

affair. In fact, the freshmen of this Congress, six Republicans and six Democrats, worked on a task force and developed the Bipartisan Campaign Integrity Act of 1997. It takes the biggest of the big money out of politics and it does something else: It takes the contentious issues off the table.

There are those on the Republican side who simply want to do something about labor unions. But they know that is a deal breaker. There are those on the Democratic side who want to do something about candidate spending limits, but those over here think that is a deal breaker.

The fact is, we can take the biggest of the big money out of politics. We need to support the Bipartisan Integrity Act of 1997, the freshman task force bill. In this Congress we should legislate, not just investigate. I urge all my colleagues, especially those on the Republican side, to join the 11 Republicans and many Democrats who support this bill.

MOTHER TERESA

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

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, several years ago a newspaper reporter assigned to cover Mother Teresa of Calcutta decided to follow her around for an entire day to see what a day in the life of the Saint of the Gutters was really like.

After visiting several hospitals and feeding the hungry, the reporter followed Mother Teresa to a sewer on the outskirts of town. The tiny woman proceeded to get down on her hands and knees in the middle of the sewer where she began talking to the destitute people living there. The reporter standing on the safety of the concrete street above looked down to Mother Teresa, shook his head and said, I would not do that for a million dollars. Mother Teresa looked up to the reporter and said, "I wouldn't either."

This story captures the essence of a great humanitarian, a woman who touched lives with her Missionary of Charities and saved souls with her message of Christ. Politically incorrect and yet morally courageous, this heroic woman touched the lives of millions with her conviction, her commitment, and, most important, compassion.

Mr. Speaker, I hope we can all join together in the memory of Mother Teresa and work to make America a little more like her, a place where individuals matter, character counts, a place where people love their neighbors and respect themselves and, most important, a place where service and sacrifice are not things people do for money but things people do for free.

MORE ON CAMPAIGN FINANCE

(Mr. TURNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2183, the bipartisan freshman campaign finance reform bill. Abraham Lincoln once wrote that with public trust, everything is possible. And without it, nothing is impossible. He recognized that a democracy cannot work unless people have confidence and trust in their government.

Over the last few decades, this essential trust has been undermined, not only by periodic scandals but by the everyday practice of raising huge sums of money from wealthy contributors and special interests. Year after year, both parties raise larger and larger amounts of what people in Washington call "soft money," but my folks back home in Texas call "hard cash."

People cannot help but wonder whether their government is for sale to the highest bidder. The reforms that we propose are not intended to help or hurt either party. These reforms are designed to help restore the people's confidence in the independence of their Representatives and in the integrity of their government. The only way to regain people's confidence is to pass campaign finance reform.

STANDARDIZED FEDERAL TESTING

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

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, in the area of education there has been a lot of talk lately about the importance of testing. I would like to talk today about something we do not hear as much about. That is the importance of learning.

Some people think we do not have enough standardized testing. They think we need to spend more than \$90 million on a new Federal test to tell parents how their kids are doing.

Right now schools in my home State of South Dakota and other States around the country already give students two standardized tests. Both of those tests are given in March and both take about a week to administer.

Now, President Clinton wants another standardized test. It would also be given in March and it would take about a week to administer. That means students back home in South Dakota would spend the entire month of March not learning but testing.

Think about it. Would you like to spend three solid weeks filling in the oval next to the correct answer with a No. 2 pencil? I cannot think of anything I would dislike more unless it is spending \$90 million to do it. That is why I am urging my colleagues to vote for more learning in our schools and less pointless, redundant standardized Federal testing.

SUPPORT BIPARTISAN CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

(Mrs. MINK of Hawaii asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, the people of this Nation have a right to expect that the Congress act upon issues that are raised. We are now investigating campaign financing, and every day we hear about this unregulated, unlimited, huge sums of money being poured into our national parties and other independent committees.

Almost all of the bills that have been offered for consideration have one provision in common, and that is ban the soft money contributions that are currently unregulated.

All of us run under a Federal election law that regulates our contributions, no more than \$1,000 per election, no more than \$5,000 in PAC contributions. Why is it not so simple for this Congress to pass a bill that bans soft money? There is absolutely no justification for our just sitting here and listening to this debate without action. The people have a right to expect this Congress to be responsive. We have the legislation before us to do it. Let us act today.

NATIONAL STANDARDS

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

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Speaker, the issue du jour for the Clinton administration is to create national education testing standards. I find this ironic in light of today's newspaper account: Former Democrat Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare Joe Califano has just published a comprehensive report on America's schools. He described them as a "candy store" for illegal drugs being available to our Nation's school children.

The Clinton Department of Education's response to this report was, in typical ostrich fashion, to ignore it. They replied that our schools are essentially safe and drug free, so "let's get back to the issue of national standards."

Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that the bipartisan "national education standard" we ought to be working for is safe schools that are drug free. How else can we guarantee our children a world-class education? That should be the first priority of President Clinton and his administration. We Republicans will happily work with him to achieve this national standard that we can all be proud of, and pass on a legacy to children that will endure the test of time.

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE W. CROCKETT

(Ms. KILPATRICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Congressman

George W. Crockett who recently passed. Congressman Crockett was a fighter for justice, a student of the Constitution who believed that the Constitution should apply to all of America's people.

