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ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Florida). The Member is reminded not to address the television audience during 1-minute speeches.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM NOT
ADDRESSED

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

Mr. SNYDER. Mr. Speaker, we are going to recess today probably until the end of January, and unfortunately we did nothing in this session of Congress on campaign finance reform. So I can clarify the state of the law as we are leaving it when we go home today, this check from my friend, I am a big donor, for \$1 billion to the political party of her choice is still good and perfectly legal. So what does that mean to Americans out there? It means if you are a family of four making \$30,000 a year, it is still legal for you to give a check for \$1 billion to the political party of your choice. If you are a small business person or a farmer grossing \$100,000 a year, it is still perfectly legal for you to give \$1 billion in soft money donations to the political party of your choice. If you are a retiree on fixed income watching your pennies every month, it is still completely legal for you to give \$1 billion to the political party of your choice.

Why is it still legal? Because of inaction in this session of Congress by the Republican leadership in this House. It is wrong, Mr. Speaker. It needs to change. We need to do something about campaign finance reform next session.

OBEY EXISTING CAMPAIGN
FINANCE LAWS

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

Mr. HAYWORTH. I listened with great interest, Mr. Speaker, to my colleague and friend from Arkansas, and again I would simply say to my friend, so passionate today about reforming campaigns, that first things should come first, and it is to obey existing law. Because, you see, Mr. Speaker, it is already illegal for noncitizens to come into this country and try to buy influence in our political parties, and it is already illegal for Federal office holders to use their offices, including those at the White House, to solicit donations.

You see, friends, it is really simple: If people would obey existing law, much more would be done, much more would be achieved. So even as we join in this call for meaningful campaign finance reform, let it not be lost upon this House or upon the American people that the first act of business should be to obey existing law.

ALL TALK AND NO ACTION ON
CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, how strange that so many Republicans disagree with my friend from Arizona. They are convening a press conference right now to propose their campaign finance reforms. And is it not strange that they decided to propose them as this Congress adjourns? Because they reject the hopes of the American people that we might have reform in time for the next elections.

They do not want reform, they want the same sorry system that we have right now, the same sorry system that allowed them to dump in \$1 million of attack ads in a single election in Staten Island earlier this month; \$1 million, in addition to all the resources the Republican candidate had, the same Republican Party that was happy to accept \$1.8 million from a single family for various Republican front organizations last year.

It is outrageous that we have a campaign finance system that allows big money special interests to maintain a stranglehold on this Congress, and these Republicans will not do a thing about it. They promised to bring up campaign finance reform this fall, and they broke that promise to the American people. They are adjourning today, adjourning the hopes of the American people for reform.

TAXES STILL TOO HIGH

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, this Congress has worked hard to balance the budget, reduce taxes on American families, and we passed the first balanced budget since 1969. We gave American families their first tax cut in 16 years. But while we have made some progress, let us face it, taxes are still too high, and the Federal Government still spends too much.

This past weekend my legislative director Kevin Fitzpatrick and his wife Pam became the proud parents of a new baby girl, Elizabeth Ann Fitzpatrick. I have been honored to be asked to be the child's godfather. I am really proud of that. I know Elizabeth is very happy to be the newest member of the Fitzpatrick family, joining brother Spike and sister Katie. But when she learns over her lifetime she is going to have to pay almost \$200,000 in taxes just to pay the interest on our national debt, then she is going to be justifiably upset.

Mr. Speaker, children like Elizabeth should not be faced with this burdensome debt from the day they are born. Now that we are close to balancing the budget, this Congress should work to

reduce our national debt so little kids like Elizabeth are not going to have to pay these huge amounts in taxes over their lifetime. Let's reduce taxes on our people.

STAY AND FINISH WORK

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, Democrats have spent the past 11 months fighting for legislation that would help America's working families. Democrats have worked to improve America's public schools while Republicans tried to pass a voucher program, a proposal that would siphon off taxpayer dollars, hard-earned taxpayer dollars, to fund an experiment to take kids out of public education and fund private education in this country.

Democrats have fought to reform America's political system, while Republicans have refused to even debate campaign finance reform. They do not want to reform the system, they want to talk about it.

Democrats have demanded an end to the Dornan-Sanchez investigation, while Republicans have prolonged this taxpayer-funded political witch hunt.

Now the Republicans want to pack their bags, head home, but important work is left to be done in this Congress: education reform; IRS reform, which is stuck in the other body because the Republicans do not want to move it; campaign finance reform. We should not leave until our work is complete.

EXCUSES FOR BREAKING THE LAW

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, here is a big surprise: The wife of John Huang has joined the growing legions of people under investigation for campaign finance lawbreaking who have either fled the country, taken the fifth amendment, or otherwise come up with amnesia about raising money from foreign citizens.

This is not big news to most of the major media, of course. After all, it appears that most of the time all they do is read their nightly newscast straight off DNC press releases. In fact, I have a hard time telling the difference between liberal reporting on the campaign finance hearings and what the expert "spinmeisters" at the White House are saying.

We have heard some great excuses, from "everybody does it," to "we had to cheat. Otherwise, Republicans would have won." Maybe some of the best excuses are these two: "Sure, I broke the law, but it is the system's fault, and we need to reform it." Then there is this one: "I don't care if they broke the law. The Republicans are on a witch hunt."

