

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.

□ 1415

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

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, former Presidential candidate Bob Dole has been hired by the Government of Chile to sue the United States in a trade dispute over salmon. The Chilean Embassy expressed the hope and expectation that Senator Dole would advise the Chilean Government on its political strategy on the fast track debate now being conducted in Congress. I would urge Senator Dole to reconsider his decision.

This is business as usual, and it underscores how bad trade agreements make their way through Congress. Foreign governments have tremendous resources to hire lobbyists with powerful connections. These lobbyists often are prominent ex-Senators, ex-trade officials, and ex-Members of Congress. However, Bob Dole is different; he is not just another politician.

I am not saying Senator Dole has done anything wrong. He left the Senate in June 1996, so he is not bound by the 1-year revolving door laws. He is free to represent Chile if he wants. Former Presidential candidate Dole is free to sue the American Government on behalf of the Government of Chile if he wants, but it is simply not right. Senator Dole is playing on the visitor's team. He should play on the home team. We want him on America's team, not Chile's team.

RAYMON ROEBUCK LEAVES HIS MARK ON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I am saddened to announce the passing of a dedicated former employee of the House, Mr. Raymon Roebuck. I know that Members on both sides of the aisle join me in expressing our deepest sympathy to members of Raymon's family.

In 1993 we came together on the House floor to pay tribute to Raymon on the occasion of his retirement. "Chez Raymon," as he was affectionately known, decided to retire after 30 years of loyal service. In the cloakroom snack bar where he was employed, one could always count on Raymon's friendly conversation. Along with serving the best tuna sandwiches on Capitol Hill, Raymon also delivered accurate information on the number of votes we could anticipate and the time that the House would adjourn.

In addition to his friendship with Members of Congress, Raymon leaves a host of young people all over America whom he befriended and counseled when they served as congressional pages.

Chez Raymon has left his mark on this institution. We are saddened that we can no longer experience his radiant smile. However, we realize that God has called home a good soldier to rest.

Raymon was a good friend and a loyal employee of the House of Representatives.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

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

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, when it comes to finance reform, it seems our colleagues on the other side of the aisle would prefer to keep the focus on whether or not elected officials are using bad form rather than our desire for reform.

Despite their best efforts, our message is finally being heard. I thought the Wall Street Journal put it well on Monday in their publication. The story read, and I quote, "They," the Republican leadership, "have been pushing for an independent counsel for months, but they have resisted calls for sweeping changes in campaign financing."

We are being heard in major publications, and we are being heard in the Senate where the Committee has apparently agreed to shift its focus from fingerpointing to problem-solving. But we need to be heard on this floor, and we need to bring campaign finance reform to the floor of this House for a vote before we recess.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM FOR DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, there is a flood of money corroding the foundation of our democracy. Now, the Republicans would have us believe that it is only the foundations on this side of the aisle or downtown at the White House that are endangered by this flood of money, but that is not quite true, because we remember Simon Fireman. Simon Fireman was the vice-chair of Bob Dole's fund-raising. He pled guilty to 64 counts of money laundering, paid \$6 million in fines and 6 months in jail.

This is a bipartisan problem. Both sides suffer from this problem, and it does not serve either side to stonewall reform. There are many of us on this side of the aisle calling sincerely for just a debate, an open rule. Let us see what happens. Let us vote on campaign finance reform before we go home.

Even on the Senate side now they have relented, and they say they are going to take up campaign finance reform. Let us take it up here in the House of Representatives, or do many Members think, as the Speaker does, that there is not enough money spent on campaigns yet corroding our democracy.

CORRECTIONS CALENDAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). This is the day for the call of the Corrections Calendar.

The Clerk will call the bill on the Corrections Calendar.

THRIFT DEPOSITOR PROTECTION OVERSIGHT BOARD ABOLISHMENT ACT

The Clerk called the bill (H.R. 2343) to abolish the Thrift Depositor Protection Oversight Board, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the bill, as follows:

H.R. 2343

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Thrift Depositor Protection Oversight Board Abolishment Act".

SEC. 2. ABOLISHMENT OF THE THRIFT DEPOSITOR PROTECTION OVERSIGHT BOARD.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Effective at the end of the 3-month period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the Thrift Depositor Protection Oversight Board established under section 21A of the Federal Home Loan Bank Act (hereafter in this section referred to as the "Oversight Board") is hereby abolished.

(b) DISPOSITION OF AFFAIRS.—

(1) POWER OF CHAIRPERSON.—Effective on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Chairperson of the Oversight Board (or the designee of the Chairperson) may exercise on behalf of the Oversight Board any power of the Oversight Board necessary to settle and conclude the affairs of the Oversight Board.

(2) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Funds available to the Oversight Board shall be available to the Chairperson of the Oversight Board to pay expenses incurred in carrying out the requirements of paragraph (1).

(c) SAVINGS PROVISION.—

(1) EXISTING RIGHTS, DUTIES, AND OBLIGATIONS NOT AFFECTED.—No provision of this Act shall be construed as affecting the validity of any right, duty, or obligation of the United States, the Oversight Board, the Resolution Trust Corporation, or any other person which—

(A) arises under or pursuant to the Federal Home Loan Bank Act, or any other provision of law applicable with respect to the Oversight Board; and

(B) existed on the day before the abolishment of the Oversight Board in accordance with subsection (a).

(2) CONTINUATION OF SUITS.—No action or other proceeding commenced by or against the Oversight Board with respect to any function of the Oversight Board shall abate by reason of the enactment of this Act.

(3) LIABILITIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—All liabilities arising out of the operation of the Oversight Board between August 9, 1989, and the end of the 3-month period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act shall remain the direct liabilities of the United States.

(B) NO SUBSTITUTION.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall not be substituted for the Oversight Board as a party to any such action or proceeding.

(4) CONTINUATIONS OF ORDERS, RESOLUTIONS, DETERMINATIONS, AND REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO THE RESOLUTION FUNDING CORPORATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—All orders, resolutions, determinations, and regulations regarding the Resolution Funding Corporation which—

(i) have been issued, made, and prescribed, or allowed to become effective by the Oversight Board, or by a court of competent jurisdiction, in the performance of functions which are transferred by this Act; and