

INTRODUCTION OF THE PUBLIC
VOICE CAMPAIGN REFORM ACT
OF 1997

HON. HAROLD E. FORD, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 1997

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, at the beginning of the 105th Congress, the President challenged Congress to enact campaign finance reform legislation before the Fourth of July. As we approach this landmark date, Congress has yet to hold the first hearing on campaign finance reform legislation. At the same time, both political parties continue to aggressively solicit soft money from corporate donors, while the Federal Election Commission, the body charged by Congress with enforcing our election laws is starved for cash and is immobilized by partisan gridlock.

Today, I will introduce campaign finance reform legislation to strengthen enforcement of election laws, increase disclosure, ban soft money and provide reduced broadcast time to political candidates. For too long, the Federal Election Commission has been a paper tiger in a jungle of money-dominated campaigns. President Clinton has stated that in order to clean up campaigns and strengthen the FEC, "we need a clean break from the past." This legislation gives us a chance to break from the past by requiring the President to appoint an independent seventh Commissioner recommended by the existing six members. The seventh Commissioner would serve as Chairman, and all of the Commissioners would be limited to one 6 year term. Under the current law, the Commission is split evenly between Democrats and Republicans.

Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, this bill will allow the FEC to charge a filing fee for candidates, political committees and parties who meet minimum thresholds of financial activity. This provision will give the agency a degree of financial independence that the Congress refuses to give it in annual appropriations. It has been endorsed by the eminent scholars Thomas Mann of the Brookings Institution and Norman Ornstein of the American Enterprise Institute.

The bill also restores the FEC's ability to conduct random audits of candidates, PACs and parties, and allows the Commission to refer a case to the Justice Department as soon as the FEC believes there may have been criminal activity. These two provisions and others in the bill have been recommended by the author is of the respected University of Southern California campaign finance study entitled *New Realities, New Thinking*.

The pervasive influence of money in politics, especially soft money, has tainted our political process and threatens to eclipse the fundamental principle that every person's vote counts the same. I applaud the President's recent call to strengthen the FEC and ban soft money, Mr. Speaker. Now it is time for the Congress to act. This legislation will restore fairness to our political process by banning soft money.

Further, it will require broadcasters, who stand to benefit from the use of digital airwaves—channels which belong to the public—to fulfill their public interest obligations by offering reduced television time to political candidates. In the past 25 years, spending by po-

litical candidates and political committees has risen dramatically. In 1972, candidates spent \$25 million on television advertising. In 1996, candidates spent \$500 million on political advertising. The high cost of television advertising requires candidates and incumbents to spend a disproportionate amount of time raising money, has increased the influence of special interests, makes it difficult for challenges to compete with incumbents, and interferes with candidates' efforts to communicate with voters.

In the 1996 election cycle, over \$2 billion was spent on Federal elections. Over \$266 million of this was in unregulated soft money. This constituted a 224% increase in soft money spending by the Republicans and a 257% increase by Democrats. Soft money has become the legal loophole through which candidates and parties are driving a mack truck, and it is time to close this loophole once and for all.

Mr. Speaker, 22 years ago Congress created the Federal Election Commission because, in the words of the agency's charter, "our representative form of government needed protection from the corrosive influence of unlimited and undisclosed political contributions." As we approach the celebration of our nation's birth, let's give the American people a gift that will stem their distrust and cynicism of our political system. Let's fulfill the obligation we made to them in 1975 by enacting meaningful campaign finance reform legislation.

IN MEMORY OF MISSOURI NEWS-
MAN WILLIAM LESTER "LES"
SIMPSON

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 1997

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, June 16, 1997, the State of Missouri lost a distinguished citizen. William Lester "Les" Simpson of Odessa, MO, passed away in Lexington, MO at the age of 88.

In 1926, Mr. Simpson started a lifelong career in the news business at his father's *Rolla (MO) Times*. In 1944, he and his wife Madeline bought the *Holden Progress*, where he became publisher. In 1990, they moved to Odessa, where he resided until his death.

Mr. Simpson was a member of the Missouri Press Association, serving as president in 1957, and the Central Missouri Press Association, of which he was president in 1950. He was inducted into the MPA Hall of Fame in 1992. He was also the recipient of distinguished service awards from Northeast, Northwest, and Central Missouri press associations and received the Merrill Chilcote Award in 1995 from the Northwest Missouri Press Association. Mr. Simpson also served on the board of regents at Central Missouri State University in Warrensburg, MO from 1959–77, serving as board vice president from 1961–65, and president from 1965–71. He received the CMSU Distinguished Service Award in 1995.

Mr. Simpson was a 50-year member of the Holden Masonic Lodge and Order of Eastern Star. He was past president and member of the Holden Chamber of Commerce and a member of the Ararat Shrine of Kansas City.

