

An economics professor at Indiana University-Northwest for 43 years, Dr. Singer has made numerous contributions to the fields of financial economics, regional and industrial economics, economic forecasting, and economics of art markets. His ground-breaking scholarly publications in the area of fine arts, for instance, have received world wide recognition and have been cited by numerous scholars. Such publications as *The Wall Street Journal* and *Business News* often quote Dr. Singer's opinions and forecast on the prices of fine art. In addition, Dr. Singer has written two economics text books, and has been published in several distinguished journals, including "The American Economic Review," "The Social Science Quarterly," "The Journal of Business Forecasting Systems and Methods," and "The Journal of Cultural Economics."

Through his extensive studies, Dr. Singer has also served to aid Northwest Indiana businesses, as well as Indiana governing bodies, in a variety of capacities. Throughout his career, he has written numerous articles pertaining to the local economy, with a specific emphasis on Northwest Indiana's steel industry. In addition, Dr. Singer participates in the Indiana Economic Outlook panel, which presents a forecast for the Northwest Indiana regional economy each year. Dr. Singer also served as an advisor to the budget committee of the Indiana General Assembly, as well as to the late U.S. Senator, Paul Douglass. Several major corporations and hundreds of local businesses have grown to rely upon Dr. Singer's expertise for location and market analysis.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Dr. Leslie Singer on his receipt of the 1997 Indiana University-Northwest Chancellor's Distinguished Service Award. His notable achievements in the field of economics have proven to be valuable assets to businesses within Indiana's First Congressional District and across the Nation.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. VATICE WALKER

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 1997

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, today I would like my colleagues here in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the accomplishments of an exceptional person, Mrs. Vatie Walker, on the occasion of her retirement.

Mrs. Vatie Walker began her teaching career in Somerset County, MD in September 1959, serving the Maryland school system for 11 years.

Mrs. Walker continued to teach in Maryland until June 1970, at which time she moved to New Jersey. In the ensuing years she was employed as a teacher in New Brunswick and, in recognition of her outstanding ability, received tenure after her first year. Mrs. Walker served the New Brunswick school system for 2 more years, continuing her trend of noteworthy teaching.

Upon leaving New Brunswick, Mrs. Walker became employed by the East Orange School District, where she gave 24 years of dedicated service to the children of East Orange. Mrs.

Walker has been involved in a wealth of activities pertaining to staff development and the training of future teachers. Her efforts include, but are certainly not limited to, the demonstration of teaching lessons, peer coaching, and facilitating workshops in classroom management and conflict mediation. In addition, Mrs. Walker has served as mentor for student teachers.

Mrs. Walker has received many accolades during her career as result of her innovative teaching techniques. For 2 consecutive years she was voted Teacher of the Year by her colleagues.

Her love and dedication to the East Orange school system has, undoubtedly, touched the lives of many children. Mrs. Walker is a distinguished professional. I know my colleagues join me in offering our appreciation to Mrs. Walker for her exemplary public service and offer her our best wishes in the coming years.

INTRODUCTION OF THE VOTER EMPOWERMENT ACT

HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 1997

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, exactly 1 month from today is the deadline imposed by President Clinton in his State of the Union address for Congress to vote on a campaign finance reform bill. But the reality is that the deadline will come and go with no action taken because the most widely debated proposals, which violate our constitutional right to free speech and protect incumbents by imposing campaign spending limits, are rapidly losing support with each passing day.

It is time to consider new ideas that will enhance, rather than undermine, voter participation in our Federal elections process, and restore public accountability in the campaign process. That is why I have introduced H.R. 1780, the Voter Empowerment Act. It takes a different approach to addressing the problems of our campaign finance system. It will enable voters to make more informed voting decisions by giving them greater access to more campaign information. To this end, the legislation requires all disclosure information to be made available on the Internet, and establishes a disclosure limit for issue advocacy and soft money expenditures.

It also requires the Federal Election Commission [FEC] to facilitate disclosure by mandating electronic filing for individual Federal candidates, PAC's and national parties within the next 2 years. After the implementation of electronic filing, the FEC would publish an expansive Internet site on the World Wide Web which would contain a separate page for every congressional and Presidential candidate, each PAC, and every national party. A congressional candidate's page, for example, would contain the aggregate contribution and expenditure amounts for the previous and current election cycle. If a candidate received money from a PAC, a link would be available to the PAC's page so that the public could learn more about their goals and beliefs. With the disclosure information freely available in an understandable format on the Internet, Americans will no longer need to rely on special interests and the media to interpret the

FEC data for them. And most important, the new information will allow voters to make more informed choices at the polls.

