

done this. Education is a national concern, but a State and local responsibility. But Congress needs to help. Congress needs to provide assistance to those parents and those teachers and those principals and those people who are working every day to provide that quality education.

The Republican majority was convinced last month, or in July, that college education was helped. Now the American people need to convince this Congress we need to work on public education, kindergarten through 12th grade.

We talk about national tests today, but we are not talking about really quality education. Let us get off the test issue and get back on just talking about education.

□ 1030

THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROCKMART, GA

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

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the city of Rockmart, GA, which I am proud to represent, on its 125th anniversary, which it celebrated just last week on August 26, 1997.

Rockmart has a distinguished history as the birthplace of social, economic, and religious trends that have spread across northwest Georgia. Sam Jones, the internationally known 19th century Baptist evangelist, lived in Rockmart. The last survivor of the Revolutionary War in the South, Micajah Brooks, was buried in Rockmart following his death in 1863 at the age of 101½ years.

Rockmart is renowned for the slate and bricks it has exported across the world. Rockmart bricks can be seen on the bricks of London, England, and even occasionally wash up on the shores of Florida.

Rockmart's rich traditions are continued today by its citizens who have the privilege of living in one of the most friendly and beautiful communities in the entire country. The Rockmart of today combines the charm of smalltown America with economic opportunities with an envied quality of life that continues to grow on a daily basis. It is a fortunate person indeed who can claim Rockmart, GA, as their home, and it is a fortunate Member of Congress who has the honor of representing such a beautiful, all-American community in the U.S. House of Representatives.

SOFT MONEY MUST BE BANNED

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

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, as Congress reconvenes this week after suc-

cessfully passing a balanced budget deal, we have a major piece of business that we need to finish, campaign finance reform. Yet when the Republican leadership was asked what was on the agenda for the rest of this year, campaign finance reform was nowhere in sight.

So far this Congress, the Speaker has delayed over and over, refusing to bring up campaign finance reform, refusing to schedule a vote in the first 100 days, refusing to schedule a vote and accepting the President's challenge by July 4. Now he wants to end this year without dealing with campaign finance reform.

Well, many of us feel it is not too late. In fact, the only way to affect the 1998 elections and change the campaign finance system is to pass campaign finance reform now.

We have proposed ending soft money, abolishing soft money. Surely all of us can agree with all of the political hearings that have been held in Washington that there is a need to end soft money. This is a simple thing to do.

The only way we can affect the 1998 elections is to end soft money, and we are going to begin that battle this week.

SPEND EDUCATION DOLLARS IN THE CLASSROOM

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

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I would just like to quickly go on record before I talk for a minute about education to say AL GORE has some interesting things in the news today in respect to what my Democratic colleague just indicated on campaign finance reform.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the concept that no one knows more about the educational needs of a child than his parents and his teacher. No one knows more about the educational needs of a community than local school boards.

To most of us, this is just common sense. It is obvious. But it is apparently not obvious to those who for decades have poured hundreds of millions of dollars into a Federal education bureaucracy that has done little, if anything, to improve education in the classroom.

It is time to turn that around. It is time to focus our attention on what goes on in the classroom and the community and not what goes on in Washington, DC.

I support the initiatives in Congress that give parents, teachers, and school boards a stronger voice in the education of our children. Initiatives like the Dollars for the Classroom resolution, which puts children first by calling for 90 percent of Federal education dollars to be spent in the classroom and not on the perpetuation of a Federal bureaucracy.

AMERICANS DESERVE A VOTE ON SOFT MONEY

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

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues today in rising and asking for a vote on campaign finance reform. I understand the desire of many Members of this House to go home and talk about the things that have been accomplished to date, and no doubt there is much that has been accomplished.

But we have unfinished business, Mr. Speaker. Education obviously is one piece of that business, but when we do it, we need to speak with a credible voice. We are not going to speak with a credible voice unless the American people really believe that the people here are voting on their interests, the interests of the American people, and not on special interests. We can do that if we address campaign finance reform. We should talk about it in the most comprehensive terms, but we should at the very least talk about doing away with soft money.

No matter what party may have had grievances in the past, no matter what individuals may be called into question, the only way that this body gets any bit of comprehensive faith and trust from the American people is if we take on the issue, we debate it, we deliberate, and we vote on campaign finance reform before we go home this session. It is the American people's business; it is our business to see to it.

FIRST SURPLUS IN 30 YEARS ANTICIPATED

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

Mr. NEUMANN. Mr. Speaker, I too would like to encourage my Democrat colleagues who are calling for campaign finance reform to start with the Vice President and the hearings today, and let's make sure the laws on the books today are being adhered to.

I rise today with good news for this country. CBO put out new numbers yesterday, and it is more likely than ever that next year, 4 years ahead of schedule, for the first time since 1969 we will have a balanced budget. For first time since 1969, it is going to force Washington to deal with something they haven't dealt with in 30 years, and that is a surplus. For first time since 1969, next year we start looking at a budget surplus.

We need to remember, however, that even after we reach a balanced budget, we still have a \$5.4 trillion debt. In order to address this issue, we have introduced the National Debt Repayment Act. It would require that one-third of the surplus be used to reduce taxes further, and two-thirds go to pay down the Federal debt; and in paying down the

Federal debt, we also put the money back into the Social Security trust fund that it has been taken from.

