

The White House proposed an alternative document protocol essentially putting control of subpoenaed documents into the hands of the White House that is being investigated. We are today involved in investigating allegations of illegalities of a very serious nature which must be addressed without delay:

Did the Clinton administration sell foreign influence overseas in return for campaign contributions? The American people have a right to know.

Was America's national security put in jeopardy by foreign money that may have found its way into the Democratic National Committee's campaign coffers? The American people have a right to know. Did foreign governments funnel foreign funds into the 1996 campaign to influence the outcome? The American people have a right to know.

How did a cast of characters, such as John Huang, Charlie Trie, Chinese arms dealer Wang Jun, purported Russian mob figure Grigory Loutchansky, and convicted drug dealer Jorge Cabrera gain access to the highest levels of our Government? The American people have a right to know.

Were there unlawful disclosures of classified information to unauthorized Democratic National Committee employees as the CIA inspector general is now investigating? The American people have a right to know.

I was optimistic after my first meeting with White House counsel Charles Ruff in February that the White House's actions during the last Congress of delaying and withholding documents in the Whitewater, FBI files, and the Travelgate investigations would not be repeated. Yet, now, 6 months into this investigation and a month after the deadline for compliance with the committee's March 4 subpoena, the President is repeating the same dilatory tactics of the past.

Many of the subpoenaed documents which the White House has failed to produce pertain to close friends that the President has appointed to high Government positions, such as Webster Hubbell, John Huang, and Mark Middleton. These people have taken the fifth amendment to our committee. Other documents pertain to individuals who have fled the country, such as former Little Rock restaurant owner, Charlie Trie, another Presidential appointee.

Last week we sent the White House two narrowly targeted subpoenas for documents dealing only with John Huang and the Riady family, nothing else. These documents were first requested by the committee over 6 months ago. Mr. Huang is being investigated for alleged illegal activities involving foreign governments and interests while a Federal employee at the Department of Commerce and his DNC fund-raising practices. Of the \$3.4 million Huang raised for the DNC campaign during the last election, the DNC has pledged to return nearly half of that.

These two subpoenas were a real test case of whether the White House was going to cooperate with Congress or not. The deadline was yesterday, and the White House has not produced the documents. My staff has spent hours working with the White House to respond to its concerns.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to enter into the RECORD the chronology of the Government Reform and Oversight Committee's efforts to get the White House to turn over the documents regarding John Huang, which has been going on since last October. My predecessor, Chairman Clinger, issued the first request for Mr. Huang's documents on October 3, 1996. Six months, numerous letter requests, and three subpoenas later, the committee has yet to receive all the documents from the White House pertaining to John Huang.

Now we still need to obtain more documents that are outstanding and past due that are related to Charlie Trie, Webster Hubbell, and others. These documents are also being withheld and are important records we will be pursuing in the coming days.

Mr. Speaker, the major purpose of a congressional investigation is to illuminate the facts and not hide them. Congressional investigations are by their nature far different from a judicial inquiry where a grand jury conducts all matters secretly. Public disclosure of the facts is the essence and in large part the purpose of congressional oversight. The American people have a right to know the facts in these matters. The President committed to provide all documents. I hope that all Members, both Democrat and Republican, will join me in asking the President to keep his word and comply with our lawful subpoenas and produce all documents to our committee.

The document referred to is as follows:

GOVERNMENT REFORM AND OVERSIGHT CHRONOLOGY OF WHITE HOUSE DOCUMENT/SUBPOENA REQUESTS 1996-97

October 31, 1996—Then Chairman Clinger requested "all records regarding Mr. Huang's activities" including Huang's involvement in trade or foreign policy matters, all of Huang's White House meetings and explanation for Huang's fund-raising activities.

November 13, 1996—Chairman Clinger renewed his request for documents pertaining to John Huang.

November 1996—January 1997—Former White House Counsel Jack Quinn sent out memos to collect documents pertaining to John Huang, Charlie Trie and other key players connected with the illegal fund-raising allegations. White House made limited production of documents pertaining to these individuals.