The Voter Empowerment Act will further increase the amount of information that is made available to the public by requiring persons or groups that spend more than \$100,000 on specific advertisement to disclose to the FEC within 24 hours the amount of money spent, the type of communication and where it was broadcast or distributed. In 1996, issue advocacy communications inundated the voting public through voter guides and radio/television advertisements. Regrettably, the public had no idea who paid for or published these communications.

During the 1996 election, many of the issue advocacy communications were paid for with soft money contributions, which are not subject to Federal disclosure regulations. Recognizing the need to facilitate disclosure without impeding the free speech rights of contributors, the Voter Empowerment Act contains a disclosure provision for individuals who contribute \$250,000 in soft money to national parties. The bill requires individuals who contribute more than a quarter of a million dollars to inform the FEC of that amount, and it requires national parties to disclose to the FEC where the soft money was spent or distributed.

Some of my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, may criticize these two disclosure provisions for either doing too much or too little. Some claim that increased disclosure provisions regarding soft money and issue advocacy communications will restrict an individual's free speech rights. However, the Supreme Court has upheld reasonable disclosure limitations on campaign expenditures. Furthermore, the limits have been set extraordinarily high so only the largest donors, not grassroots activists or small contributors, would be required to file with the FEC. On the other hand, some may argue that the advent of soft money marks the ruin of our campaign system, so it should be banned. According to the Supreme Court, independent expenditures and soft money must be considered as political speech and deserve to be protected under the first amendment. Therefore, efforts to ban soft money are blatantly unconstitutional.

In addition to facilitating disclosure, the Voter Empowerment Act encourages more individual participation in campaigns by indexing all Federal contribution limits to 1974 dollars. Established in the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1974, the current contribution limits were meant to lower the cost of campaigns and eliminate the advantages of incumbency. However, the opposite has occurred. Between 1974 and 1994, total campaign spending, in constant dollars, by House candidates has nearly tripled, and reelection rates for House incumbents hit an all time high in 1988. By raising the contribution limits, individuals will be able to exercise their right of free speech more effectively and candidates will not be forced to spend a large amount of their time raising campaign funds.

To further encourage increased participation by individuals, the Voter Empowerment Act reinstates the tax credit for individual contributions. Similar to the credit repealed in 1986, individuals would be able to claim a 50-percent tax credit up to \$200—\$400 for joint filers—if they contribute to a Federal candidate, PAC or national party. The credit would apply to the total contributions for the year.

Encouraging individual contributions to Federal candidates is one of the best ways to eliminate the advantages of incumbency. In a recent study, Dr. Gary Jacobsen, a political science professor who specializes in the American campaign system at the University of California, San Diego, found that the positive effect of increased expenditures on behalf of incumbents was low to nonexistent, while the positive effect of increased challenger spending was enormous. It was no coincidence that, in the last election, all of the incumbent Senators who spent less than the limits set in the so-called McCain-Feingold bill won their races, and the challengers who spent less than the limits lost. Incumbents have free mail privileges, paid staff and the ability to generate press coverage. For challengers, additional campaign contributions are the only equalizer to those inherent advantages.

I would also note, Mr. Speaker, that the FEC has become ineffective in its responsibilities to enforce our campaign finance laws. Frequently, the FEC takes an excessively long time to file a complaint against candidates or parties who violate campaign finance laws.

For example, last month the FEC filed suit against the California Democratic Party for violations of election laws in the 1992 election. Five years after the alleged violations, the FEC is finally getting around to prosecuting those who broke the law. The American public cannot rely on the FEC to prosecute violations 5 years after the fact. Certainly, the FEC cannot turn back the clock and redo the 1992 elections. The FEC can only ask for a monetary fine, which would be a small price to pay for winning the Presidency and two Senate seats.

Many other experts in campaign finance reform have suggested that the FEC is not capable of handling its enforcement authorities. In a 1989 report, common cause suggested, "the best * * * remedy may be to abolish the FEC altogether." While the Voter Empowerment Act does not pursue that goal, it does transfer the FEC's enforcement authority to the Department of Justice. The Attorney General would have the latitude to design and develop the campaign finance enforcement division. The task of establishing a new office to enforce campaign finance laws would not be impossible for the Justice Department. In the past, the Attorney General has been given the responsibility to create new offices within the Department of Justice. Three years ago, she formed a new office comprised of lawyers from different departments to compensate citizens who were exposed to nuclear testing.

Without its enforcement powers, the new FEC would be free to focus exclusively on those duties for which it was originally created. That is to facilitate disclosure and providing contribution and expenditure information to voters. With this limited responsibility, my legislation reduces the number of Commissioners from 6 to 2, with their terms staggered and limited to two full terms. In addition, the FEC would be required to work with the Justice Department in the development of new regulations, and would have to publish a compilation of advisory opinions with an index and publish names of candidates and committees who have accepted illegal contributions.

