

it. Sir I have three young children, babies ages three, five and six years of age. My oldest daughter has Cystic Fibrosis, and she needs the care and love of both of her parents. Sir I'm not a bad person, I'm not a terrorist. I'm a man who made some mistakes, when I was very foolish kid. Sir I love my children very much, more than life itself, and I have means to support my children very well with the career I intend to make for myself.

Sir I can go anywhere in this country and get a good paying job driving tractor trailers. Sir I love this country. I came to this country in 1966 and this country is all I know. I don't know how to write or read Portuguese. I know just enough language to get by. Sir where am I going to live, how am I going to eat. I don't know these questions myself, I'm terrified Sir. All my families are here in the U.S. I don't know why they want to take a father away from his children. Did I do something that bad where my children are going to lose their father for. Sir why even live anymore. I'm scared Sir. I'm sorry for the people who died in Oklahoma, but I didn't kill them. I didn't blow up the Trade Center. I'm sorry for the people who lost their children, the children who lost their father, the wife who lost her husband. But that's what the country is doing to me and my family. I'm a 31 year old Catholic that want to work hard, pay his taxes, become a citizen and vote, raise my children the best I know how and help them live the American Dream. Like my parents did, work hard and they became citizens of this great land. Sir in my heart and soul I am an American. I love this land and would die for it if I had to, to protect it and protect democracy here and in the world. I don't know if you can help someone like myself a statistic to the I.N.S., but a father and financier to my family. If you can help me in anyway, I thank you and am in your debt and prayers for my lifetime, "thank you Sir."

Thank you Congressman Barney Frank.

WHAT IS REALLY NEEDED FOR CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

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

Mr. STEARNS. Good morning, Madam Speaker. The only thing more complicated today, Madam Speaker, than our current campaign finance system is the Tax Code. But the solution of ridding the ills of the current system is not by making things more complicated, as much of the legislation that is being offered today in Congress does.

Now, some have suggested that our first amendment rights should be curtailed in order to create some type of mythical level playing field for Federal elections. Now, the minority leader, the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. GEPHARDT], was quoted this year as saying, in *Time Magazine*, 1997, February 3, "What we have here are two important values in direct conflict. Freedom of speech and our desire for healthy campaigns and a healthy democracy. You can't have both."

Quite frankly, I find this viewpoint wrong. In fact, I believe one can have freedom of speech and healthy campaigns. The American people should

never be forced to lose a part of their precious freedom in order to pursue a socially engineered campaign finance system.

The courts have been very clear that the Government cannot restrict the freedom of American citizens in an effort to implement strict expenditure and contribution limits. In *Buckley versus Valeo* the U.S. Supreme Court, in 1976, ruled that "In the free society ordained by our Constitution, it is not the Government, but the people, individually as citizens and candidates and collectively as associations and political committees, who must retain control over the quantity and range of debate on public issues in a political campaign."

What we need to do is to enforce the campaign finance laws that are already on the books and then work together to simplify the laws so the American people are being well served.

The modern campaign finance system was dramatically affected in 1908 during President Teddy Roosevelt's administration, when corporate contributions were banned. Congress then mandated in 1910 that Federal candidates disclose all campaign contributions.

Congress thoughtfully extended a corporate ban to include labor unions beginning in 1943. Corporations and unions, after these bans, could then only give to Federal candidates through Political Action Committees, PAC's. PAC's are separate, segregated funds that pool voluntary contributions from designated classes of individuals such as members of unions and employees of a company to give or spend in Federal elections.

Now, the Hatch Act in 1940 had also limited all campaign contributions to \$5,000. The Hatch Act was then applied to union PAC's when union contributions were banned from Federal elections.

Now, as we all know, the flurry of campaign finance laws in the 1970's revolved around the Watergate scandal. The legislation from the 1970's imposed limits on contributions, required uniform disclosure of campaign receipts and expenditures, and established the Federal Election Campaign Commission, the FEC, as a central administrative enforcement agency. A part of these reforms that limited certain expenditures was struck down by the Supreme Court in the landmark case of *Buckley versus Valeo*.

