

of money. Many more cases are rife with impropriety and unethical behavior, even if illegality has not yet been proven.

Let me address just a few: Mr. Johnny Chung, described as a "hustler" by a member of the National Security Council, made donations to the Democratic Party numerous times. Among these was a \$50,000 check handed over to Margaret Williams on the White House grounds during one of his 51 visits. The Democratic National Committee has announced it will return contributions totaling \$366,000 from Johnny Chung because it cannot verify the source of this money.

Mr. Charles Yah Lin Trie raised and contributed more than \$½ million to the Democratic National Committee. This money has been linked to funds transferred to him from the Bank of China, which is operated by the Chinese Government. The Democratic National Committee has returned \$187,000 that Mr. Trie contributed and plans to return another \$458,000 that he helped raise from others.

In November, 1995, Mr. Jorge Cabrera wrote a check for \$20,000 to the Democratic National Committee from an account that included proceeds from smuggling cocaine into the United States. Within 2 weeks, he met with Vice President GORE. He also attended a White House Christmas reception hosted by the First Lady. The Democratic National Committee returned his contribution almost a year later and he is now serving time in a Miami prison.

Mr. Speaker, these are just three examples, but they serve to illustrate a situation that is intolerable. The Democratic National Committee has given, and plans to give, huge sums of money back to the drug dealers, international hustlers, and foreign agents who broke the law in giving that money in the first place.

The penalty being suffered by Mr. Johnny Chung, Mr. Charlie Trie, and Mr. Jorge Cabrera is to have mountains of tainted money given back to them to use as they wish.

Mr. Speaker, these people are criminals. The American people, and particularly the people I represent, will not stand for it when the law allows them to be rewarded with hundreds of thousands of dollars in cash.

Mr. Speaker, I am introducing a bill today to remedy this extraordinary situation. The Apprehension of Tainted Money Act would require political committees that intend to return certain contributions to transfer those contributions to the Federal Election Commission.

The Commission would establish an interest-bearing escrow account, deposit returned contributions in it, and notify the Attorney General. The Commission and the Attorney General would be able to apply this money toward any fine or penalty imposed against the contributor under Federal election or criminal law. In addition, if a fine or penalty is imposed, the Commission or Attorney General could use deposited funds to cover the costs incurred in investigating the contribution. If the contributor were cleared, if the Commission and Attorney General failed to act, or if some portion of the money was used, the remaining contribution would be returned.

Mr. Speaker, my bill would prevent the Johnny Chungs, the Charlie Tries, and the Jorge Cabrerases from getting their dirty money back and spending it—or making it disappear—before Federal officials have a

chance to investigate them and apply appropriate fines and penalties.

Let me make one other point that I think is very important: We are seeing that, in many instances, the tainted money is being returned after an election has intervened. This means that money from an unknown, possible illegal source has been used by a campaign to influence an election. Anyone with a healthy skepticism and sense of watchfulness about our Government could not help but want to investigate whether there has been collusion between questionable campaign contributors and the individuals and parties to whom they gave. This makes the apprehension of tainted money bill all the more important.

I urge my colleagues in the House to join me in passing this legislation and getting it before the President for signature. There can be no time lost, because each returned contribution gives undue benefit to some of our Nation's most pernicious lawbreakers.

Let me briefly describe the bill in some more detail: The Apprehension of Tainted Money Act adds a new section to the Federal Election Campaign Act. The new section provides the following:

When a political committee intends to return a contribution of more than \$500, it must transfer the contribution to the Federal Election Commission [Commission] and ask the Commission to return it. This requirement does not apply to contributions returned within the times set by Commission rules for return or reattribution of contributions, but it does apply to contributions that a political committee discovers to be illegal after the Commission's deadline for return of illegal and nonreattributable contributions.

The Commission must establish an interest-bearing escrow account, deposit returned contributions in it, and notify the Attorney General when it receives such contributions. Interest from the funds placed in the escrow account shall be used to cover administrative costs of the account, all excess going to the U.S. Treasury.

The Commission must consider the return of the contribution in determining whether it has reason to believe that election laws have been violated.

The Commission or the Attorney General may apply returned contributions toward any fine or penalty imposed against the contributor under Federal election or criminal law. If a fine or penalty is imposed, the Commission or Attorney General may use deposited funds to cover the costs incurred in investigating the contribution.

The Commission must return the contribution if: First, the Commission and Attorney General certify that the contribution is not the subject of an investigation; second, the contribution will not be applied to any fine, penalty, or charge for cost of investigation, or the portion to be used has been subtracted from the returnable amount; or third, for any 120-day period, neither the Commission nor the Attorney General have pursued an investigation of the contribution.

