

I trust parents in eastern North Carolina to make decisions for their children more than I trust bureaucrats in Washington, DC. When it comes to America's public schools, control should be in the hands of parents.

Mr. Speaker, for the sake of the children, I hope my colleagues will support school choice and education savings accounts.

IT IS TIME FOR BOB DORNAN TO STOP WASTING THE TAXPAYERS' MONEY

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

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise about the House election contest in California.

First, Bob Dornan is given unprecedented subpoena power which he uses to harass and violate the privacy rights of law-abiding American citizens simply because they have a Spanish surname. Then those actions amount to nothing short of a witch-hunt.

Now I read in yesterday's Roll Call that Bob Dornan will use his special privileges as a former Member to take his witch-hunt to the House floor. Surely, this casts an appearance of impropriety upon the House.

If this election were being challenged by any American other than a defeated Member of the House, that American could not come to the House floor to lobby on behalf of their own interests. They would not get special subpoena powers, and neither should Bob Dornan.

Bob Dornan should not use the privileges as a former Member of this House to influence his case. Mr. Speaker, there should not be a case at all. The Republican California Secretary of State certified the election of the gentlewoman from California, and there is no sufficient credible evidence to challenge it.

It is time for Bob Dornan to stop wasting taxpayers' money, to end this witch-hunt and end the influence that he is trying to use in this House.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO FIX LOOPHOLE PREVENTING USE OF LINE-ITEM VETO

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

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I spent most of my August break back in my district listening to my constituents, and many were pleased, in fact, when the President used for the first time the line-item veto. In fact, many wished that the President had had the authority for the disaster relief bill that we passed earlier this year, and so many other bills in recent years where so many things are tucked away in some of those bills that no one hears about them until after they are enacted.

I support budget reform, and in fact, as part of the Contract with America, we included the line-item veto, which passed this House by a very large margin, to allow the President to have the line-item veto, as well as the 43 other Governors across the country.

Lo and behold, we have discovered a loophole that causes the line-item veto to go away.

I am proud of the bipartisan legislation that we passed here in this House that puts us on a solid fiscal footing and, in fact, balances the budget by the year 2002. We even have a surplus. But, lo and behold, that loophole that we have discovered prevents us from using the line-item veto despite having a \$5½ trillion national debt.

We are introducing legislation to fix this, and I would urge my colleagues to support it.

THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE UNITED STATES BORDER PATROL DESERVE BETTER

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

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support and defense of the hard-working men and women of the U.S. Border Patrol. Regrettably, last night on this floor the integrity, professionalism, dedication, and the ability of these fine men and women was attacked.

Mr. Speaker, it is unfortunate that some in this institution would resort to these kinds of tactics for the sole purpose of political agendas and end-justify-the-means mentality that question the outstanding and dangerous work being done by our Border Patrol agents.

The men and women that comprise our Border Patrol represent the best that this country has to offer, men and women of every description and background, men and women that come from every State in this country and have dedicated themselves to the dangerous job of Federal law enforcement, and while some in this people's House may not appreciate this, I do, and, Mr. Speaker, I speak from personal experience that spans 26½ years. I know how tough their job is, I know how dangerous their job is, and I know how important their job is because I have been there, I have seen it and I have done it.

Those who attack their integrity, their dedication, and their commitment are not only wrong but undermine the morale of a fine agency. The men and women of the U.S. Border Patrol deserve better, the people of this country expect better, and, frankly, those in this institution that attack them know better.

Mr. Speaker, all of us need to support the U.S. Border Patrol.

THOMPSON COMMITTEE CONTINUING PROBE DESPITE HAVING SO MUCH TROUBLE GETTING PEOPLE TO COOPERATE

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

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, it is becoming clearer with every passing day that one would have to dig to China to get to the bottom of all the campaign finance scandals in this administration. Although, come to think of it, I guess one would actually have to go to China to find all the shady characters who fled the country to escape justice. But even all the tea in China cannot force foreign fundraisers to come to the United States Senate and tell the truth.

While some Democratic Senators are gleeful that the Thompson committee is having trouble getting people to cooperate, those responsible Senators who actually care about performing their constitutional duty to find out the truth about campaign finance crimes that may have been committed will continue to probe this sleazy affair.

Mr. Speaker, my constituents and yours have a right to know if their elected officials really do believe that they are above the law. It is time to get to the bottom of this; it is time to start digging.

IMPROVED ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE ACHIEVED AS A RESULT OF TESTS AND MORE RIGOROUS STANDARDS

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, Democrats want to raise education standards across the country so that students in every State can master the basics of reading and math; and testing, I believe, is an important part of that effort to achieve national standards.

In my home State of New Jersey, we have seen improved academic performances as a result of more rigorous standards. Tests administered to all New Jersey students have been a significant ingredient in my State's efforts to improve student achievement. Education, I believe, and I will stress this, will always be primarily a State and local matter, but there needs to be a partnership with the Federal Government, and I believe the test national standards and Federal dollars made available to local school districts to rebuild crumbling and overcrowded schools should all be part of a national agenda to improve education.

We can work together on the Federal and the State and the local level to achieve excellence in education.