He was preceded in death by his wife Madeline in 1992, as well as three brothers and

one sister. He is survived by a daughter, Betty Spaar of Odessa, who continues in her father's footsteps as the publisher of the newspaper, *The Odessan*. Also surviving are three sisters, five grandchildren, and a great-grandson. I know that this body joins me in expressing sympathy to the family of this outstanding Missourian.

HAPPY 150TH BIRTHDAY TO THE
CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 1997

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker. One of the legislative accomplishments of which I am most proud is my role, along with others in the Massachusetts Congressional delegation, in securing passage last year of the legislation which created a national park in the City of New Bedford, commemorating the City's crucial role as a world whaling center. The fact that New Bedford played a leading role in the history of whaling is of course chronicled most famously in Herman Melville's *Moby-Dick*, but, although the whaling industry has long since moved elsewhere and now largely come to an end, the city is still a remarkable storehouse of information on the history of whaling, and the establishment of the national park will bring that story to millions of visitors in the coming years.

While the people of New Bedford are looking forward to sharing that history—and the many other important contributions their city has made to American culture—they have been celebrating their history on their own for decades. In fact, I was honored to have had the chance to participate in a parade in April in honor of the 150th anniversary of New Bedford's incorporation as a city, an event attended by more than 50,000 people. Of course New Bedford as a community has existed much longer than 150 years, but it is surely no accident that its incorporation as a city dates to the heyday of the whaling industry there. Since 1847, New Bedford, like so many other American cities, has gone through many changes and many stages of economic development, but its residents have continued to work to make the city a better place to live, while still preserving its wonderful history.

And New Bedford has been an extraordinary city indeed. Beyond its role in the whaling industry, New Bedford has been the home of many "firsts" and other important events in American history, and I would like to take note of several. It is no surprise that the city was involved in a number of key maritime events, including, in the 1770s, the construction of *Old Ironsides* by George Claghorn, a New Bedford resident and ship builder. Also, in 1783, the *American Ship Bedford*, owned by William Rotch, Jr. of New Bedford, became the first vessel to display the American flag in English waters. And, it was in 1896 that the city's Joshua Slocum competed the first solo trip around the world in his sloop "Spray."

The city also played a key role in the fight for an end to slavery, and for fair treatment generally of African Americans. It was an important site on the Underground Railroad, and in 1838, a fugitive slave and his wife traveled to New Bedford from Newport, Rhode Island

at the invitation of two quakers who invited him to share their carriage. Upon arriving in New Bedford, where he lived for several years and played an active role in the Underground Railroad, this former slave took the name of Frederick Douglass, and, under that name, became one of the best known African American authors and activists in our nation's history. In 1848, Lewis Temple, an African American blacksmith invented the Temple Toggle Harpoon, which revolutionized the whaling industry. And, in 1863, Sgt. William Carney of New Bedford saved the American flag in a Civil War battle at Fort Wagner, where he fought with members of the Massachusetts 54th Regiment, made up of black soldiers (a battle depicted in the film "Glory"). Sgt. Carney was later the first black recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Other New Bedford historical events of note include the 1853 opening of the city's Free Public Library (this was the nation's second free library, opening its doors just weeks after the first opened in Boston); the 1871 founding of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, the first Portuguese Catholic Church in North America; and the 1874 writing of "Robert's Rules of Order" by Captain Henry Robert, then stationed at the city's Fort Taber (which was designed by Robert E. Lee).

Beyond these specific events, the history of New Bedford illustrates the strengths and challenges of older industrial area in our country from the latter half of the nineteenth century through the end of the twentieth. Most important, it demonstrates the importance of the commitment and character of a city's residents in creating a vibrant community.

The whaling industry which was so essential to New Bedford has of course ended as an ongoing commercial activity. But, the city remains one of the centers of fishing in the world, and one example of the creative spirit of the people of New Bedford is the extent to which they have blended the maritime history of the city into its ongoing economic life. Too often in America respect for history and tradition is somehow considered to be a detraction from a concern with current economic activity. Indeed, many urban areas in this country during the middle part of this century, began, in one way or another, to separate their waterfronts from their main commercial centers. In New Bedford, however, the waterfront has always had an important place of pride in the economic life and culture of the city, and this experience is a graphic repudiation of the idea that tradition and economic activity must perpetually be in conflict. Rather, as shown so clearly in New Bedford, they can be mutually reinforcing to everyone's benefit.

New Bedford also has a proud history as one of the industrial centers of this country, serving as an important hub of the garment and textile industry. While this has meant that the city—and the region—has also become an example of the shortsightedness of national trade and industrial policies which often promote the interests of some at the expense of others, once again, the spirit of the people of New Bedford has been strengthened by these adverse trends. And, now in its 151st year, New Bedford continues to strive for economic expansion that takes full advantage of twenty-first century norms. The city is striving hard for a number of improvements in the transportation grid which serves the region, and which, when brought to fruition, hold great promise for significant economic expansion.

