

requires that complainants have the right to a fresh start through a direct action in the United States courts against alleged violators. The law should be amended to provide for this in the event that the Commission is unable to act because of deadlock or a lack of resources.

We have not attempted to set out an exhaustive list of reforms which may be attainable and would make a significant contribution. Other important proposals by members of Congress or students of campaign finance reform merit consideration, such as encouraging small contributions through tax credits, or providing greater resources to candidates through enhanced access to communications media or through flexibility by the parties in supporting candidates with expenditure of hard money contributions. Rather, our purpose is to illustrate that it is possible to identify and act on particular, achievable improvements, which should not be postponed or neglected. We very much encourage and support a larger debate about other changes at the federal and state levels in the manner in which political campaigns are financed. Additional changes will be essential to renewing American democracy. The enactment of immediate reforms may give us a measure of time to address other reforms, but should never become an excuse for avoiding them.

We urge that the work of the Congress over the next few months be spurred by one overriding thought: no one would create, or should feel comfortable in defending, the campaign finance system that now exists. Public cynicism about our great national political institutions is the inevitable product of the gaps that exist between our principles and the law, and between the law and compliance with it. The trend lines, also, are all wrong. If we were unhappy about campaign financing in the election of 1996, as the public is and as members of both parties ought to be, then we should anticipate with great trepidation the election of 2000, absent prompt reforms.

The challenge for this Congress is to put in place changes for the presidential and congressional election cycle that will start the day after next year's elections, a little more than sixteen months from now, to enable an election in the year 2000 in which we will have pride and the public will have confidence. Your leadership in that endeavor will serve the interests of American democracy, and command the enduring appreciation of all of us who know how needed that leadership is.

Sincerely,

NANCY KASSEBAUM BAKER.
WALTER F. MONDALE.

AN OPTION WORTH WATCHING

HON. NEWT GINGRICH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 1997

Mr. GINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Texas, the Ways and Means Chairman, Mr. ARCHER, has developed a tax relief plan to help restore our Nation's Capital, the District of Columbia. I enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD an editorial from the Washington Post which, recognizing that a tax incentive plan is the sole solution to the troubles of the District, still concludes that it is an option "worth watching."

[From the Washington Post, June 11, 1997]

MR. ARCHER'S PLAN FOR THE DISTRICT

House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Bill Archer's tax incentive plan for the

District has encouraged a chorus of carping from city officials who predict that the measure won't stem the middle-class exodus to the suburbs. Perhaps to their surprise, Rep. Archer agrees. "The single biggest thing that the District of Columbia needs to do," he told a press conference at the bill's unveiling, "is to create an environment that is healthy for people to live and to work and to educate their children. * * * There are no changes in the tax code that are going to be enough to accomplish that."

Rep. Archer's appraisal was both candid and realistic. The District's tax code isn't the chief reason more than 50,000 residents have fled the city in the 1990s alone. A host of problems—including poor schools, crime, broken city services and abysmal local leadership—are responsible. The District's survival will depend less on tax cuts than on a wide variety of policies and actions that directly address those ills. Fixing the school system, imposing financial accountability and management reforms in the government, improving public safety and adopting the president's plan to take over some burdensome state-level responsibilities and costs will go a long way toward creating a stable and livable city.

Tax cuts, whether they benefit the majority of residents or are focused on the city's poorest neighborhoods, aren't going to provide the city with a sustainable revenue base. Yet to dismiss the GOP tax-break proposals out of hand may be shortsighted and self-defeating too.

Businesses are leaving town, and the city is having trouble attracting new firms. Much the same applies to middle-income residents. Rep. Archer believes tax relief could become a magnet for residents and businesses in certain economically depressed areas of the city such as Anacostia, Mount Pleasant and Chinatown. Whether tax breaks would keep and attract new residents or spur investment and job creation in the District's struggling areas is an open and untested question in this city. At \$325 million in tax relief spread out over five years and targeted on about 80,000 of the city's 554,000 residents, it's an expensive gesture, if not gamble.

Control board chairman Andrew Brimmer believes the plan's economic impact would be "slight." House Speaker Newt Gingrich, on the other hand, reportedly views the D.C. tax package as a "demonstration project that Republican free-market solutions are the best way to solve the problems of our nation's inner cities." It's an experiment worth watching.

THANKS TO PHIL JACKSON AND NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BROADCASTERS

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 1997

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank those who helped the victims of the flood that hit the upper Great Plains this spring. I would especially like to point out the public service announcement filmed by Chicago Bulls coach and former North Dakotan Phil Jackson and distributed by the National Association of Broadcasters.

In the midst of the Chicago Bulls run for a fifth NBA title in 7 years. Coach Jackson took the time to film a public service announcement asking Americans to help the flood victims of his former State. Teaming up with the National

Association Broadcasters, we got the work out about this PSA, and about how broadcasters could join the flood relief effort.