These laws imposed limits of \$1,000 per individual every election on contributions to candidates, parties, and PAC's, and a \$5,000 limit for PAC's every year. An aggregate limit was set on individuals and PAC's at \$25,000 per year that could be given to all Federal candidates, parties, and PAC's.

Again, what is needed now is not to make the laws more complicated. Rather, simplicity is the path to strengthening our system and gaining credibility with the American people. We can also gain a tremendous amount of credibility with the American people

by actually investigating and enforcing the current law.

So, Madam Speaker, this morning my message is, like the Tax Code, simplicity and enforceability are what is needed today in the campaign finance reform matter. No matter what laws are put in place, we will have smart people stretching those laws. We need to enforce the laws that are on the books and keep them simple and understandable.

IMMEDIATE FUNDING FOR EDUCATION

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

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, Democrats this week will continue our effort to improve our Nation's public schools. We believe strongly that every child in America should have access to quality public education. Unfortunately, the Republican leadership keeps trying to erode support for public schools. House Democrats' priorities for education include reducing overcrowding in schools, as well as rebuilding crumbling schools.

The dire need to invest in the physical infrastructure of our schools is a matter that every Member of this body has become very familiar with in the last several weeks, and I am referring of course to the delayed opening of the school year right here in the District of Columbia. Because of the decrepit physical conditions of many schools in the District of Columbia, the opening of the school year has been postponed by a minimum of 3 weeks. Talk has surfaced in recent days that the 3-week extension may not be enough, and this is indeed a sad state of affairs. Many school systems across the Nation, including schools in my home State of New Jersey, are badly in need of physical improvements and other upgrades to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

The General Accounting Office has noted that approximately one-third of all schools serving 14 million students are now in need of substantial repair or outright replacement. The GAO has also noted that half of the Nation's schools have at least one unsatisfactory environmental condition. Indeed, as school enrollment continues to grow in the coming years, the need for additional space and modern facilities will be more acute than ever.

For this school year, 1996-97, elementary and secondary school enrollment was a record 51.7 million. That record has been broken by this year's all-time high enrollment figure of 52.2 million. In other words, from last year to this year, the record was broken again.

To put it in perspective, there are more students enrolled in school now than there were when the baby boomers reached their peak school enrollment number in 1971. According to

the Department of Education, school enrollment is projected to climb to a whopping 54.6 million by the 2006 school year.

In addition to the need to repair decaying schools, we also need to modernize schools so our students will have the resources they need to compete in today's economy. The National Center for Education statistics have noted that only 4 percent of schools have enough computers to allow regular use by each student. Forty-six percent of schools lack the electrical wiring necessary for computers in all classrooms. A mere 9 percent of classrooms are currently connected to the Internet. More than half the Nation's schools lack the needed infrastructure to access the Internet or network their computers.

The Department of Education estimates that over the next 10 years, 6,000 new schools will be needed in response to the increases in student enrollments.

I wanted to mention, Madam Speaker, that in addition to the effects deteriorating schools can have on the health of children, we must also keep in mind the harmful effects that overcrowding and decaying schools can have on the quality of education to students. I know from my own experience in my own district, having gone around to some of the schools, how limited classroom space, cramming students in the gyms or labs or other facilities can really have a very negative impact on students' attitudes, as well as teachers' attitudes in the classrooms. For these reasons, Madam Speaker, the Democrats are making school construction one of our top priorities within our education agenda.

Last night I was joined in a special order by the gentlewoman from New York [Mrs. LOWEY] who has introduced legislation that proposes to provide local school districts with 50 percent intrasubsidies for new construction and renovation. The plan includes a \$5 billion Federal jump-start and has the goal of increasing school construction by 25 percent over the next 4 years. This is the type of thing that we need.

We finished the budget about a month ago, and a big part of that was addressing the needs of higher education, more accessibility, more affordability for higher education. But right now there is this big gap in the whole effort to upgrade our education programs in this country, and a big part of that gap is the need for new schools and to upgrade existing, crumbling schools and to address the issue of overcrowding.