The National Debt Repayment Act would repay the entire Federal debt by the year 2026, would restore the Social Security trust fund, and guarantee additional tax cuts each year as far as the eye can see. Good news for America.

TRIBUTE TO PRINCESS DIANA

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

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of Atlanta and the Fifth District of Georgia, I rise to pay tribute to a beautiful and gracious woman, Princess Diana. With beauty, dignity, and grace, she saw suffering, she saw pain, and she did something about it.

Leading a crusade of love and compassion, Princess Diana put a face on people suffering from AIDS. She comforted the sick and the poor. As she helped war-ravaged children in Angola, she focused the world's attention on the devastation of landmines. As the public gazed on her, Princess Diana opened our eyes and our hearts.

Today, we mourn for her family, especially her two young sons, but we also mourn for all of humankind, because the world has very few Dianas.

We are more than lucky. As members of the human family, we are blessed to have known this beautiful person.

Mr. Speaker, our hearts are heavy from this tragic loss. The world is a darker and colder place without the radiance of Princess Diana.

We will miss you. Rest in peace, Sweet Princess.

VIOLENCE MUST END IN MIDDLE EAST

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

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, today, I come to the well of the House to urge my colleagues to support the Fox-Miller amendment to protect the African elephant and support the CAMPFIRE Program. But as I came over here, I learned about the tragic news in Israel.

As the United States is the world's leader for democracy, we have a responsibility to speak up for Israel, the only democracy in the Middle East. Hamas has taken the credit for the latest bombing in Israel that killed innocent victims.

Yasser Arafat has violated the Oslo accords and encouraged violence against Israelis. The Congress and the President must work together now to bring peace to the Middle East and to end the violence.

IMPROVING EDUCATION NATIONWIDE

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

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, tens of millions of children this week headed back to school. Their parents were taking them to the front doors of the schools and sending them in with high hopes and high expectations.

Those hopes and expectations, unfortunately, might be dashed if those parents were able to see the numbers that we know about here in Washington: that since 1960 we have spent 200 percent more on government schooling, and SAT scores have dropped 70 points in that same time period. Our international comparisons suffer when we line our math and science scores up against our international competitors.

Sadly, people in some quarters still look to Washington to try to fix this problem.

Well, I am here to tell you about some exciting things that have taken place throughout the country. Tuesday morning I was on hand as we opened up the first charter school in northern Colorado. Three of my four children are attending that school today. There are more charter schools in the State, hundreds more throughout the country.

What concerned parents are realizing is that the answers to fixing our schools are not to be found here in Washington by a large, centralized bureaucracy. They are to be found at home where parents are treated like real customers, teachers are treated like real professionals, and school choice allows an opportunity to improve the quality of public education nationwide.

PRIDE IN THE SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS

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

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, for the past 4½ years, I have had the honor of representing the area of southwest Georgia where the School of the Americas is located.

I am proud of the school. All Americans should be. It has provided professional training to thousands of military and civilian police personnel from throughout Latin America, including extensive indoctrination in the principles of human rights and representative democracy.

For less than \$4 million a year, the school promotes democracy, builds stronger relationships with our neighbors, and combats narcotics trafficking. Some handful of the school's graduates have committed terrible crimes, but over 68,000 have been on the front lines of the move toward democracy in Latin America.

The school has undergone a series of investigations and studies, and all confirm that it has been a force for good in our hemisphere.

I urge all of my colleagues to visit the school, learn more about the job it is doing, and not to rush to judgment on the basis of false and unfounded accusations made by people who may have good intentions, but who have little regard for the facts.

Mr. Speaker, I urge our colleagues to support the truth. Support the School of the Americas.

POLITICAL "NEW MATH"

(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, summer is over, schools are open, the kids are back, reading, writing and arithmetic.

There are a lot of ideas kicking around about how best to teach to our children. One creative, yet controversial, idea in Houston asked math problems using street examples about drug dealers and guns and prostitution and murder and so forth.

Maybe that idea was a bad one, but we could try some political questions.

For example, if illegally using White House phones, AL raises \$30,000 a call from Democrat fat cats, how long does it take him to raise an illegal \$120,000?

If AL reimbursed the taxpayers \$24.20 for raising the \$120,000, how much profit does he make?

If Bill rents the Lincoln Bedroom for \$100,000 a night, how many nights does he have to rent it to raise a million dollars?

If the Clinton appointees state under oath "I can't recall" once a second, how long would it take them before we have heard it one trillion times?

You know, the Democrats are real upset about campaign finance reform. It is about like asking Mike Tyson to lead a fair-fighting commission.

It is absurd, Mr. Speaker. Let us start looking at the White House if we want to talk campaign finance reform.

□ 1045

IN CONDEMNATION OF TERRORIST BOMBING IN JERUSALEM

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

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to condemn the brutal and cowardly terrorist bombing in a shopping area crowded with women and children and tourists in Jerusalem this morning. At least 6 people have been killed and another 138 people wounded.

The United States and the world must be clear and unwavering that murder will never bring peace, and that as long as Mr. Arafat continues to embrace terrorists, as he did only last