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We honor you, Judge Crockett. I want you to know from the bottom of my heart, as my Congressman and for the people who are now in the 15th Congressional District, we will carry your spirit, we will continue the fight, and we too believe that the Constitution of the United States is for all of its citizens.

Rest assured that your memory will live, that your spirit will instill in us the power to continue, the power to fight, and the power that the Constitution really is for the people, by the people. May you rest in peace.

REJECT WHOLE-SCHOOL REFORM

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

Mr. SHADEGG. Mr. Speaker, as a parent there is no issue, absolutely no issue more important to me than the education of my children. For us as a Congress there ought to be no issue more important than education, and that issue is critically important to the American people. But, Mr. Speaker, the Labor-HHS bill, H.R. 2264, which we will debate today, holds in it a wolf in sheep's clothing on the issue of education.

I am deeply committed to education reform, but, Mr. Speaker, I believe that the parents and the teachers and the students and the administrators in my school and in any school district know how to reform my school and give our children the best education possible. This bill contains a wolf, a wolf which says, well, we are going to support school reform but only whole school reform, only top-down dictated Federal school reform. Do it by our model, and get the money; do not do it by our model and do not get the money.

We do not need top-down school reform. I urge my colleagues to reject whole-school reform.

VOTE ON CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM SHOULD BE SCHEDULED THIS MONTH

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

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, many of us this morning are demanding that Speaker NEWT GINGRICH schedule a vote on campaign finance reform this month. Rest assured that we will continue to make this demand until it is complied with.

This is not an issue that either party can avoid. Massive unregulated contributions of the so-called soft money

have corrupted both parties and have corrupted this institution. Yet it is the Republican Speaker of the House and the Republican Leader of the Senate who are today standing in the way of reform.

Today, money in politics affects everything lawmakers do, even our health and safety. For example, the Meat Institute and the Grocery Manufacturers reportedly spent over \$300,000 in the 1996 elections. And today they are in the Congress actively lobbying against new proposed meat inspection standards in the wake of the massive outbreak of E. coli.

America should make it clear to those in charge of this House; they should tell Speaker GINGRICH and tell those in charge of the Senate, Majority Leader LOTT, that they want him to ban soft money; that they want the Congress back so their voices can be heard and they want it done this month.

ENFORCE EXISTING LAWS ON CAMPAIGN FINANCE

(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, it is unbelievable to hear Democrats talk about campaign finance reform and the need for it while they are strangely, strangely silent on the subject of criminal violations apparently by Members of their party in this administration.

Point in case. U.S. Code 18-1956 prohibits the solicitation or acceptance of laundered campaign contributions intended to conceal the nature, source, ownership or control of the funds. This prohibition would cover the tens of thousands of dollars donated to the Democratic National Committee by dirt poor Buddhists.

If they do not like that law, here is another one; 18 U.S. Code 600 prohibits promises of contracts or other benefits as consideration, favor or reward for political activities such as the Democrat Department of Commerce trade missions in exchange for political donations.

Or this, 18 U.S. Code 601 prohibits the withholding of a benefit or program of the United States from any person who refuses to make a campaign contribution.

There are dozens and dozens of laws that are already on the books that have apparently been violated and the Democrats have no interest whatsoever in trying to enforce the existing law. Let us do not try to confuse things. Let us enforce existing law, then move on to campaign finance reform.

TOBACCO INDUSTRY IS LEADING SOFT MONEY CONTRIBUTOR IN THE COUNTRY

(Mr. DOGGETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, if there is even a single violation of the existing laws, be it Democrat or Republican, prosecute it fully, but do not hide behind the latest tabloid news to thwart campaign finance reform.

To any American who wonders why we need that reform, thumb through the bipartisan budget agreement and come across title XVI, entitled Technical Amendments Related to the Small Business Job Protection Act and Other Legislation. Under that title turn to page 322 and learn that one of those small businesses that just got protection was \$50 billion for the tobacco industry.

Anyone who thinks that is unrelated to campaign contributions is probably sitting at home waiting for the tooth fairy to arrive.

Ladies and gentlemen, the fact that the tobacco industry is the leading soft money contributor in this country demonstrates the need along with this provision to reform our campaign finance laws in time for the 1998 elections. But Speaker GINGRICH, one of the beneficiaries of the current system, refuses to schedule it for debate. That is why we will have yet another motion to adjourn because of the refusal to deal with this issue.

VOTE AGAINST NUCLEAR WASTE POLICY ACT OF 1997

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

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to voice my strong opposition to H.R. 1270, the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1997, which the Committee on Commerce is expected to address soon.

This legislation will have devastating impacts not only on the State of Nevada but on 43 other States in the Union. H.R. 1270 proposes sending thousands of high-level nuclear waste shipments from 109 locations across 43 States to a single repository in Nevada.

More than likely, these shipments will cross Members' districts, by their schools, their churches, hospitals and playgrounds in the process. Here is a very small sampling of the possibilities of that nuclear waste, as it travels across the country, if there is an accident.

Before we vote in support of H.R. 1270, we should ask ourselves: What if this was my district? The possible consequences are chilling. We must all be responsible stewards of our constituents' best interests and vote against H.R. 1270.

DEMOCRATS FAVOR MORE INFRASTRUCTURE MONEY FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)