

D.C. APPROPRIATIONS BILL NOT PERFECT

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, last night's happy passage of the D.C. appropriation was marred for me and many who had helped me by the omission of relief for Haitians from an attachment to my appropriation.

□ 1030

Frankly, it looked awful. Whatever the intent, we are left with black immigrants out and other similarly situated immigrants in.

I am prepared to believe that discrimination was not intended if we quickly make good on the promise to correct this exclusion. The administration promises to use its prosecutorial authority to keep Haitians from being deported while Congress is out.

What will we do when Congress comes back? The very first week we must make good on the promise that emerged from the immigration negotiations. The leadership should come from the Hispanic caucus, where relief was most keenly felt, and from the Black caucus. But the burden is on this entire body. Discrimination or the appearance of discrimination has no place in a great legislative body. Early action to obtain equal treatment for Haitian immigrants is the way to show it.

TIME TO FOLLOW EXISTING CAMPAIGN FINANCE LAWS

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, it is time for a little history lesson. This lesson is both for my liberal friends on the other side of the aisle, as well as for my unbiased, fair-minded friends in the media who are so enamored of campaign finance reform.

Every single day I see a story on the news about how we need campaign finance reform, an almost identical tale to that which is heard in this very body from the other side of the aisle.

It is obvious that our supporters of reform forget that all of the scandals of political corruption in 1974 resulted in precisely the campaign reforms that exist today, the same laws that these same reformers now want to change.

My guess is that the main problem is not that the law needs to be changed, but that we need to follow the law. Now, there is a radical idea. Imagine if the other side actually followed the law, abided by the contribution limits, and disclosed their fund-raising practices instead of having to give back millions of dollars after they have won the election.

But liberals never learn from history, and the very same reforms of today will be replaced by equally useless re-

forms in the face of lawbreakers tomorrow.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

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

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, while we have had many accomplishments on health care, on education, on small business and individual tax credits, we still have one of our accomplishments yet to come and that is with campaign finance reform.

In the last Congress we had 32 Members who signed a discharge petition that would have forced the issue to be addressed on the House floor. In this Congress, we are making progress. There are 187 Members that have signed this discharge petition. This is very important if we are going to regain the trust of the American people in their political process. It has to be done for the public interest and not special private interest.

Also, in Maine we began the Maine Code of Ethics. The code of ethics was signed by candidates of both parties running for office to adhere to principles that they would be discussing the issues, to be engaging the public and not to be turning the public off.

While we are reforming the process with campaign finance reform, we must also remember the product of those campaigns and also reform the product. So along with the process, we have product.

SWIFT PUNISHMENT FOR TERRORISTS IN PAKISTAN

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

Mr. BRADY. Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues know, a terrible tragedy occurred on Tuesday in Karachi, Pakistan. A car containing four Americans from Houston, TX, and their driver was ambushed. Reportedly, a car came up from behind the vehicle in which the employees of Union Texas Petroleum were riding, fired upon the car and forced it off the road. At that point the gunmen calmly fired more than a dozen bullets through the car's windshield, killing everyone instantaneously.

This terrorist attack is an absolute outrage, and while the investigation has just begun, it is widely believed that this is in response to Monday's conviction here in America of the Mir Aimal Kasi in United States court for the 1993 shooting of two of our CIA agents in Virginia. America's justice in no way should justify this behavior in Pakistan, and unfortunately this is not the first terrorist attack on Americans in that country.

Our thoughts and our prayers go to the families of this attack. They were good people who did not deserve to die, and they will be sorely missed.

Mr. Speaker, the greatest tribute America can pay them is to find and punish those who were responsible for this attack, and do the greatest we can do to protect the lives of other innocent Americans abroad.

MAKING 1998 THE YEAR OF THE CHILD

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, today Congress is scheduled to adjourn for 1997. It is a good day to assess what we have done this year for American children and what issues we need to pursue more vigorously next year.

This year, Democrats succeeded in forcing the Republican majority to provide \$24 billion in health care for uninsured children. We fought to protect public education from the majority's radical voucher experiments and anti-education block grants. My colleagues, the gentlewoman from Connecticut [Ms. DELAURO], the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. HOYER], the gentlewoman from Maryland [Mrs. MORELLA] and I succeeded in crafting legislation that gives our children the support they need during their first 3 years of life to grow up healthy and develop to their fullest potential.

But there is so much more that needs to be done. I have urged the President to make early childhood development issues the centerpiece of his State of the Union address next year. I urge my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to join Representatives DELAURO, HOYER, MORELLA and me in sending the President legislation early next year that gives our kids access to affordable, high-quality child care and early education programs. Let us agree today to make 1998 "The Year of the Child."

COFFEE MAY CAUSE CURIOUS BEHAVIOR

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

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, a lot of our friends on the left today and in the past several weeks have been talking about campaign finance reform. I wonder if any of them sees the great irony in the administration's sense of curiosity.

On the one hand, White House political operatives seem to have such an extraordinarily developed sense of curiosity that they miraculously ended up with 900 confidential FBI files on their political enemies. But on the other hand, the White House seems to have little curiosity about the possibility that John Huang might have seriously compromised national security while working for the Commerce Department in his capacity, apparently, as foreign fundraiser-in-chief.

What is even more remarkable that every single Democratic Senator, with

one exception, investigating some of these events seems to have a lack of curiosity about exactly how much money the liberal group was able to funnel into the 1996 Presidential campaign.