January 15, 1997—Chairman Burton did a letter request to the White House for records pertaining to John Huang, Charlie Trie, Pauline Kanchanalak, and others. The due date for this request was January 30, 1997.

February 6, 1997—Chuck Ruff met with Chairman Burton and informed him that the President was going to be fully cooperative in providing documents and the President wouldn't claim executive privilege.

February-March 1997—Limited document productions are made and much of informa-

tion provided was previously provided or already made public. Substantive documents were produced in connection with certain Senate nominations.

March 4, 1997—Chairman Burton issued a subpoena to the White House due on March 24, 1997 for documents pertaining to John Huang, the Riadys, Charlie Trie, Webster Hubbell and others.

March 19, 1997—White House Special Counsel Lanny Breuer wrote to the Committee Chief Counsel: "I was heartened when you expressed an understanding that the White House anticipated making its production after the Committee had adopted governing protocols."

March 28, 1997—White House Special Counsel Breuer again wrote: ". . . the White House anticipated making its production after the Committee had adopted governing protocols."

April 10, 1997—Committee adopts a document protocol for the handling and storage of documents.

April 15, 1997—White House Counsel's office informed Committee that documents would not be provided despite the adoption of the document protocol. Documents pertaining to categories 1-8 of the subpoena were gathered at this point but the White House does not want to turn them over and refused to provide a privilege log outlining the documents that will be withheld. (Only limited production of non-sensitive documents was made).

April 16, 1997—White House Counsel attorneys and Committee attorneys met to discuss obtaining the outstanding documents. The White House objected to turning over "sensitive documents" and refused to commit to providing a privilege log.

April 18, 1997—After extensive discussions with the White House and the minority staff, the Committee sent a detailed letter to the White House prioritizing the March 4, 1997 subpoena. The Committee was told at this time that items 1-8 of the subpoena were gathered. Other priority items were identified pertaining to Webster Hubbell and Mark Middleton and were requested by April 28, 1997.

April 23, 1997—White House Counsel met with Chairman Burton to discuss documents that the White House had not produced. Charles Ruff committed to providing a privilege log for documents the President was going to withhold. Ruff was served at that meeting with two subpoenas specifically requesting all documents pertaining to John Huang and James Riady. (These subpoenas were a subset of previously subpoenaed records and were due to the Committee at noon on April 28, 1997.)

April 28, 1997—White House failed to provide documents pertaining to John Huang, the Riadys or Webster Hubbell and did not provide a privilege log detailing withheld documents, nor a letter from the President asserting privilege.

BALANCING THE BUDGET SHOULD BE OUR FIRST PRIORITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from Maine [Mr. BALDACCI] is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, we have been from the beginning of time, seems like, trying to balance our budget, trying to work on problems that impact on American lives, trying to make sure that children have health care, that working families can be able

to educate their children, provide health care, and be able to provide an opportunity for their futures.

We have many people within our State that have to go elsewhere because they cannot find the economic opportunities in our State. But this continual haranguing as it deals with this partisan fundraising as far as the political activities that are going on is derailing us from what our most important mission ought to be, which is to balance the Federal budget, to secure it for future generations, not just our generation, but our grandchildren's generation and thereafter.

But the continual sniping and partisanship that has been displayed by the House chairman of the committee doing the investigation is doing a disservice to all Americans who are trying to provide for their families.

I would encourage Members on the other side of the aisle, as we try to seek a balanced budget and try to do it in a bipartisan fashion, that these kinds of outrages and outbursts do not serve anybody's interest, especially the public's interest. And when I go home every weekend, the people in Maine are not asking me about the political fundraising that is going on at the White House or in Washington, they are asking me what am I doing to make college more easily accessible to them and their families so that they do not have to go to the poor farm.

In our State it has gone from 75 percent of the loan being a grant to 75 percent of the loan being a loan, so they get indebted and they do not go on to college.

