

It may surprise some of our friends on the other side of the aisle who really believe that schools should be run by Washington bureaucrats. Perhaps they believe these favorable findings are achieved only when children feel connected to big government. The truth is, the connection must be to parents and to good schools, not to Washington.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot legislate good parents, but we in Congress can legislate better schools. The way to make schools better is to end the day of Washington bureaucrats and redtape running our local schools. Let us empower parents and teachers and local school districts instead of bureaucrats thousands of miles from the classroom. That would be the greatest legacy we could give to both public education and to our children's future.

CONGRESS SHOULD TAKE CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM OUT OF LIMBO

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

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, our finance system, campaign finance system is riddled with loopholes. Large corporate contributions are routinely spent on Federal elections despite legislation which is intended to limit them.

Mr. Speaker, the leverage these big corporate dollars have on the political process limits the ability of the average citizen to make his or her voice heard in the political process.

It is time for Congress to take campaign finance reform legislation out of limbo and pass substantive reform. With the introduction of a bill crafted by a bipartisan freshman task force, we have a good legislative vehicle to make this happen.

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This legislation would take an even-handed step toward reforming the system. It bans soft money contributions, requires full disclosure of independent expenditure campaigns, and tightens up candidate reporting guidelines.

I urge my colleagues to join me in calling for an end to the stalemate on campaign finance reform. Let us bring this to the floor for debate and for a vote.

EDUCATION

(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, if polled my guess is that each and every Member of this body, regardless of their political philosophy or party affiliation, will claim to be deeply concerned about education. Well, the President's latest national education standards proposal shows that my liberal colleagues care about education all right, the Department of Education.

As though the current 760 Federal education programs are not enough, they want to spend millions more in taxpayer dollars to create yet another bureaucratic program to impose the will of Washington on each and every school district in America. I would urge my liberal colleagues to join those of us who are fighting to send the Federal funding where it will have the greatest effect, to the teachers and students and classrooms of this country.

Mr. Speaker, enough is enough. Education dollars should be spent educating our children, not lining the pockets of Federal bureaucrats.

MORE ON EDUCATION

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

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, I want to address the House this morning for the purposes of talking about perhaps the most important issue I think in all of our districts. That is education.

Like many of my colleagues, I have roundtables in my district. I talk to the consumers of education, students, and parents. One of the most important things is the emerging use of technology in our schools and by our students. Unfortunately, many of our schools, while they may have great computerized systems, they do not have teachers who are qualified to teach those systems. The use of technology is often better handled by our students than by our teachers.

We need to provide the kind of professional training that is necessary for these teachers to better teach our children this technology. As you know, there is the HHS-Education bill before us. Over \$75 million of that bill will go toward professional development, some of which will go just for emerging technology. We need to pass this bill today because, quite frankly, education is for all children, not children of the elite; it is not just for the wealthy. It is education for all children. The future of our children is in this technology. Please pass this bill today.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

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

Mr. BRADY. Mr. Speaker, it is sad that some Members of Congress this fall are using campaign finance reform as a shield to divert attention from ethical problems in the White House. They make a mockery of an important issue to me and to many of the families in my district and in this country.

As a Republican, my support for restoring some common sense to our campaigns and our financing is based on the belief that in America if you work hard, you can be anything you want to be, including serving in Congress.

I want to help restore some respect and some credibility to Congress, because most people do not think we do the right things for the right reasons. I want hard-working citizens in every community to raise their hand to run for public office, but few do because they cannot afford a million dollars or cannot imagine how they would raise it. We pay a stiff price for this never ending search for the next contribution. It is like a drug, the more we have, the more we need, the more we want, and we can never reach our full potential as a country until we shake this financial monkey from our backs.

Let us begin a thoughtful debate for the right reasons.

BIPARTISAN CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

(Mrs. McCARTHY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. McCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, beginning with our first weeks of orientation, I believed this freshman class was a class that could work together. We wanted to talk together about the different points of why we ran.

I have to say, working with my freshman class, one of the things that we both agreed on was campaign finance reform.

Mr. Speaker, we have to do campaign finance reform. I do not want to waste my time trying to raise money. I want to do the people's work. We are not in the majority here. There are a number of freshman Republicans and Democrats who want to bring a bill on to the floor for campaign finance reform. Please, allow this to happen now so that we can have faith in the American people and they can have faith in us. Mr. Speaker, it is time to do it now.

CAUGHT WITH THEIR HANDS IN THE COOKIE JAR

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

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, President Clinton and Vice President GORE got their hands caught in the cookie jar. If they did not violate Federal campaign laws, they came as close to wholesale violations as any Presidential campaign in the history of America.

Now that the President cannot seek reelection, he has made campaign finance reform a primary goal. Labeling efforts to change finance laws as reform does not mean it will be better.

In fact, most campaign finance reform proposals would make our system worse. We spend more money advertising Coca-Cola, beer, pizza, and washing detergent than we do on political campaigns in Federal offices. Political action committees have brought people into the political system, individuals voluntarily contributing money. We

should encourage that participation, not discourage it.