Right. I wonder if the reforms the other side has in mind will continue to consider taking foreign money as a crime.

DEFINING VOTE ON EDUCATION

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

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, last week this House took a defining vote for public schools in this country. By a vote of 228 to 191, we defeated a risky voucher scheme to take tax money out of our public schools to finance private schools. I am pleased my colleagues took this stand in defense of our school children and our Nation's public schools. Taking tax money out of our public schools and giving it to private schools and turning our backs on our public schools is wrong.

I call on my colleagues to defend, protect and strengthen our public schools. As a cochair of the Education Task Force, I know what we must do to strengthen education for all of our children. We must help set high standards of excellence in education. We must empower teachers, parents, and students to achieve these high standards. We must rebuild crumbling schools and build new schools to relieve overcrowding. We must strengthen professional development for our teachers. We must get back to the basics in core subject areas, and we must encourage character education and ensure that every child can attend a school that is safe from violence and free of drugs.

This House did the right thing in defeating vouchers, and now we must move forward to strengthen our public schools for every child in America.

BIPARTISAN SPIRIT GOOD FOR AMERICA

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

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, this congressional session conclusion reminds me of the wonderful changing seasons on the Illinois prairie. Each year we are amazed by the God-given change in seasons, which works so well and even survives the most intense of storms to work together for the benefit of all of us here on Earth. When this Congress works together, it is like nature in harmony. We achieve much.

While much was done in this first year of the 105th Congress, let us pledge to come back and complete the unfinished work which we will address in the next year. Let us cut down a little bit on the harsh rhetoric and the stringent remarks. Let us just work together. It is good for all of us.

MEDICAID ATTENDANT COMMUNITY SERVICES ACT

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to declare my enthusiastic support for H.R. 2020, the Medicaid Attendant Community Services Act. This bill is of vital importance, because in all of our districts and throughout America, there are hundreds and thousands of people who have been taken from their families, stripped of their assets, and deprived of their basic human rights because they have disabilities or chronic health conditions. Our current system of disbursing Medicaid funds encourages and rewards this injustice.

I recently met with a group of my constituents with disabilities that are physically challenged. Many had lived in nursing homes, not because they had wanted to, but because our system gave them no other choice. They simply want to live independently. H.R. 2020 will give them the opportunity to do just that.

OUTRAGE OVER CRITICISM OF MARINE CORPS

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

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in outrage. I may not be able to finish this 1-minute, but I am reading an article in this morning's paper which says "Top Army Woman Calls Marine Corps 'Extremist.'"

"Sara Lister, the Army's top personnel official, in a public forum called the Marines 'extremists' and 'a little dangerous.'"

"Mrs. Lister, the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, also belittled the Marine Corps uniform."

Mrs. Lister told an October 26 seminar, "The Marines are extremists. Wherever you have extremists, you get some risk of total disconnection with society, and that is a little dangerous."

Mr. Speaker, let me just try to settle down here for a minute and just quote Gen. Charles Krulak, the Commandant of the Marine Corps, when he said in responding to this article, "Such a depiction would summarily dismiss 222 years of sacrifice and dedication to the Nation. It would dishonor the hundreds of thousands of Marines whose blood has been shed in the name of freedom. Citizens from all walks of life have donned the Marine Corps uniform and gone to war to defend this Nation, never to return. Honor, courage, and commitment are not extreme."

Mr. Speaker, this is the most outrageous thing I have ever heard. Later today I will be introducing a resolution which will come to this floor calling for this person's resignation on behalf of all marines.

MANAGED CARE REFORM NEEDED

(Mr. GREEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GREEN. Mr. Speaker, as we end this session of Congress, we need to celebrate our successes, but also recognize our failures.

Many Americans are concerned about the status of their health care. They worry that in an emergency their managed care provider will not pay for the needed services. If a person has chest pains, how do they know it is indigestion instead of a heart attack? And yet, managed care may not pay for it. People are worried that nonmedical professionals are making their medical decisions instead of their doctors.

Congress should have passed a managed care reform bill that protects patients and still keeps costs low. We need to ensure that all managed care patients are covered by consumer protections and have greater choice in deciding the type of health care they receive.

If we truly believe in consumer choice, we must give workers more than the one option that their employers provide them, including greater access to specialists.

Mr. Speaker, Americans are beginning to believe they are being herded through our health care system, and they are starting to lose trust in it. We should pass legislation next year that provides needed consumer protections for health care. We should have passed it in 1997, but maybe we will do a better job next year.

U.S. MARINES, ANYTHING BUT EXTREMISTS

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

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I too would like to take a minute to address the House on the words of Sara Lister, the top personnel officer at the Pentagon for the U.S. Army, in her remarks about naming Marines as "extremists."

What I would like to say is that I am a former Marine. I enlisted when I was 18 years old because I wanted to see the world. The people that I met throughout the 4 years I served in the Marine Corps in the middle 1960's were anything but extremists. For the most part, they were gentle, young kids, who wanted to find adventure, wanted to serve their country, wanted to do something. They were curious about the world.

As they went through their service in the Marine Corps, they raised money for toys for poor children. In combat, they put their life at risk delivering babies. They found lepers in the jungles, and they dealt with the strange disease.

Mr. Speaker, the Marine Corps is made up of individuals who are like every average American.