Another area where New Bedford has an important lesson for the rest of the country is in dealing with the consequences of past environmental damage. Until fairly recently in our nation's history we paid very little attention to the negative effects of air and water pollution. For the past twenty-five years we have worked hard to address the environmental problems that have arisen in cities and towns throughout the country. New Bedford, as one of the older industrial areas of the country, was not immune from the effects of the pre-environmental regime in which so little attention was paid to the cleanliness of our air and water. But, today, in cooperation with the Environmental Protection Agency, which has shown a great deal of responsiveness to the City's needs, New Bedford is an example of how to proceed in a constructive fashion to address past environmental difficulties while maximizing current economic potential. With the ongoing work to restore the city's harbor, ensure the protection of Buzzards Bay's waters, convert abandoned manufacturing sites into opportunities for new economic growth, explore the potential of aquaculture, and in so many other ways, the people of New Bedford continue to strive for an appropriate balance between sensitivity to the environment and economic growth.

Finally, New Bedford reminds America of a lesson which, sadly, the country appears to be very much in need of remembering: the importance of immigration in building this great country, culturally, socially and economically. As a port, New Bedford has long been a center of immigration. Today, people continue to immigrate in large numbers to the area from Portugal, the Azores, Madeira and the Republic of Cape Verde. All continue to be a source of vitality for the city, and those of us who point to the industrious and valued work force that constitutes one of the city's great assets know that immigration is a major factor in the composition of the work force. Furthermore, the city's example is an excellent argument in favor of a continuation of the generous attitude toward immigration that the United States has traditionally held, but which, unfortunately, is now being questioned in some quarters.

Mr. Speaker, in the years ahead at the appropriate anniversaries on which people take stock of the city's condition, I believe we will be able to look back to today as a period when the people of New Bedford, working together as they have so often in the past, continued to make important strides in both transforming the city's economy to prepare it for the twenty-first century and in preserving its incredibly rich legacy. I have represented New Bedford in the United States House of Representatives since January of 1993, and in that capacity it is a great honor as well as a distinct pleasure for me to join in celebrating with the people of the city on this glorious 150th birthday.

EXTENSION OF REMARKS IN SUPPORT OF BILL TO REFORM THE EXPORT-IMPORT BANK TO BE MORE RESPONSIBLE TO AMERICAN JOBS

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 1997

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of a bill which I introduced today, with Mr. LIPINSKI of Illinois and Mr. MCGOVERN of Massachusetts as original cosponsors. This bill would require the Export-Import Bank of the United States, when selecting among firms to provide financial assistance, to give preference to any firm which has shown a commitment to reinvestment and job creation in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, this bill gets at, I believe the heart of the issue of the relationship between the U.S. Government, the taxpayers of this country and corporate America.

Mr. Speaker, let me tell you a little bit about some of the companies which have received financial assistance from the Export-Import Bank in recent years—and you tell me whether these are really the best companies that the middle income people of this country should be subsidizing. According to information from Ex-IM, among the top 25 companies which receive assistance from Ex-Im are Boeing, General Electric, and AT&T. Let's take a brief look at these companies and see whether these really are the types of companies that the American taxpayers should be rewarding.

In terms of employment, in 1990 Boeing had 155,900 employees. In 1996, it had 103,600 employees—a decline of 52,300 jobs during that period. In other words, it laid off 1/3 of its workforce, despite being the top recipient of Ex-Im aid.

Mr. Speaker, General Electric is the number two recipient of Ex-Im aid. In 1975 GE had 667,000 American workers. Twenty years later, it had 398,000, a decline of 269,000 jobs. General Electric CEO Jack Welch, is well known for his ruthlessness in moving GE jobs to anyplace in the world where he can get cheap labor—Mexico, China, and other poor Third World countries. Is this really the type of company we want to be rewarding with taxpayer subsidies? Downsizing American workers has been at the core of the Jack Welch philosophy at GE, and Ex-Im is actually providing millions of dollars in support of this company.

As for AT&T, in 1995 AT&T laid off 40,000 workers. Interestingly enough, reports show that in that same year, AT&T provided its CEO, Robert Allen, with \$15 million in options plus a \$11 million grant.

My point, Mr. Speaker, is that the entire approach of Ex-Im in terms of job creation is too narrow. They approach the idea of "jobs through exports" on a project-by-project basis, and ignore the totality of what the company is doing.

My bill is quite simple. This bill would simply require the Export-Import Bank to look at the totality of the situation. And if there is a company that is showing a commitment to job creation and reinvestment in the United States, then that company should receive preference for assistance.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.