

SUPPORT THE MENENDEZ RESOLUTION

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

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, the purpose of our democracy is to debate our differences in an open and civil manner. Without respectful disagreement, there can be no freedom. When we lose elections or when we lose battles in this Chamber, we understand that this is the will of the people. These are the hallmarks of our society, and they are the reason that our democratic system has survived for over 200 years.

Mr. Speaker, these principles are under attack. A former Member of this body has chosen to violate the principles that have governed this House for so long. He has used his floor privileges to advance his personal agenda. He has verbally attacked a Member of this Congress, and he has disrupted the democratic process.

I rise today to support the privileged resolution being offered by the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. MENENDEZ]. We must not allow any former Member of Congress, of any party, to set foot in this Chamber if it discredits and violates the integrity of this House.

EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

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

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, some education reforms weaken the control of parents over their children's education while others strengthen them. For those interested in increasing the control of the Federal Government over the education of children, A-plus accounts will be something you will want to attack.

A-plus accounts put more power in the hands of parents to ensure what is best for their kids. And what is best for their kids always includes a school where kids can feel safe, where teachers are dedicated to giving students the best education possible, and, most of all, where children are surrounded by an environment that inspires hope and confidence that a bright future belongs to them. This is not the case for millions of children across America today.

A-plus accounts are education savings accounts that will give hope and a better education for many of those children who are trapped in schools that rob them of a bright future. If letting more children share in the American dream is more than a slogan, then A-plus accounts should be supported by Republicans and by Democrats alike.

IN SUPPORT OF MENENDEZ RESOLUTION

(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 in support of the privileged resolution being offered this afternoon by the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. MENENDEZ].

Yesterday, I stood on the floor of this House and I listened to my colleague be verbally accosted by a former Member of this body. This former Member has pressing business pending before this House, and he should not even be allowed on this floor while the matter is being considered. This is the U.S. Congress, the people's House. This is no place for this sort of language and for this sort of behavior.

If this body is to retain any integrity, we must bar all former Members from the floor when they have any matter pending before this body. The American people have lost so much faith and confidence in this body over the course of the last several years. Let us not give them another reason to lose any more.

KEEP THE HOUSE FLOOR FREE OF INTIMIDATION

(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, I wanted to come to this side of the Chamber because I wanted to speak especially to my Republican colleagues.

Later today, the House will consider a privileged resolution regarding the conduct of a former Member of this House. I do not want to get into the particulars of what the former Member said and did during his visit on the House floor yesterday. What I want to do is to appeal to my Republican friends to stand up for the integrity, order, and decorum of this House when a vote is taken on this resolution.

No Member of this House should be subjected to verbal abuse, harassment, or intimidation by anyone, not on the floor of the House of Representatives. This vote goes to the heart of this beloved democratic institution. I appeal to my Republican colleagues to stand up and later vote for the privileged resolution. Send a message that offensive language, threats, and intimidation will not be tolerated on the floor of the House of Representatives.

□ 1030

COVERING UP FOR THE WHITE HOUSE AND THE DNC

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

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, as always, I was inspired by the talk of the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. LEWIS]. He was a leader in the sixties. I think he still is a leader here. I want to come to this side of the aisle to impress upon my friends on the Democratic side to start moving forward and

doing things to clean up their own house on campaign finance before they go to the other side and talk about how we need to reform laws that they are not even obeying.

Today, Bob Woodward writes, "New documents provide stark new evidence that the party advertising in the Democratic scheme was illegal." On the front page of the New York Times, not regularly a Republican supporter, it says in one instance, "blatant improper lobbying of the President's security council, Ms. Heslin, told of her amazement that the chairman of the Democratic National Committee, Donald L. Fowler, dared to call in October 1995 to say that a CIA agent would be telephoning" to lobby to let this dangerous international criminal into the White House. Of course, we know the rest of this shady scheme.

What this is amounting to on the side of the Democrats is covering up for the White House and the Democratic National Committee. Do your job. Do the American people's job. Clean up this mess.

SUPPORT PRIVILEGED RESOLUTION TO BAR FORMER MEMBER FROM FLOOR

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

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, if there is any principle that Republican-Democratic Members of Congress should be able to agree upon, it is that no outside person should be allowed to walk onto this floor and verbally attack in crude vulgar language any Member of this House. For that reason, I want to urge all Members, from both parties, to support today the privileged resolution to bar former Member Robert Dornan from floor privileges.

Mr. Speaker, if I used in this statement the crude language used by Mr. Dornan against our colleague yesterday, my words would be struck from the House RECORD and I would be denied the right to speak, even though I am a sitting Member.

Why should an outside member, someone not an elected Member of this body, be treated any differently?

Mr. Speaker, this historic House should be a sanctuary of democracy, where all elected Members from both parties should be able to exercise their constitutional obligations to be the voice of their constituents. No Member should exercise that authority and that right with fear of being attacked by an outside member of this body. Vote for this privileged resolution today.

DO NOT LOSE SIGHT OF EDUCATION

(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, as much as I appreciate my colleagues on the other

side of the aisle putting so much energy into debate over an alleged slight against a Member, I prefer to expend my energies talking about things that are of national importance.

One of the most important things Congress ought to be addressing is the issue of education, because we are denying our children throughout this country the opportunity to get a decent education in many schools that are substandard, and are in such sorry State that no Member of this House would ever dare to send their own children there.

Every Member of this House will have an opportunity soon to cast a vote that will count for the future. There is a bill by the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. PITTS] to ensure that 90 cents on every education dollar goes directly into the classroom. The time has come for us to say no more to teachers having to pay for pencils and paper and basic supplies out of their own pocket because we feed a bureaucracy stealing money from our children and classrooms. If we would spend more time focusing on that issue today, our time would be better spent.