Maybe all of this curiosity is entwined with some of these folks having attended some of these White House coffees. Maybe there is something in the coffee that makes them curious on the one hand, but then lose their curiosity on something else, and maybe that is something that should be investigated as well.

TRIBUTE TO REV. DR. JOSEPH LOWERY

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

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rev. Dr. Joseph Lowery, who will retire in January on the anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday.

For over 30 years Dr. Lowery's was the voice of equality, reason and self-reliance both in this country and abroad. Dr. Lowery is best known for his leadership of SCLC, which he co-founded with Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., in 1957. Since then his life and his career have become synonymous with justice, equality, and human rights.

From the early days of the civil rights movement in Mobile, AL, to the founding of the SCLC in 1957, to the extension of the Voting Rights Act in 1982, and on to the fight against apartheid in South Africa, Dr. Lowery's views, voice, and vision have guided two generations of civil rights activism. Even in his retirement, Dr. Lowery will continue to guide and inspire us in our fight for equality, justice, and human dignity for many years to come.

Reverend Lowery, Mrs. Lowery, I wish you the best in your retirement.

SEND IN THE MARINES

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, at first the Democrat leader, TOM DASCHLE, said he knew of no Americans who were overtaxed, and then the President of the United States, Bill Clinton, said he thought the people of Virginia were selfish for wanting to keep more of their own money rather than send it to expert Washington bureaucrats.

But now a top Democrat woman in the Pentagon says that the U.S. Marines are extremists. Now, think about this. Monday was the Marine Corps birthday, a great, proud, fighting outfit that has been in the battles and the wars fought for our freedom throughout the history of America, and yet here is what Democrat Sara Lister says: "The Marines are extremists. Whenever you have extremists, you

have some risk that a total disconnection with society will take place, and that is very dangerous."

Well, I will say this to Ms. Lister. Although I do not know you and I was not a Marine, I would ask you this. Have you ever dug in a foxhole? Have you ever had dirt in your face? Have you ever had the blood splattered on your uniform of a buddy as he or she lies dying, and did that blood splatter make a permanent star on your emotions?

I say, Mr. Speaker, send in the Marines; send out Sara Lister. Let us have her resignation today.

IRS REFORM

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

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, Americans who take an increasingly cynical view of politics and politicians often claim that politicians are all the same, and those who do not vote justify their passivity by saying it does not matter. Half the people in America who are eligible to vote choose not to, and there is something that we need to address.

There is an issue on the radar screen of most Americans called reforming the IRS. Hopefully we can convince folks that we are serious about changing Washington.

The Democratic Party had Washington for 40 years and there has been no major effort during that period of time to change the way we tax the American people and the way the IRS works. We have been in town for 3 years, and there are major overhauls of the IRS looming and some have come to fruition, with the help from the Democratic Party, which convinces me if we pick the right issue and drive it hard, people will come our way. Now the IRS has to prove that one has done something wrong; one does not have to prove oneself innocent.

I would ask every taxpayer in this country to watch this debate, closely follow who is leading it, and I can promise that the Republican Party is going to take our hopes and dreams for a new Tax Code for a new century and we are going to boldly go forward, and I hope our colleagues in the Democratic Party will join us.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Florida). Pursuant to the provisions of clause 5 of rule I, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 4 of rule XV. Such rollcall votes, if postponed, will be taken later in the day.

ADOPTION AND SAFE FAMILIES ACT OF 1997

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 327), providing for the consideration of the bill H.R. 867 and the Senate amendment thereto.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 327

Resolved, That, upon the adoption of this resolution, the House shall be considered to have taken from the Speaker's table the bill H.R. 867 and an amendment of the Senate thereto and to have concurred in the amendment of the Senate with an amendment as follows: in lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted by the Senate, insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—REASONABLE EFFORTS AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTION PLACEMENTS

Sec. 101. Clarification of the reasonable efforts requirement.

Sec. 102. Including safety in case plan and case review system requirements.

Sec. 103. States required to initiate or join proceedings to terminate parental rights for certain children in foster care.

Sec. 104. Notice of reviews and hearings; opportunity to be heard.

Sec. 105. Use of the Federal Parent Locator Service for child welfare services.

Sec. 106. Criminal records checks for prospective foster and adoptive parents.

Sec. 107. Documentation of efforts for adoption or location of a permanent home.

TITLE II—INCENTIVES FOR PROVIDING PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

Sec. 201. Adoption incentive payments.

Sec. 202. Adoptions across State and county jurisdictions.

Sec. 203. Performance of States in protecting children.

TITLE III—ADDITIONAL IMPROVEMENTS AND REFORMS

Sec. 301. Authority to approve more child protection demonstration projects.

Sec. 302. Permanency hearings.

Sec. 303. Kinship care.

Sec. 304. Clarification of eligible population for independent living services.

Sec. 305. Reauthorization and expansion of family preservation and support services.

Sec. 306. Health insurance coverage for children with special needs.

Sec. 307. Continuation of eligibility for adoption assistance payments on behalf of children with special needs whose initial adoption has been dissolved.

Sec. 308. State standards to ensure quality services for children in foster care.

TITLE IV—MISCELLANEOUS

Sec. 401. Preservation of reasonable parenting.

Sec. 402. Reporting requirements.

Sec. 403. Sense of Congress regarding stand-by guardianship.

Sec. 404. Temporary adjustment of Contingency Fund for State Welfare Programs.