

NOT VOTING—28

Armey	Frank (MA)	Peterson (PA)
Bonilla	Gonzalez	Riggs
Bonior	Hastings (FL)	Schiff
Chenoweth	Hefner	Schumer
Collins	Hostettler	Torres
Conyers	Hoyer	Whitfield
Crane	Hunter	Young (AK)
Diaz-Balart	Hyde	Young (FL)
Foglietta	McCrery	
Forbes	Moran (VA)	

□ 1043

So the Journal was approved.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I missed rollcall 419 through 425 because of the birth of a beautiful new grandson, Daniel Henry Luttway. Had I been present, I would have been delighted to vote "aye."

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HEFLEY). Please receive the congratulations of the House.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, earlier today I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote 427. Had I been here, I would have voted "yea."

IN APPRECIATION OF COMMISSIONER ROBERT A. WATSON

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

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my appreciation to Commissioner Robert A. Watson for his words and wisdom as he opened the House of Representatives in prayer this morning.

Commissioner Watson was born in eastern North Carolina. He has made invaluable contributions to our society. He has led a lifetime of service to his community and to his fellow man throughout the world.

Commissioner Watson and his wife, Alice, have served together as officers in the Salvation Army for more than 40 years. Since November 1995, they have served as the organization's national leaders for the United States. The Watsons' selfless work in both the Salvation Army and many other charitable organizations has helped countless individuals worldwide.

Commissioner Watson is an outstanding American, an invaluable asset to our society, and a true man of God. I thank him for his words this morning, for his inspiration, and for all that he does to make our world a better place.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain fifteen 1-minutes on each side.

WE DO NOT NEED CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is impossible for me to believe the hypocrisy coming from the White House on campaign finance reform and the way we have been treated on this floor. We just wasted 45 minutes.

Just days after Attorney General Janet Reno started a 30-day investigation into Clinton and GORE's fund-raising practices, he has the audacity to threaten to call Congress back into session if we adjourn without at least debating campaign finance reform.

I feel compelled to point out that we do not need campaign finance reform, we need elected officials who will follow the current law. If we enforce the laws, such as no foreign contributions, we would not need an independent counsel to tell us that President Clinton and Vice President GORE broke the law, plain and simple.

Mr. Speaker, the President should be using that phone in the White House to do his job, not line his pockets.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, a meaningful reform of the way Federal campaigns are conducted has been obstructed by one Republican roadblock after another.

Yesterday, half of the route was cleared. It did take a letter from the President saying he would convene a special session to deal with this issue if necessary. It took the leadership of the minority leader to say that no committees would meet. And yet, the reform is proceeding in half this Capitol building in Washington. Outside the people's House, there is a giant "yield right of way sign." It says "yield right of way to the arrogance of a Republican leadership that will not schedule 1 minute of debate on this issue." It is a giant "yield right of way sign" to the special interests who keep dumping in more and more soft money to soften up this Republican leadership.

Well, today we are escalating the action for reform and demanding that this issue be considered not only in the Senate, but here in the House, so that there can be genuine bipartisan reform to address this arrogance.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, since the majority party in this House has

not scheduled an opportunity for the House to debate and vote upon campaign finance reform, my inquiry is, why are we recessing tonight between 3 and 6 p.m. and then coming back for votes which will run later on into the evening?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair cannot respond to that. That is not a parliamentary inquiry.

TAX PACKAGE REINFORCES COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION

(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, back when I was growing up, my daddy taught me how to read a map; and the first thing he taught me is I had to know where I was before I could decide how I was going to get to where I was going to.

When we talk about campaign finance reform, I think the first thing we ought to do is make sure that the laws that are currently on the books are being enforced and understood by the people. So before we can figure out what needs to be changed, somebody ought to make sure that the laws that are already on the books are being enforced.

And in fact, that is what is going on right now. But the other side does not care to talk about that, because, of course, there have been some violations down the street on Pennsylvania Avenue as it comes to that.

So I think, just like my daddy taught me when I was growing up, we need to know where we are at first so that we should spend enough time making sure that those laws are being enforced.

I really rose this morning to reinforce how important education is to our side of the aisle and how it is reflected in the tax cut package. As a former math teacher and a father of three, two in college, and one in high school, I would just like to point out how the tax cut package reinforces our commitment to education. From the \$500 per child education savings account opportunity for parents who want to save for their children growing up, they can put \$500 a year per child into a savings account. That money accumulates tax free for their children when they need the education.

LORETTA SANCHEZ ELECTION

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

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, 10 months ago the people of the 46th District of California spoke. They decided to elect the gentlewoman from California [Ms. SANCHEZ] as their Representative in Congress, an election certified by the Republican California Secretary of State.

Mr. Dornan and some Republicans do not like that. But in our system, they

are not the ones that get to make that decision. The only people who get to make that decision are the people of California's 46th District.

Questions are not enough to overturn the election. Allegations are not enough. Innuendo is not enough. Confusion is not enough. But for 10 months, that is all we have gotten. Several hundred thousand taxpayer dollars have been used for a witch hunt to go through INS records and question the legality of voters simply on the basis of having an Hispanic surname.

