

opposed to giving kids a chance to go to a better school, all because the special interests would see their power threatened.

This issue cries for some kind of fairness. It is not fair that some kids have to start out with two strikes against them. Let us give parents a choice so more kids will have a chance. Parental choice means more kids will realize their dreams.

IRS HAS A QUOTA SYSTEM

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, according to news reports, the IRS has a quota system. IRS agents got bonuses for ripping off taxpayers. And many times taxpayers settled their cases even though they were innocent.

What is so shocking about all that? The American people have known this for years, and the American people have been telling us the IRS is incompetent, the IRS is arrogant, the IRS has abused their powers. It has gotten so bad the IRS is even above the law.

That is right, in America the accuser has the burden of proof, but not in a civil tax case. The IRS accuses, the taxpayer must prove their case. Beam me up.

Let me say this. There can be no true reform in American tax law without changing the burden of proof. It is time to handcuff them to a chain link fence and flog them with their own hefty Tax Code.

I yield back their unauthorized seizures and excessive penalties.

THE MEMORY PROBLEM AT THE WHITE HOUSE

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I think I am beginning to understand what the problem in education is today. It is pretty clear that everyone in the White House was educated in the 1960's style feel-good mushiness where rote memorization was taboo. How else to explain the astounding number of times the White House officials say "I don't recall, I can't remember" whenever they are asked to testify about all the various White House scandals under investigation.

Mr. Speaker, what else are we to conclude if even the so-called best and brightest seem to have no capacity whatsoever to recall simple facts about the misdeeds of their employees? Is this perhaps a medical condition that we should be aware of, some kind of environmental problem in the water over at the White House that strikes at the very heart of the memory process?

Mr. Speaker, the "I do not recall" problem over at the White House should not be allowed to infect the rest

of the Nation, especially as children everywhere are heading back to school. Children should be taught that memory skills are important, too, that rote memorization that many of us had to do in schools, even if they are in short supply down at the White House.

MEMORY PROBLEM EXTENDS ACROSS AMERICA

(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, I find that memory problem not limited to the White House. Indeed, I find it extending across America. If you ask the people of America when is the last time that this Congress did anything to reform the problems of campaign finance, most people will have to scratch their head and say, "Gee, I can't remember. I don't recall the Congress doing anything."

Yes, there were a lot of hot speeches about wrong here on one party or wrong here on another, but in terms of getting down to constructive reform to do something about changing the system in which special interests dump millions and millions of dollars into the coffers of both parties, nothing has been done because Speaker GINGRICH refuses to schedule a ban, backed by Republicans and Democrat, a ban on soft money.

At least some Members of this Congress in the other body have moved from investigating to legislating. It is time for this House to do the same thing. Then no one in America will have a memory problem because not only will we prosecute and enforce existing laws, but we will clean up a system that has gone bad.

FURTHER TAX REFORM NEEDED

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

Mr. NEUMANN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by just briefly responding to my colleague from the other side of the aisle and suggest that with the laws currently on the books, millions and millions of dollars came in illegally, and I think we need to enforce those laws that are on the books where there are clear-cut violations at this time.

But I rise today really to call attention to the part of the recently passed plan that balances the budget for the first time since 1969, reduces taxes for the first time in 16 years, and restores Medicare to that part of the plan that specifically addresses education, because education is extremely important in this Nation.

As a former math teacher, I know that without a proper education, our students do not have a shot at the American dream. In this tax cut package we have \$1,500 for most freshmen

and sophomores in college. That is, when their parents fill out their tax forms next year, they will simply subtract \$1,500 of the bottom line and keep that in their own homes, instead of sending it to Washington, DC. For most juniors and seniors that number is \$1,000.

For grandparents and parents who would like to start saving for their children's education in the future, we have established an account called an Education Savings Account, and it works like this: You can put up to \$500 per year per child into the account to prepare for their education.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM NEEDED NOW

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

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this weekend over a variety of morning news shows the comment was raised as to where are the defenders of the President and Vice President of the United States.

I think, first of all, we should hold those offices, as we have done in years past, with great respect. But I do think that we will find in the wallowing of partisan politics those two individuals used as the most recent scapegoats in the refusal by the majority of this Congress to deal realistically and forthrightly with campaign finance reform.

Over 50 percent of Americans have said "The heck with both of you, Republicans and Democrats. You are both involved." So the real issue is not whether the President and Vice President acted within laws of which they did, but it is a question of addressing forthrightly the idea of cleaning up this mess called getting elected, through campaign finance reform.

We believe that we should have campaign finance reform. The real issue is will the Republican leadership bring campaign finance reform to the floor of the House for us to address it realistically, or will they wallow in the continued accusations that make no sense, because one can easily point the finger at the other side of the room, and do nothing.

THE TAXPAYER RELIEF AND PROTECTION ACT

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

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I just want to remind the gentlewoman who just spoke, it is enforcing the existing laws that really should be looked at, enforcing the laws in effect now.

Mr. Speaker, while the recently enacted tax relief package represents a major step in the right direction, tax cutters cannot stop and rest on their laurels.