I want to pledge that we, as Democrats, are going to make this a major priority. We are going to pressure the Republicans, the Republican leadership, into addressing this issue and endorsing a plan similar to that of Mrs. LOWEY or some other plan that addresses the need for school construction. It is not something that is going to go away; it is something that is only going to get worse, and there is a need

for a Federal partnership with local governments and State governments to address this issue.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

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

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, I want to talk about campaign finance reform this morning. I want to say that campaign finance reform does not have to be a partisan issue. It is becoming a partisan issue, but it does not have to be. The question before this Congress is whether we are going to spend millions of dollars and months of time investigating and never get to the step of actually doing some legislating.

I believe that we came here to legislate reform and that we ought to do it. Investigations, millions of dollars and months of hearings, are not enough.

I said that campaign finance reform does not have to be a partisan issue. The freshmen have proved that. The gentleman from Arkansas [Mr. HUTCHINSON], a Republican freshman, and I from Maine, have been cochairing a bipartisan freshman task force composed of six Republicans and six Democrats.

After 5 months of hearings, after 5 months of negotiations, after 5 months of consultations with experts from outside this Congress, with people who represented organizations, who participated in the 1996 election in one way or another, with advocates ranging from those who want to take all limits off campaign spending to those who want to put more limits on candidate spending, after all of that activity, we came up with a proposal, with a bill. It is H.R. 2183. It is the bipartisan Campaign Integrity Act of 1997. It is truly bipartisan.

What does this act do? Well, quite simply, it takes the biggest of the big money out of politics. All of the hearings that are going on on the House side and on the Senate side involve what is called soft money. These are the \$500,000, the \$1 million contributions to the national parties, and they did not used to be able to be used for television ads, but that is what they are used for today; that is what they were used for in 1996. We need to stop that practice. We need to ban soft money.

The Campaign Integrity Act does that, H.R. 2183. We take the biggest of the big money out of politics by banning soft money. No Federal candidate, no Member of Congress, no Member of the Senate could raise soft money either for the national party committees or for State party committees.

We also make sure that we speed up the process of candidate disclosure so those of us running for office would have to report our contributions on a monthly basis and do so electronically.

Third, we make sure that people will not be able to run third party ads and

not tell the public who they are. So there would have to be a filing with the Clerk of the House and with the Secretary of the Senate to make sure that third party independent groups identify who they are and identify how much money they are spending.

As I said, this act is truly bipartisan. The question is, when will the Republican leadership of this House allow a vote on the bipartisan Campaign Integrity Act? When will it happen? We are not asking for a vote next year, we are not asking that this issue once again be put off sometime into the indefinite future. We are saying, act now, do not just investigate now.

This issue will not go away. The American people will not let this issue go away, and this House should not go home, this House should not adjourn without having a vote on a bill to ban soft money.

I suggest to my colleagues that H.R. 2183, the bipartisan Campaign Integrity Act of 1997, is that bill. We need a vote on that bill and all we ask from the Republican leadership is a vote on this House floor.

EDUCATION AND CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

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

Mr. ROGAN. Madam Speaker, I have been intrigued by the comments of my two colleagues who just preceded me in addressing the House, the gentleman from Maine [Mr. ALLEN] and the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PALLONE]. I am compelled, based on their commentaries, to make a few observations.

First, with respect to the challenge that was made to Republicans on the issue of supporting school construction, neither party has a monopoly on virtue on this particular subject. The question is, how are we going to fund school construction, and which party is truly standing for proposals that will increase school construction?

Back in my home State, when I was majority leader of the California State Assembly, we passed more money for education last year than had been appropriated in almost 30 years. Members then went home after the session and congratulated themselves for that accomplishment. But the reality was that the victory was somewhat Pyrrhic in nature, because in California the manner in which school construction is funded is impeded in two significant ways.

In California, like with the Federal Government, we pay construction contracts with a labor union prevailing wage. The California prevailing wage law works like this: if a school is being built in a rural area of the State, the government pays those with whom it contracts the highest union wage paid to workers in urban areas like San