taken in vain. Shame, Congress. Shame. A nation and a Congress that will keep God out just may have invited the Devil. Think about that one.

IT IS TIME FOR OUR PRESIDENT TO SIGN COMMONSENSE WELFARE REFORM

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

Mr. HEFLEY. Madam Speaker, the current welfare system cannot be defended. It is a system characterized by dependence, illegitimacy, and family breakdown.

Tuesday, the other Chamber, with a strong bipartisan vote, approved commonsense reforms that will stop welfare from becoming a way of life. These reforms honor work and encourage personal responsibility.

Bill Clinton campaigned on a promise to "end welfare as we know it." It is now the fourth year of his Presidency and so far, he has done nothing but stand in the way of welfare reform. He postures. He poses. He talks tough, but he never comes through.

Madam Speaker, it is time for Bill Clinton to lead. It is time for him to keep at least one of the promises he made during his campaign. It is time for Bill Clinton to get with the program and sign commonsense welfare reform.

EDUCATION

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

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, last week Bob Dole gave an education speech in Minneapolis during which he said that public schools are being driven into the ground by bureaucrats and teachers.

First of all, if Bob Dole wants to know what is going on in public schools he ought to visit a few—and talk to parents and teachers who are struggling to help students become knowledgeable and productive citizens in tomorrow's world.

I would like to suggest that he visit Pontiac Central High School where

this year a team of corporate engineers, students, and teachers designed and built an innovative robot that won first place in a nationwide competition of 73 teams. If Bob Dole were to visit a school like Pontiac Central High he might not see just problems, he might see what the teachers and the scientific and engineering community of Pontiac see—children with promise.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Dole should use his campaign to encourage public schools as they strive for excellence and innovation. He should join with the leaders of business and industry who are calling for a renewed commitment to public schools. Above all, he should not squander that opportunity by condemning the legacy of public education and demonizing those people who commit themselves to educating children in a pluralistic society—our Nation's classroom teachers.

PRESIDENT CLINTON SHOULD LISTEN TO WHAT PEOPLE WANT AND SIGN WELFARE REFORM

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

Mr. JONES. Madam Speaker, this week Congress has taken bold steps toward enacting genuine welfare reform. The next step will be President Clinton's. We will send him real work requirements, real time limits. We will end welfare for noncitizens. Our bill will lift 1.3 million people out of welfare and into jobs by 2002, and we will end the process whereby able-bodied recipients stay on welfare for 13 years.

Many in Congress would say that welfare reform is cruel to children. Absolute nonsense. Nothing could be more cruel than to leave today's children in yesterday's welfare system. The goal of any true welfare reform is to lift children and families out of poverty and despair. If America is to prosper in the next century, we must reform welfare so that it honors work and encourages people's responsibility.

Mr. President, the American people want you to sign this welfare reform bill. Please, Mr. President, listen to the people.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

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

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Madam Speaker, today our prayer was about doing justice and loving mercy and today our legislative agenda is about descending these steps collecting more and more money from special interest groups. We have failed at campaign finance reform and we have failed miserably. This is not what the American people want. Common Cause points out that anybody who votes for this is going to be going along with having the richest people in America having even more influence and the average people having even less. Is that justice, coming

down here with GOPAC and the Speaker? I do not think so.

It is time to admit we have failed. It is time to call upon the Speaker to go back to that bipartisan spirit he had when he shook hands with the President in New Hampshire, and it is time to get real reform that will bring dignity back to this House and get the special interest groups that are courting all of this out.

THE PRESIDENT AND THE CONGRESS

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

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Madam Speaker, here they go again. No ideas, so let us scare America with White House distortions and union leader lies.

Before Republicans took control of Congress last year, the President's 1995 budget had a rising deficit. Now overnight he is a budget hawk.

There is no real surprise here. The winds have shifted so the President has changed his sails.

But here is the truth: It is the Republican-led Congress that has cut the deficit. It has been cut \$43 billion just last year. Yet the President has the gall to take the credit. It is like the rooster taking credit for the sunrise. We would have saved even more if the President had not stood in our way. He has literally fought against deficit reduction by begging for more spending on pet programs.

The only areas where the spending continues to grow out of control is Medicare and Medicaid, more than \$50 billion. Yet when we tried to address the problem, he looked the other way.