While the PSA was playing in cities across the United States asking individuals to give what they could to help the flood victims, broadcasters were also becoming involved in the campaign. In Fargo, ND, a TV station's telethon raised \$1.2 million. In Minneapolis, 21 radio morning shows raised \$500,000. In Omaha, a DJ got listeners to fill a 53-foot truck with donations. While in Grand Forks, KCNN Radio continued its round the clock effort to answer any and all questions for flood victims and provide the community with the latest in local and national news affecting its listeners.

To Phil Jackson of the Chicago Bulls and to the broadcasting community I extend my thanks.

A TRIBUTE TO EUNICE KINDRED

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 1997

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate Eunice Kindred, a rising senior at Tampa Preparatory School, on her first-place finish in the Congressional Art Competition for high school students of the 11th Congressional District. Her painting will be hung in the Capitol here in Washington, DC. For many students, this honor might be his or her first recognition of talent, but for Eunice, this is one addition to a long list of accomplishments within as well as outside the realm of art.

Eunice has excelled at art throughout her life, showing a unique talent for expression through canvas since age 5. She has received countless awards for her artistic abilities, at the local and national levels. Her artwork has been displayed in various exhibitions in the Tampa area; the list continues. Recently, Eunice has entered the world of business, starting her own design company. Undoubtedly she will enhance and fulfill her entrepreneurial skills to the level of her artistic skills.

Aside from these talents Eunice has the distinction of being one of the top young bowlers in the United States today. Eunice bowled a 299 game in 1992, consistently places highly in tournaments, and was recognized in 1994 as being in the top 5 percent of all young bowlers in the United States and Canada, an honor for which she received a letter of recognition from the President of the United States.

Eunice's extraordinary abilities also extend into musicianship. She is an accomplished violinist, having held the first violin chair of the Tampa Bay Youth Orchestra.

What is impressive about this young lady is the fact that despite her extensive extracurricular activities, Eunice maintains an excellent academic record; her induction into numerous honor societies is reflective of this record.

Eunice is truly an exceptional person. Her abilities run the gamut, ranging from aesthetics to athletics. Young people all across America such as Eunice embody the American spirit and will help lead the way into the 21st century. I, along with the rest of the 11th District of Florida, congratulate Eunice on her fine accomplishment.

REGARDING THE UPPER GREAT
PLAINS FLOOD OF 1997

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 1997

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my appreciation to the people who have helped the disaster-stricken communities of North Dakota. Whenever a community suffers from a disaster, people often look to their local leadership to help them get through trying times and help them get back on their feet. With the blizzards and floods of 1997, local leaders in North Dakota have not only risen to the task, they've become heroes to the people they serve. Few can forget the images of Grand Forks Mayor Pat Owens working around the clock as her community suffered the worst disaster in North Dakota history. And

between working endless hours helping her city through this time and numerous trips to Washington to make a case for Federal support, she was always available to also lend a shoulder to the Grand Forks resident who needed comfort.

Many other mayors across North Dakota, Minnesota, and South Dakota showed their unshakeable commitment to the people they serve. Mayor Lynn Stauss of East Grand Forks, Mayor Bruce Furness of Fargo, Mayor Hetty Walker of Pembina, Mayor Dan Rood of Wahpeton, and so many other community leaders deserve our thanks and our praise.

When our communities needed their leadership the most, they were there for us—providing strength, courage, and leadership that has truly made a difference to the lives of the people they represent.

The flood of 1997 on the Upper Great Plains brought out the best in people as neighbors helped neighbors get through some very difficult times. People from around the country stepped forward to lend a hand and show the residents of Grand Forks that they weren't alone. I would also like to recognize the incredible help provided by the men and women of the Grand Forks Air Force Base. From acting as the mass care shelter to hosting the senior prom, the assistance from the air base to the community continues. The response activities, and now the ongoing re-

covery efforts, could not happen without those extraordinary efforts.

Other groups that contributed to the disaster far above the normal call-of-duty include the men and women who worked to restore power after the blizzard. Linemen who in some cases were wearing snowmobile helmets as they worked to restore power lines during the height of the ice storms deserve our thanks for a job well done. The thousands of volunteers who fought the flood, in some cases even while their own homes were being inundated, should be remembered for their selfless acts and hard work.

Donations poured in from every corner of the United States as the magnitude of this disaster and suffering became known. Other acts of kindness from individuals and corporations were commonplace, their generosity at times truly defying description.

At the same time, other agencies stepped forward to do their usual jobs of helping people recover. Unfortunately, the Red Cross and the Salvation Army all too often are taken for granted for the support they provide. Let me tell you that in North Dakota, and especially in Grand Forks, they are not taken for granted. They set new standards for caring and commitment.

To all those who stepped forward to help those in need I say thank you.