The act applies from the date it is enacted, whether or not the Commission or Attorney General have issued regulations. Notwithstanding the Administrative Procedures Act, the Commission and Attorney General must issue final regulations within 30 days of the enactment of the act.

RIGHT WELFARE REFORM'S WRONGS BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. FILNER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I want to tell all my colleagues a brief story that we here in Congress have helped write with the passage of what we called the Welfare Reform bill last year. Members of this body have written a story with a tragic ending, but it is not too late to change it.

This is the story of Marta Molina and her 24 classmates at the San Diego Center for the Blind. All are long-time legal residents of this Nation whose supplemental security income will end in a few months unless there is legislative relief or they are naturalized as citizens.

Marta, who is 44 years old, is the mother of two grown children she raised by herself following a divorce 10 years ago. She and others in her English and life skills class began studying for the citizenship test well before welfare reform was enacted. After evaluating Marta's degenerative blindness, cataracts and cataract surgery, her physician asked the INS to give Marta extra study time. Because of the rigid mandates of welfare reform, she has no more time.

Marta's situation is serious, but the predicament of some of her other classmates is even worse. They are on dialysis and they can possibly die if their Medicare ends. The INS, which should not be in the position of correcting welfare reform's cruel and arbitrary cutoff of legal immigrants' benefits, including the blind, frail, and elderly, was asked to ease the naturalization process for some of these immigrants, but the INS's new rules will not help these blind students.

The rules, which do exempt disabled immigrants from the English and civics test, provide no relief for the blind, according to the INS authorities, because their vision impairment does not prevent them from studying and taking a test. These inflexible rules do not take into account that a disability like blindness makes it very difficult to master English and civics under a strict time limit.

These students of the San Diego Center for the Blind say they are terrified, living in fear of these inflexible policies that even do not comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. They say people are called at INS offices by a number flashing on a screen which they cannot see, and that test preparation material is not available in Braille or on tape. This situation demands our immediate intervention.

When this body passed welfare reform last year, I am sure those who voted for it did not intend to jeopardize the lives and peace of mind of thousands of long-time legal residents with disabilities. But now that the law's unintended consequences have been brought to our attention in story after story,

we must correct these wrongs. We must act to exempt the blind, frail, and elderly legal residents from the unintended effects of welfare reform, and we must give these residents the amount of time necessary to take the naturalization test.

It goes without saying that our own INS office employees should be sensitive to and comply with the dictates of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Mr. Speaker, it is up to us to act now. We must write a new ending, one that averts senseless and most certainly lethal suffering.

THE NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. BARRETT] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year I had the distinct pleasure and the great honor of chairing the 45th annual National Prayer Breakfast here in Washington.

Now, this is an annual event that is hosted by the Senate prayer group and the House prayer group, and it represents an effort by many thousands of people to come together once a year here in our Nation's Capital in prayerful reflection. The breakfast was initially founded as an opportunity for Members of Congress to express spiritual support for the President, for the leaders of our Nation and, of course, for each other.

This year more than 4,000 people came to the breakfast from all 50 States and from over 140 countries. The personal contacts we all had from across the Nation, from around the world, were something that were impressions that will last a lifetime.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my colleagues on the congressional committee that planned this most recent breakfast, I provide a copy of the transcript of that breakfast to be inserted in the RECORD so that everyone might read the uplifting and inspirational messages we heard that day.

THE NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST, THE WASHINGTON HILTON, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1997

Representative BILL BARRETT: It's a special privilege for me to be able to welcome each and ever one of you here this morning to the 45th annual National Prayer Breakfast, especially our friends from around the world, as well as those of you who are attending the prayer breakfast for the first time. God created us at different times and in different places, and with the flesh of a hundred different hues, but he did set us forth with a very common purpose; to love the Lord, our God, and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

We're gathered here today from six continents. I don't believe the Antarctica delegation has arrived yet. Ladies and gentlemen, there are nearly 170 countries represented here today—all 50 states are represented here today—here in this ballroom and in auxiliary rooms in which people who could not get into the ballroom are seated, viewing this on television.

We have nearly 4,000 people gathered for the 45th annual prayer breakfast. There are literally hundreds and hundreds of Republicans and Democrats, liberals and conservatives, people from all professions, all fields of service. We have laborers, we have prison parolees here, we have street people here. We have people of considerable wealth; we have people with little material wealth. There are people from all levels of society, all backgrounds, religiously and politically. There is represented here today truly a cross-section or our world.