Finally, my legislation eliminates the Presidential Election Campaign Fund and tax checkoff. Thomas Jefferson wrote, "To compel

a man to furnish contributions of money for the propagation of opinions which he disbelieves, is sinful and tyrannical." The Presidential Election Campaign Fund forces Americans to give their tax dollars to campaigns which they may not agree, and most Americans have not been supportive of the tax checkoff and campaign fund. Since 1981, the participation in the tax checkoff program has declined quite steadily. The repeal of taxpayer subsidies for Presidential candidates is what the American people want and it is long overdue.

Mr. Speaker, over 50 bills have been introduced to change the campaign finance system in this country. While we all agree that change is necessary and improvements are possible, I believe the Voter Empowerment Act offers a more reasonable approach to improving our campaign finance system without undermining public participation in our electoral process. I urge my colleagues to join with me in cosponsoring this legislation.

DESECRATION OF GOLDEN TEMPLE SHOWS INDIAN DEMOCRACY IS A FRAUD

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 1997

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember a tragic chapter in history, India's 1984 desecration of the Golden Temple in Amritsar, the highest shrine of the Sikh Nation. From June 3 through June 6 of that year, the Golden Temple and 38 other Sikh temples were subjected to the kind of military assault which would have stirred the world's outrage if it had occurred at the Vatican or Mecca. More than 20,000 Sikhs died at the hands of the Indian regime in these attacks. Yet the world hardly noticed.

On this sad anniversary, the Indian regime maintains police surveillance at the Golden Temple for no purpose other than to harass Sikhs who seek to worship at their holiest shrine. The newly elected Chief Minister of Punjab, Parkash Singh Badal, promised during his campaign that he would remove this intrusive, authoritarian presence. That pledge has not been carried out. There could be no more appropriate way to observe the anniversary of the Golden Temple massacre than for Chief Minister Badal to reiterate his order to remove the security forces and fire any officials who defy this order. If he cannot or will not do so, then we will be forced to conclude that the Punjab elections were a sham and the new government has no power. This will show that India's repression of the Sikhs in Punjab, Khalistan is just as tight as it ever was.

In this context, the Sikh Nation's demand for freedom is more urgent than ever. As many of us have pointed out, the Sikh Nation declared its independence on October 7, 1987. They called their new country Khalistan. The United States should go on record in support of freedom for Khalistan. If India is truly the democracy it claims to be, it should hold a plebiscite in occupied Khalistan to let the Sikh Nation decide its own political future. It should also end its campaign of ethnic cleansing against the Sikhs and other peoples of South Asia, such as the Muslims of Kashmir, the Chris-

tians of Nagaland, the Assamese, Manipuris, Tamils, and the aboriginal people of South Asia, the Dalits—also known as the untouchables.

If India is unwilling to do these few, simple things then it will prove once and for all that all of India's claims that it is the world's largest democracy are a cruel hoax. It will show the world that in reality, India is one of the world's most tyrannical police states.

The United States can and should encourage India to take these steps for freedom in the subcontinent. We can raise our voice on behalf of freedom by declaring our support for an independent Khalistan, cutting off U.S. aid to India, and hitting this repressive regime with an embargo similar to the one that helped bring down apartheid in South Africa. By these modest measures, we can help end the repression in South Asia so that the subcontinent can have a new birth of freedom. That is the best way to ensure peace, prosperity, and stability in this unhappy region. Let us honor the struggle of the Sikh Nation on this terrible anniversary by initiating these policies today.

LET'S HELP AND NOT HINDER SMALL BUSINESS

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 1997

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, during Small Business Week, I stand here to pay tribute to the engines of our economy—those small businesses across the country which provide goods and services—and most importantly jobs—to the American people.

I am here today to implore my colleagues to recognize how small businesses are improving our economy.

And I implore my colleagues to recognize that these job creators are being hassled and regulated by a Federal Government which has no regard for how much small businesses drive this Nation.

Mr. Speaker, small businesses account for 99.7 percent of the Nation's employers.

They employ 53 percent of the private work force, and they contribute 47 percent of all sales in the country.

In fact, small businesses are responsible for 50 percent of the private GDP of this country.

Yet, the small business owners of this Nation face a tax system and regulatory burdens which limit growth and discourage development.

If Government is meant to be the servant of the people, our current tax and regulatory systems are certainly not assisting our Nation's small businesses.

Even with the legislation Congress has passed to help small business get out from under the thumb of the Federal Government, more assaults are now being urged by the Clinton administration.

With such economic and growth potential within small businesses across this country, we should be doing all we can to assist them.

We must act as their servants—instead of hindering their progress.

They need relief from encumbering taxes and from job-killing regulation.

For starters—we could repeal an unfair estate tax which targets the very families and