I, for one, do not want the Federal Government controlling who contributes money and who they contribute it to, a clear violation of first-amendment rights.

Members of this body should not be stampeded into supporting campaign finance reform simply because a few people view it as politically correct.

MORE ON CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

(Mrs. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, we need to vote on and pass campaign finance reform. The Speaker has said that there is not enough money in the system. Yet everyone else knows that there is too much money in the system.

In the 1996 elections, soft money rolled into campaigns at a record level. We need to ban soft money. The American people want elections, not auctions to the highest bidder or the person who can spend the most money to buy and win an election.

The opposition party has budgeted \$12 to \$15 million to investigate the 1996 campaigns, yet they have not scheduled one hearing on how to reform the election process. We need to legislate, not just investigate.

Mr. Speaker, you promised the President in the famous handshake in New Hampshire that you would vote on and work and pass campaign finance reform. Mr. Speaker, it is time to turn the promise of your handshake into the reality of a law.

RICHIE ASHBURN

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

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, yesterday we lost a Philadelphia legend, a baseball legend and an American legend. Richie Ashburn passed away at 6 a.m. yesterday morning after having broadcast the baseball game for the Phillies the evening before.

Richie Ashburn was involved in major league baseball for 50 years of his life. Forty-seven of those years with the Philadelphia Phillies organization. He was Rookie of the Year, two-time national league batting champ. Nine times he batted over .300. He had an exemplary career and was recognized by being inducted into the baseball Hall of Fame in 1995.

But Richie Ashburn, being one of the Whiz Kids from Philadelphia, was more than a baseball legend. He was a role model. He was an example for this country and our young people to follow and to look up to. He really was an American hero.

Born and raised in Tilden, NE, he became the favorite son of the city of

Philadelphia and the region around the Philadelphia city. In fact, his most famous quote was, in talking about his city that he loved so dearly, "If I looked at my life and I had a chance to change it, I wouldn't change anything. I really wouldn't. Philadelphia is where I wanted to be, and where I wanted to play, and where I wanted to live."

We are going to miss Richie Ashburn.

FIGHT TO IMPROVE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call on this Congress to support our public schools. As the first member of my family to graduate from college, I know firsthand that quality public education is the key to the American dream, an opportunity for all children, not just the privileged few or those who have funds.

As a former superintendent of my State's schools, I know that educating all of our children is the key to America's strength and our Nation's security.

There is a lot of arguing in Washington today about the role of the Federal Government in education. But I have spent many hours in the classrooms of my State. No child has ever asked me who paid for the books, who paid for the building or who paid for the computer. Children only know what they have received or whether or not they have been denied an education. We must stop this bickering over the role of the Federal Government. These are our children. They are America's children.

We have a responsibility to make sure that they have the opportunity for a good education. We must build new schools, rebuild old ones, raise education standards, involve parents in education, improve the quality of our teachers, and make our schools safe. We can become the education Congress.

TOBACCO TAX

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

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to my colleagues' attention here a letter that is probably in their offices today from me requesting them to join me and cosign a letter to the Speaker on the subject of the tobacco tax giveaway that was buried in the tax bill that we passed last August. This is really not an issue that is going to go away. Nor should it. We owe it to our constituents to correct this onerous tax windfall to big tobacco. I am suggesting that we take the lead of the other body, which is debating this very issue today. But under our rules, we need the Speaker to schedule this vote.

Mr. Speaker, if we neglect this issue we will again be feeding the cynicism

of the American people. This will detract from and undermine our own success in the budget and the tax bill that we passed. Now we find out that there was a provision, a big giveaway, multiple billions of dollars, maybe \$50 billion over time to the tobacco industry.

I am urging to my colleagues that whatever merits there are on either side, and I obviously take one side of the issue, I do not like it. It is wrong. But whatever merits there are, the Speaker has an obligation to call up for a vote repeal of this onerous windfall to big tobacco, schedule the bill, and begin to restore the professionalism, integrity, and honor of the House of Representatives.

THE SPIRIT OF CONGRESSMAN GEORGE WILLIAM CROCKETT III, WILL LIVE FOREVER IN THOSE WHO LOVE JUSTICE

(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 would like to formally announce the passing of our former colleague, Congressman George William Crockett, Jr., who passed on Sunday, September 7, 1997, here in the Washington, DC, area.

Congressman Crockett was born in Jacksonville, FL. He earned his law degree from the University of Michigan and, in 1943, was appointed by President Roosevelt as the first African-American lawyer to serve in the U.S. housing department.

In 1986, after being elected in 1981 and serving 10 years, Congressman Crockett authored the Mandela freedom resolution. He was an outstanding jurist, husband, father, and grandfather.

It is my honor and privilege, Mr. Speaker, to ask that when the House of Representatives adjourn tonight, that we do so in honor of Judge Crockett. There will be a private memorial funeral for the family this evening here in the Washington, DC.

On Saturday at noon in the city of Detroit at 11 a.m. at Hartford Memorial Baptist Church, the final resting and memorial service will be held for Congressman Crockett.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska). 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 (Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska). The question is on the motion to adjourn offered by the gentleman from California [Mr. MILLER].

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.