PUT ELECTION CONTEST BEHIND

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

Mr. GREEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleague for mentioning education. It sounds like a pretty good idea. If they would quit trying to cut education funding, then maybe we could get 90 cents of every dollar to there. My kids did go to public schools, and I am proud that they did, and they had a great education.

But today I am concerned about what happened yesterday. We had an incident yesterday in the House that brought ridicule to this House. We had a former Member confront a current elected Member of Congress on this floor while the House was in session.

The election challenge to the gentleman from California [Ms. SANCHEZ] must be completed and put to rest now. We have more important things to address, like they said, like education, like campaign finance reform, instead of letting something like that get in the way of the action of this House. That is why it needs to be put to rest.

We should never allow something like this to disrupt what Congress has to do in dealing with enforcing the Balanced Budget Act and providing educational opportunity. Yet, what we see is just continuing festering of that election contest. Let us put it to rest.

THE CONSTITUTION, A UNIQUE DOCUMENT

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

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, this week we celebrated the 210th anniversary of

the Constitution. The Constitution is different than any other document that was ever devised as a framework for Government on this continent or any other, and the difference in the Constitution is found in the first three words, "We the people."

No other document ever purported to be the framework for Government and get its right to govern from the people. The Magna Carta started, "We the Barons of England." The Articles of Confederation started, "We the States."

This document has been the framework that has lasted longer than any other document that has been the framework for Government. It has been copied by country after country.

One of the major tenets of the Constitution is the importance of State governments, the importance of communities, the importance of a Federal Government that acts appropriately in this Federal system we have.

We will be bringing bills to the House later this year, as the gentleman from California [Mr. ROGAN] has pointed out, that I am a cosponsor of, that we have cosponsors of from both sides of the aisle, that talk about giving more decisionmaking back to states, back to communities, and education. I look forward to that debate.

PASS MEANINGFUL CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, the American people are talking about the Republican leadership, and the Republican leadership just is not listening.

The people are telling this Congress that they are sick and tired of big money flooding the Halls of their government. They are fed up with special interests taking priority over the national interests. Most of all, Mr. Speaker, they are fed up that the Republican leadership still refuses to act.

Mr. Speaker, let us hold hearings, review all of the good bills that have already been drafted, and pass meaningful campaign finance reform legislation.

Mr. Speaker, they say that "if it ain't broke, don't fix it." But, Mr. Speaker, I say that our campaign finance system is broke and it needs fixing.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, I have a privileged motion at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HEFLEY). The Clerk will report the motion.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. DOGGETT moves that the House do now adjourn.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas [Mr. DOGGETT].

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 41, nays 370, not voting 22, as follows:

[Roll No. 405]

YEAS—41

Allen	Filner	Olver
Berry	Ford	Pallone
Bonior	Frank (MA)	Pelosi
Clyburn	Gejdenson	Slaughter
Conyers	Hastings (FL)	Stark
Coyne	Kaptur	Stupak
DeFazio	Lewis (GA)	Tierney
Delahunt	Lowey	Torres
DeLauro	Martinez	Towns
Deutsch	McCarthy (NY)	Vento
Dingell	McDermott	Waters
Doggett	McNulty	Waxman
Eshoo	Miller (CA)	Woolsey
Evans	Mink	

NAYS—370

Abercrombie	Collins	Goodling
Ackerman	Combest	Gordon
Aderholt	Condit	Graham
Archer	Cook	Granger
Armey	Cooksey	Green
Bachus	Costello	Greenwood
Baesler	Cox	Gutierrez
Baker	Cramer	Gutknecht
Baldacci	Crane	Hall (OH)
Ballenger	Crapo	Hall (TX)
Barcia	Cubin	Hamilton
Barr	Cummings	Hansen
Barrett (NE)	Cunningham	Harman
Barrett (WI)	Danner	Hastert
Bartlett	Davis (IL)	Hastings (WA)
Barton	Davis (VA)	Hayworth
Bass	Deal	Hefley
Bateman	DeGette	Hefner
Bentsen	DeLay	Herger
Bereuter	Dellums	Hill
Berman	Diaz-Balart	Hilleary
Bilbray	Dickey	Hilliard
Bilirakis	Dicks	Hinojosa
Bishop	Dixon	Hobson
Blagojevich	Dooley	Hoekstra
Bliley	Doolittle	Holden
Blumenauer	Doyle	Hooley
Blunt	Dreier	Horn
Boehlert	Duncan	Hostettler
Boehner	Dunn	Houghton
Bono	Edwards	Hoyer
Borski	Ehlers	Hulshof
Boswell	Ehrlich	Hutchinson
Boucher	Emerson	Hyde
Boyd	Engel	Inglis
Brady	English	Istook
Brown (CA)	Ensign	Jackson (IL)
Brown (FL)	Etheridge	Jackson-Lee
Brown (OH)	Everett	(TX)
Bryant	Ewing	Jefferson
Bunning	Farr	Jenkins
Burton	Fattah	John
Buyer	Fawell	Johnson (CT)
Callahan	Fazio	Johnson (WI)
Calvert	Flake	Johnson, E. B.
Camp	Foley	Johnson, Sam
Campbell	Forbes	Jones
Canady	Fowler	Kanjorski
Cannon	Fox	Kasich
Capps	Franks (NJ)	Kelly
Cardin	Frelinghuysen	Kennedy (MA)
Carson	Frost	Kennedy (RI)
Castle	Gallegly	Kennelly
Chabot	Ganske	Kildee
Chambliss	Gekas	Kilpatrick
Chenoweth	Gibbons	Kim
Christensen	Gilchrest	Kind (WI)
Clay	Gillmor	King (NY)
Clement	Gilman	Kingston
Coble	Goode	Klecza
Coburn	Goodlatte	Klink