Should Hispanic-Americans assume that they will first be considered illegal voters until they can disprove it? Is the assumption that all Hispanic voters must have voted for the gentlewoman from California [Ms. SANCHEZ]? The Los Angeles Times reported Tuesday that almost halfway to the next election there is, and I quote, "no evidence that Sanchez benefited from fraudulent votes." The L.A. Times is right, what we have is not evidence, it is an assault on every Hispanic-American.

END RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION WORLDWIDE

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Americans and, in particular, every Member of Congress to join in recognizing the International Day of Prayer this coming Sunday for those persecuted for their faith around the world.

Our country was founded on the principles of inalienable rights. Central among them was the right to choose and practice one's faith in God. Today, thousands around the globe still must flee their home countries because of severe persecution for practicing their beliefs.

Many international human rights agencies report that in the 1990's severe religious persecution continues at an intolerable rate. In China and Vietnam, pastors have frequently been arrested and beaten. In Mexico, believers have been murdered by mobs. In Egypt and Pakistan, young women have been raped and beaten. In China, churches have been bulldozed. In Saudi Arabia, Christians have been tortured. In the Sudan, children have been forced to convert to Islam in order to receive food rations. All this because of their faith in God.

We who live in freedom cannot be idle spectators to such widespread injustice. I urge all Members to join in the work to end religious persecution worldwide.

AMERICANS ARE SPENDING, SPENDING, SPENDING

(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, White House economists say the economy is breaking all records. The proof is Americans are spending, spending, spending.

Let us check out the records. Credit card debt is at a record high, \$2 trillion. Individual bankruptcies are at a record high, record high; and they are up a record 27 percent again this year.

Evidently, God made weathermen to make White House economists look good, Mr. Speaker. The truth is, the reason America is spending, spending, spending is because Americans are borrowing, borrowing, and borrowing. The truth is, these White House economists are so dumb they could fall out of bed and miss the floor.

I accuse them all of inhaling over there, No. 1. And No. 2, they have become spastic over plastic in this economy. I yield back all the lost jobs that are good paying. I yield back all the record debt. And I yield back all the record bankruptcies.

KYOTO NEGOTIATIONS

(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, as the Kyoto negotiations on global warming draw near, millions of Americans' jobs are on the chopping block. The Clinton administration seems to be willing to sign on to an agreement that places the entire burden of reducing carbon emissions on the industrialized nations.

In fact, the current language of the treaty exempts 132 of the world's 166 nations. Why is that troubling? Because the nations exempt from this U.N. treaty currently produce 50 percent, one-half, of carbon emissions and will account for 75 percent of such emissions over the next century.

Therefore, this treaty would provide almost no benefit at all, but the economic impact on the United States would be devastating. Placing the entire burden on complying with this treaty on countries like the United States could turn the Third World into an enterprise zone and create a giant sucking sound of American jobs going overseas.

Mr. Speaker, during the Kyoto negotiations, the Clinton administration must protect American workers, demand fairness, and reject any treaty that places the entire burden of reducing carbon emissions on the United States and on the other industrialized nations. Anything less would be like giving jobs away.

AMERICAN PEOPLE DEMAND CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I have been listening to my Republican col-

leagues this morning. It is amazing to me that they are still trying to obstruct campaign finance reform.

Clearly, the time has come today for the House Republican leadership to bring up campaign finance reform for a vote on the floor. We know the Senate is doing it. Mr. LOTT has said that he is going to bring it up. The President has sent a letter saying he will have a special session if necessary.

But so far there is only silence by the Speaker and the House Republican leadership on the issue. They suggest it is for the future and certainly not for this session of Congress, and this has to change because the American people are demanding reform.

There is simply too much money in the system. The average American does not feel that he or she matters anymore because wealthy individuals and corporations have all the influence.

Mr. Speaker, bring up campaign finance reform for a vote on the House floor. We can move on bipartisan reform legislation. The American people demand it, and we should move on it immediately.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND TAX-FREE EDUCATION ACCOUNTS FOR CHILDREN

(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, I was raised by a mom who was a single mom with four children on welfare and food stamps. And the only reason I have had the privilege of coming from that background and now serving in the Congress of the United States is because my mother loved her children enough to make sure that they got the best education possible.

It is absolutely hypocritical for people to believe that poor children's mothers do not care about them enough to get a good education for them. And nowhere is that more evident than here in the District of Columbia, where thousands of children are condemned to ill-performing schools. Their parents want the same chance for their children that my mother wanted for her children. We Republicans are trying to give that to them.

We have two proposals. First, opportunity scholarships for 2,000 of the poorest children in the city of the District of Columbia. The second would be a proposal that would allow parents tax-free education accounts.

Today I read in the Los Angeles Times that the Secretary of Education is calling this a fad and urging the President to veto this proposal. That is a terrible mistake. I urge the Secretary to reconsider. These people want good educations for their children, and we have an obligation to make sure they get them.