CHEATING IN THE WHITE HOUSE

(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, as America's schoolchildren go back to the schoolhouse, I wonder what they must think of their obligation to obey the rules, and when the occupants of the White House feel no obligation to obey the rules themselves. Let us consider the Presidential campaign of 1996. It, of course, would not be fair if some candidates had to obey it while others did not.

For example, it is very important that everybody play by the same campaign finance rules. Those who broke the rules would be considered to have cheated by those who honored the rules. Examples of cheating would be taking foreign money, which besides being illegal would compromise the foreign policy decisions of the American government.

Cheating would also include making fundraising phone calls from the White House. Cheating would also include making deals that require campaign contributions in exchange for a meeting or in exchange for inclusion in the trade mission or for sleeping in the Lincoln bedroom.

Now of course other people use a different word to describe this kind of cheating, it is called corruption, but every child in schools today understands cheating.

BAN SOFT MONEY

(Ms. WOOLSEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, the American people are tired. They are tired of special interests and big money wreaking havoc on our political system. And Mr. Speaker, they are tired of the Republican leadership's continued refusal to bring up campaign finance reform on our floor. We want to debate it, not stand here and complain about it. There are many proposals, Mr. Speaker, to clean up our political system, but at the very least we should agree on one small step and that is to ban soft money.

Mr. Speaker, when we ban soft money we will tell the American people that in our political system the almighty dollar is not all mighty any more, and at the same time, Mr. Speaker, we will tell the people of this country that the bucks have stopped coming here.

STRENGTHENING EXISTING CAMPAIGN FINANCE LAWS

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

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, as part of the latest effort by the Democrats to defend apparent illegal campaign activities by the President and Vice President, the gentlewoman from New York a few moments ago said existing law is not enough. Well, I think she is right, existing laws are not enough, and I would be glad to join her

in cosponsoring legislation that strengthens our existing laws.

For example, what she might want to join me in doing is amending section 607(a), of title XVIII to read that no person including but not limited to the President and Vice President shall raise or solicit funds from any Federal facility including but not limited to the Old Executive Office Building or the White House.

Or maybe the gentlewoman from New York would like to join the legislation that strengthens our internal revenue codes, those provisions that relate to improper campaign activities by charitable institutions, to make explicit that among the prohibitions for 501(c)3 and (c)4 organizations from engaging in politics are included but not limited to Buddhist temples.

So, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the thoughts of the gentlewoman from New York and her interest in joining with us in strengthening existing laws.

DEMOCRATS FIGHTING FOR AMERICA'S CHILDREN

(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, I rise today to remind my colleagues what we can accomplish when we stand up and fight for what we believe in.

In the last Congress, our Republican colleagues attempted to slash the school lunch program. They advocated the single biggest cuts in education in the history of the United States; they wanted to abolish the Department of Education. Democrats stood up, fought for these issues, fought for America's children and won.

Now our colleagues on the other side of the aisle are attempting a new assault, fighting against Democratic initiatives to improve America's schools to set national standards for our schools.

Democrats are fighting to rebuild our crumbling schools, to reduce overcrowding in our classrooms, and to establish those national standards in reading and mathematics. Let us make sure that students in Boston are held to the same high standards as students in Birmingham.

A word of warning to our friends on the other side of the aisle: Once again, Democrats are going to stand up and make the fight for America's kids, and I predict that we will win.

REJECT THE LIBERAL SOLUTION FOR OUR FAILING PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, the more things change, the more they seem to stay the same.

Our liberal colleagues, we just heard, have come up with a solution for a fail-

ing public school system. Well, they are going to pass a law that tells students what they must learn. It is that easy.

From Washington, DC, the liberals want to set the academic agenda for every school in the Nation. They believe that if Congress and not our schools or teachers tell our students what they must learn, the problem will disappear. The same one-size-fits-all, Washington knows best approach that did not work for welfare is the liberal savior for our public school system. And should this system fail, they have a back-up plan. They will spend billions of taxpayer dollars to create yet another bloated bureaucracy to find yet another way to tell us the system is not working.

I urge my colleagues to reject the liberal solution and to end this nonsense and support the Goodling amendment. Let us send the money to the school and the teachers and students where it will do some good and not to the Washington bureaucrats.

□ 0930

A SEASON FOR NONVIOLENCE

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

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, at a celebration of India's independence, I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Arun Gandhi, the grandson of Mahatma Gandhi. In a conversation which followed, Mr. Gandhi and I discussed the planned Season for Nonviolence, which will create greater awareness of the principle of nonviolence for which we honor the lives of Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr.

Coinciding with the 50th and 30th memorial anniversaries of Gandhi's and King's deaths, a Season for Nonviolence will begin on January 30, 1998, with activities planned through April 4, 1998. It is, of course, hoped that the seeds of nonviolence planted during this time will be nurtured and fruitful long after the official ending of a season.

A Season for Nonviolence is committed to such changes as truth, respect, acceptance of others, negotiation, appreciation of differences, and reconciliation.

I encourage all of my colleagues to participate in this great movement. It is my sincere hope that this will be one season without end.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I offer a motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. MILLER of California moves that the House do now adjourn.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to adjourn