Taxes are still too high, and many Americans, primarily single adults

without children, will receive little or no relief from the recently enacted tax cuts. Therefore, it is imperative, I believe, that we provide the American people with more tax relief.

In the next few days I will introduce a proposal that offers the next logical step in our efforts to increase the take-home pay of the American people. My proposal, the Taxpayer Relief and Protection Act, cuts marginal tax rates across the board by 5 percent, it eliminates the marriage penalty, and it moves the tax filing date from April 15 to November 1.

This proposal benefits every American who earns a paycheck. It injects some fairness into the Tax Code, and makes it harder for Washington politicians to raise taxes in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

CRUNCH TIME FOR CAMPAIGN REFORM

(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, Sunday's New York Times says it all. It is "crunch time for campaign reform." The leader of the other body has even promised his Members a vote on campaign finance reform next month.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you, where is our vote? Where is the vote in the people's House? There have been 85 campaign finance proposals introduced, but there has been not one hearing on campaign finance reform. The Republican leadership is giving us no opportunity to debate the issue on the floor of this House and no opportunity to vote on any one of these 85 proposals.

The New York Times editorial goes on to say that "There are legislators in both parties who want to preserve a system that makes money more important than the public will."

Mr. Speaker, please prove that you value the will of the American people over your campaign coffers. Live up to the promise you made in New Hampshire over 2 years ago. Schedule a vote on campaign finance reform today.

CAMPAIGN LAWS BEING BROKEN

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, the President wants the Federal Government to set national standards for education. How well will it work? I think it will work at least as well as our campaign laws.

Last year campaign laws, which are a form of national standards, were twisted, turned, and outright broken. In Kansas, according to the Wichita Eagle, the Democrat National Party violated the law by laundering some \$315,000 through individuals and county parties.

The first part of campaign reform is to obey the laws we have on the books today. The Democrat National Party apparently broke the laws by coming into our communities, while money laundering is not one of the values our communities like to uphold. Likewise, we do not need Washington to set our educational standards in the communities.

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Kansas already has educational standards. Let us not degrade educational standards to the level of campaign laws.

TED TURNER'S GIFT

(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, Ted Turner's \$1 billion gift to the United Nations is remarkable. This man saw a problem in this country, in this world, and he decided to help. He did not have to act, but he wanted to make a difference, and he will.

Ted Turner's gift is an inspiration to us all. It should inspire Congress to pay our debt to the United Nations. Bosnia, El Salvador, Somalia, as a community of nations, we have helped millions around the world.

Ted Turner's gift should also inspire each and every one of us to serve. Even though we all cannot give large amounts of money, we can care, we can get involved, in our schools and our neighborhoods, and we can make a difference.

So thank you, Ted Turner. You have reminded us all to be a little more caring and do a little more sharing.

AMERICANS ARE IGNORANT OF OUR NATIONAL HERITAGE

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

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, a recent poll showed that the majority of Americans do not even know the most basic facts about American history. Just listen to these revelations.

Six out of ten respondents did not know that the Revolutionary War began in 1775. Sixty percent did not know that Thomas Paine wrote "Common Sense," the political manifesto that helped inspire the revolution. Eighty-nine percent did not know that James Madison wrote the Bill of Rights. Thirty-six percent could not identify George Washington as the subject of the phrase, "First in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen."

In sum, the birth of this great Nation is a mystery to most of its citizens.

What can explain this development where generations of children graduate from school lacking in basic knowledge about American history? Academic

fads, the substitution of nonsense for facts, the denigration of Western ideals and American achievements, and an utter lack of standards that are actually enforced. Unless that changes, generations will continue to graduate ignorant of our national heritage.

CAMPAIGN INTEGRITY ACT OF 1997

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

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, those of us who are freshmen experienced the 1996 elections in a different way. There was soft money involved in those elections on a scale never before seen. Issue advocacy groups were participating in the election on a scale that has never happened before.

Beginning in February, our Freshmen Task Force sat down and tried to figure out how we could pass real campaign finance reform in this session. We proposed a soft money ban. That bill is now H.R. 2183, the Campaign Integrity Act of 1997. It bans soft money, it provides new restrictions or new requirements for disclosure on issue advocacy, and it tightens up candidate disclosure. It is a good bill. It needs to come to the floor of this Congress for a vote.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the Republican leadership and the other side not simply to keep investigating without legislating; bring this bill to the floor, and let us give the Members of this Congress a chance to do something besides investigate. Let us change the way we finance campaigns. Let us vote on the bill.

ROBERT STODOLA HOMELESS ASSISTANCE ACT

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

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, recently I introduced legislation to assist homeless veterans. H.R. 1754, the Robert Stodola Homeless Assistance Act, will require that at least 20 percent of the McKinney Home Assistance Act be allocated for activities designed to serve homeless veterans. Many veterans' organizations have joined me in support of this legislation. Approximately 30 of my colleagues have joined in sponsoring this bill.

In time of need, we ask our veterans to defend this Nation. It is time for us to provide for their needs. Helping homeless veterans is a small price to pay to these people who in many cases have risked their lives so that we may remain free.

I am asking my colleagues to assist me in support of this worthwhile legislation by cosponsoring H.R. 1754.

FAST TRACK DEBATE

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House