What we get from the White House leadership is a steady stream of whining because they cannot cut themselves off from the spending gravy train.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of White House promises withering on the vine.

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CAMPAIGN REFORM DAY

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

Mr. FARR of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address this House regarding campaign reform day. That is the legislation that is going to be on the floor, and the choice today is between the two R's, between reform, which the Democratic side of the aisle is promoting, and the rich, which is what the other side is promoting.

The Speaker asked not long ago for more money to be delivered to political campaigns, and today the law allowing him to do it will be delivered to the floor. They claim that there is reform in their bill, but for whom? It hurts women, hurts minority candidates.

The Democratic bill is the only bill that responds to the American public. It sets limits. It sets limits on PAC's, sets limits on the rich, and it sets limits on wealthy candidates.

Colleagues, we have a choice today. We can reform for the rich interest or we can reform for the American public. Reject the Thomas bill. Support the alternative Democratic Farr bill. I ask for your vote.

INTRODUCING THE VETERANS' CEMETERY PROTECTION ACT

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

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, last month 128 bronze grave markers were stolen from the Riverside National Cemetery in my district—the second largest national cemetery next to Arlington.

This was a despicable act. Our Nation should have no tolerance for those who desecrate and vandalize the graves of brave Americans.

The men and women who are buried at Riverside National Cemetery and other national cemeteries have paid the ultimate price for our freedom. They deserve our deepest respect and our eternal thanks.

Today I am introducing the Veterans' Cemetery Protection Act. This bill will create a criminal penalty of up to 10 years in prison for vandalism or desecration of a national cemetery.

If the criminals try to profit from stolen property the penalty is increased to up to 15 years in prison or a \$250,000 fine.

Many of you have already asked to cosponsor this legislation. If you are not yet a cosponsor and would like to show your support, please contact my office.

SUPPORT THE FARR CAMPAIGN REFORM ALTERNATIVE

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

Mr. CARDIN. Madam Speaker, many of us on both sides of the aisle have been waiting very patiently for this day when campaign finance reform would be before the House. This is our one opportunity in this term of Congress, and I must say we are extremely disappointed.

The rule that is being brought forward is very restrictive, will not allow for the bipartisan bill to be offered, and controls very much what we can consider on this floor. That is wrong.

The underlying bill moves in the wrong direction. The Republican bill would have us spend more money and put no limits on what we can be spent in campaigns. It carries out the wishes of Speaker GINGRICH when he stated that he thinks the problem with our campaign laws is that there is not enough money being spent.

My constituents disagree. We should be reforming the system to put controls on how much money can be spent and to reward small contributors, and that is exactly what the bill offered by the gentleman from California [Mr. FARR] will do. I urge my colleagues to support it.

No wonder that all of the public interest groups oppose the Republican bill, from Common Cause to Public Citizen, the League of Women Voters, U.S. PIRG. They oppose the Republican bill. I urge my colleagues to vote against that bill and support the Farr alternative.

COMMONSENSE WELFARE REFORM

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

Mrs. SEASTRAND. Madam Speaker, let me go through some reasons I think America needs commonsense welfare reform. Between 1965 and 1994, the Government has spent \$5.4 trillion, that's trillion with a "T," on welfare programs. These programs were started under the proviso that we were waging a war on poverty. Thirty years and trillions of tax dollars later, poverty is winning.

Another reason we need to fix welfare is the alarming increase in broken families and especially teenage illegitimacy. Researchers at the University of Washington have found that increased levels of welfare benefits almost always lead to increases in the teenage illegitimate birth rate.

Welfare does not fight poverty; it perpetuates it. Welfare creates a set of incentives that crushes the work ethic, ruins the family, corrupts basic morals, and ultimately destroys the trust between people that is so necessary for civilized society.

Madam Speaker, it's way past time to fix the broken welfare system.

NO SUBSTANTIVE CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

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

Mr. MEEHAN. Madam Speaker, the most fundamental way that we can reform the way the Congress does business is to pass campaign finance reform. The Republican leadership today will renege on that promise to offer real, substantive campaign finance reform. It will happen today.

We had an opportunity. We were going to have reform week, and we have nothing. Now we have the Republicans presenting a bill before this House, calling it reform, that is a phony fraud.

Campaign finance reform is up, and not one Member of the Republican Party got up before this House in one-minute to defend their piece of fraud legislation. Does that not speak volumes about today's debate? Not one of