□ 1300

We have got a lot of young people who cannot endure those expenses. We have got working families that are trying to make do on the minimum wage, but they cannot provide health care for their families. Those are the issues that are important to Americans. Those are the issues that are important to Maine people and those are the issues that we as Members of Congress that were elected to serve our people and be a voice for our people ought to be addressing.

I would encourage Members on the other side of the aisle and those that are interested in a bipartisan fashion to stop all this political partisan sniping and to focus on these issues so that we can really tell the people of America and Maine some of the more important things that are going on and what we are working on and that we truly are putting their interest, the public interest, before the Democratic or the Republican interest, the public interest, because that ultimately is the oath of office that we are sworn to.

These continuing partisan snipes and outbursts serve nobody's purpose. All they do is further polarize parties so it makes it that much harder to get together. In order for us to work with a Democratic President and a Republican Congress, we are going to need to reach

across the aisle. So these continuing outbursts and investigations and partisan sniping is not going to serve anybody's interest. They may help partisan political interests, but that really is not the interests for which we are here and elected to serve.

So while our time is here, we have to remember that famous quote, that we are not extraordinary people doing ordinary things. We are ordinary people trying to do extraordinary things. In order to do it, we have to continue to remember that it is being done for the public interest, not for the Democratic interest, not for the Republican interest, but the public interest.

I would encourage and implore my colleagues on the Republican side to work together with me to balance the budget and put the interests of the people first, not the interests of their party.

ON THE BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BURTON of Indiana). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. BLILEY] is recognized during morning hour debates for 1 minute.

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, I would say to the gentleman from Maine who preceded me in the well that I appreciate his remarks. It is time that we get moving on the budget and that we reach agreement.

But I would suggest firmly that he address his comments to his leadership in both bodies who have criticized the President recently for his willingness to work with the Republicans and to reach compromise. I think that would be more productive.

TODAY'S APPOINTMENTS BY PRESIDENT CLINTON TO NATIONAL GAMBLING IMPACT STUDY COMMISSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. WOLF] is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, today we just heard that the President made his appointments to the National Gambling Impact Study Commission. I would like to make a comment about it.

Today's appointments to the National Gambling Impact Study Commission by President Clinton, in my opinion, tilt the balance of the commission in favor of the gambling industry. The purpose of the commission is to conduct a study of gambling and provide America's communities with objective information so that they may make their own decisions about gambling.

The President personally told me that he supported the commission and appreciated its goals. In a letter to Senator Simon, the President wrote, and I quote, Senator Simon, former

Senator from the State of Illinois who retired last year, he said:

I deeply appreciate your efforts to draw attention to the growth of the gambling industry and its consequences. I have long shared your view about the need to consider carefully all of the effects of gambling, and I support the establishment of a commission for this purpose.

But that was before the casinos and the gambling interests began contributing to last year's elections. Today's appointments reaffirm how America feels about this administration. It appears to be for sale to the highest bidder and in cases like this is fundamentally corrupt.

The President of the United States today failed the American people. Today the President ignored all the problems related to gambling such as crime and corruption and cannibalization of business and the breakup of so many families.

The President turned his back on all those desperate Americans addicted to gambling who cheat, steal, or lie to fuel their habit. The President today willfully overlooked the suicides and the family dissolution that comes with gambling.

This is a sad day, I think, for America because the President's actions confirm the worst fears in that this administration has made a bad appointment and has, I think, poorly served the American people.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BLILEY). Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.) the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. SNOWBARGER] at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

We are grateful, O God, for all of those people whose attitude toward their lives and the lives of others, and indeed to Your whole creation, is an inspiration to us and to all who meet them or know them. We are grateful that Your gifts of faith and hope and love inspire people not only to talk about the opportunities and responsibilities of daily living, but whose lives are full of doing those good works and deeds that benefit people and strengthen our society. Bless them, O God, and bless all people whose constructive spirit helps them and us better understand and appreciate the hopes and the fears of each day. This is our earnest prayer. Amen.