Who we are is not the important point. The point is that we all come together to let each other know that we care. We come here to humbly beseech guidance; to further the building of humankind, recognizing and acknowledging the reliance that each of us has on Divine Providence. What a happy time it is that so many have chosen to join us this morning in the spirit of Jesus of Nazareth and to share this time together.

From the reports that we hear, read and observe, it's probably difficult to believe that members of Congress can ever agree with one another or find it possible to be perfectly united in mind and thought, as St. Paul admonished us to do. But it's my pleasant duty to bring to you greetings from the House of Representatives' Prayer Breakfast.

One of the most meaningful experiences for me since I've been a member of Congress has been to attend that prayer breakfast, in which we gather every Thursday morning in the Capitol at 8:00, in a time of fellowship and prayer with our colleagues. On these mornings, 40 to 50 Democrats and Republicans, without guests, with the exception of an occasional parliamentarian from another nation who is a member of a prayer group in that nation, or perhaps a parliamentarian who wants to come and observe our prayer breakfast, with the thought in mind of going back to his or her country and establishing a similar prayer breakfast. We meet simply to find fellowship in the spirit of Christ and to share burdens with each other.

We leave our differences outside the door. Labels remain outside the door. We get to know each other on a basis of something that transcends the labels that often divide us during the rest of the week. As a result, many special and many unlikely friendships have been born and even nurtured during that time together.

Our speaker each week—one week a Republican, one week a Democrat—is always a member of Congress, but no necessarily a member of our prayer group. We hear from that person, in which they share with us something that they want to talk about—perhaps some of the trauma in their life, some of the problems, some of the joys, some of the satisfactions, some of the triumphs. We've had some wonderful messages and, with each one, inspiration, better understanding and, of course, close friendships. And because of the seeds that were planted by the House and the Senate fellowship groups 45 years ago the National Prayer Breakfast, this prayer breakfast, has grown to include people from so many countries that we have to wonder today if we should perhaps rename the National Prayer Breakfast to "the International Prayer Breakfast."

So on behalf of both the Senate and the House prayer groups, who are hosting this breakfast, we thank you for sharing with us. We also acknowledge the hundreds of groups that are meeting simultaneously around the world as we meet here together at this particular moment—meeting around the world to praise the Lord.

Many of you know that Billy Graham has been a steadfast member of this national prayer group—I believe he has missed only

three National Prayer Breakfasts in 45 years. Dr. Graham had hoped to be with us today, but his health prevents it. And I'd like to share with you a message that I received from Dr. Graham.

"I hear constantly the impact that the Prayer Breakfast is having throughout the world. Since this is one of the few times I have every missed being at a breakfast since its beginning, I will certainly be in prayer that God will make this gathering one of the most significant prayer breakfasts we've ever had. Give my warmest greetings and affection to all of those in attendance, especially the president, Mrs. Clinton, the vice president, and Mrs. Gore.

"With warmest affection in Christ, I am cordially yours, Billy Graham."

The gentleman from Missouri, the minority leader of the House of Representatives, the Honorable Richard Gephardt, will now read from the Old Testament.

Representative GEPHARDT: Our Old Testament reading this morning is from Psalms. "Make a joyful shout to the Lord, all your lands. Serve the Lord with gladness. Come before His presence with singing. Know that the Lord He is God. It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves. We are His people, and the sheep of His pasture. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name for the Lord is good. His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations."

Representative BARRETT: Thank you, Mr. Minority Leader.

It's a tradition of the National Prayer Breakfast that a person of very special talent is chosen to present a solo at our breakfast. This morning we are thrilled to be able to present a young opera star of unparalleled prospect, a mezzo-soprano who has made a number of important debuts both here and in Europe. Please welcome Ms. Denyce Graves. (Ms. Graves sings "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" and "Every Time I Feel the Spirit.")

Representative BARRETT: What a thrill, right? Thank you, Ms. Graves.

The Scripture from the New Testament will be brought to us by the speaker of the House of Representatives, the gentleman from Georgia, the Honorable Newt Gingrich.

Speaker NEWT GINGRICH (R-GA): Let me just say that I think all of our hearts, I hope, were touched by Ms. Graves just now. It was truly a wonderful moment.

I'm going to read from John 3, verses 12 to 21.

"If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe if I tell you of heavenly things? And no man has ascended up to heaven but He that came down from heaven, even the Son of Man, which is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. He that believeth on Him is not condemned, but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation: that light is come unto the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh in the light, that his deeds made be made manifest, that they wrought in God."

Representative BARRETT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for that reading from the New Testament.