

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, since the very first day of this Congress, Democrats have been urging our Republican colleagues to take action on campaign finance reform. Democrats believe that we need to stop the flow of money into politics, and we have used every single procedure at our disposal to attempt to force a vote on this issue.

But despite his famous handshake with President Clinton 2 years ago, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. GINGRICH] has thus far refused to act on the issue, refused to schedule a hearing, refused to schedule debate. He has refused to schedule a vote on campaign finance reform.

Mr. Speaker, Democrats believe and the American people believe that our political system is broken and that it needs fixing. The Republican leader of the other body finally caved in to Democratic pressure and has promised to vote on campaign finance reform.

Mr. Speaker, I ask, "Where is our vote in the House of Representatives, in the people's House?"

□ 1100

OHIO ENERGY COMPANY SHOWS LEADERSHIP IN QUEST FOR CLEAN AIR

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I just want to take a moment to pay my compliments to a Cincinnati firm that is moving full speed ahead in an effort to bring cleaner air to southern Ohio and to the surrounding region. Cinergy Corp. announced yesterday that it will voluntarily reduce nitrogen oxide emissions from its plants by two-thirds from 1990 levels. The company will also conduct a demonstration of advanced technology at its plant in North Bend, OH, converting nitrogen oxide into harmless nitrogen gas and water. If successful, the technology could reduce nitrogen oxide emissions at the plant by 30 to 40 percent.

Mr. Speaker, Cinergy's leadership in the ongoing battle for a cleaner environment in the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana region will hopefully encourage others in the energy-producing field to take similar positive steps on their own. I congratulate Cinergy, and I wish all of those involved in this critical environmental project the best of luck.

LET ELECTION IN 46TH DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA STAND

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

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, I know a little something about snatching victory from the jaws of defeat. All over

this country, so-called folks in the know counted me out. And in the 46th District of California the same thing happened. Nobody gave LORETTA SANCHEZ a chance of beating the infamous Bob Dornan. But she won in an election fair and square. But stung by the fact that he lost to a woman, he has not given up the fight. One would think he would just declare his intention to run in the next election, but no, not this Bob Dornan. And no, not this Republican Party. They have conducted a well-organized witch-hunt that is insulting to America's values. They have targeted every Hispanic voter as if they did not have the right to vote. And the Republican leadership has sided with Dornan over the people of the 46th District. Could it be that they think that Hispanic voters do not count?

The Republicans would have us believe that they have changed, that they have mellowed. Unless they stop the race baiting now, they will prove themselves to be what we always suspected all along.

NATIONAL CONGRESSIONAL TEST

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, there is a lot of talk about national testing, so I designed one for Congress. Multiple choice. If a Federal official raises money from a taxpayer-funded office, he is:

A. Breaking the law.

B. OK if it is soft money.

C. OK if he does not remember doing it.

Number 2. A Buddhist temple is:

A. A place of worship.

B. A great spot for a fund-raiser.

C. I do not recall. I never went to one. I never heard of it. Anyway, it was not a fund-raiser.

True or false/Definitions. If you were subpoenaed by the Thompson committee, DNC stands for "did not come."

If you were a major TV network during the Thompson hearings, DNC stands for "did not cover."

If you are the Vice President, DNC stands for "did not call."

If you are a foreign national, DNC stands for "did not contribute."

Finally, Discussion Questions. What is the difference between "Find Waldo" and John Huang?

Answer: You can eventually find Waldo.

OPPOSE GORTON AMENDMENT IN INTEREST OF PUBLIC EDUCATION

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

Mr. BLAGOJEVICH. Mr. Speaker, Abraham Lincoln said that the most important commitment we as a people can make is to public education. Yet

there are forces here in Congress who would undermine that commitment. Programs like the Safe and Drug-Free Schools Act, which provides local school districts with security guards, installs metal detectors and teaches children about the dangers of drugs and gangs are in jeopardy. If the Gorton amendment passes, not a single Federal dollar would be guaranteed to fund that program.

Mr. Speaker, college is not for everyone. The School To Work Program is designed to help students make the transition from high school to work. If the Gorton amendment passes, not a single Federal dollar would be guaranteed to help students make that transition.

More than ever, as we approach the 21st century, our children rely on computers to prepare them for the high-tech world. If the Gorton amendment passes, not a single Federal dollar would be there to help them have computers and technology in their classrooms.

We must not allow this to happen. Let us make our schools safe and drug-free, let us give our high school graduates employment options, and let us oppose the Gorton amendment and redouble our efforts to public education.

EDUCATION POLICY FROM A REPUBLICAN STANDPOINT

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

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I was home in my district this past weekend and was introduced to someone by a friend. The person I met with told me something that I found very troubling. She told me, "Hi, I'm a strong conservative and an enthusiastic supporter of the Republican Party, but I'm also very pro-education."

"But?" I said.

She said that she had to admit that she was very upset by all the things she had heard about us cutting education. Then I had to admit that I was very troubled to hear her say this.

Mr. Speaker, it is Republicans who believe that education is primarily a task that is best handled by local school boards and not by the Federal Government. It is Republicans who believe that parents should have the most control over their children's education, not bureaucrats in Washington, D.C. We must continue to stand up to the liberals who want to federalize education and bring Washington, D.C. into curriculum decisions that are best made by those in the local community, school boards, teachers, and parents.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM TRAILS HANDSHAKES

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

Mr. SNYDER. Mr. Speaker, in June 1995, the President and Speaker of the

House made a commitment to campaign finance reform in this country. Since that time, there have been approximately 85 bills introduced in this session of Congress showing great interest in that topic. What has happened since that time? How many hearings have we had? None. How many campaign finance reform bills have passed? None. Where does that leave the score right now, Mr. Speaker, at the end of the baseball season? It leaves the score currently handshakes one, campaign finance reform nothing.

The President has stated his commitment to campaign finance reform. The Republican leadership in this House needs to get on board and lead the American people, because currently, under current law, if we do not change it, you may make a legal donation to the party of your choice in this amount. I do not know what this number is, but I think it is big.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM WEEK

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

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, in September 1789, Congress proposed and sent to the States for ratification the 10 constitutional amendments known as the Bill of Rights. This morning I join my colleagues in celebrating Religious Freedom Week, designated as such by Congress and by Presidential proclamation in 1988 by President Ronald Reagan.

The first amendment guards Americans from persecution by protecting our right to expression, protecting our words, both secular and religious, whether spoken, written or sung. Freedom comes at a price, however. The gospel, the words of Jesus Christ, cost him his life. Those who signed the Declaration of Independence knew it could be their death sentence.

The freedoms we enjoy today as Americans are a precious gift of the generations who have gone before us. Religious Freedom Week is a great opportunity to express thanks for that gift and to celebrate the profound foresight that was given our Founding Fathers in protecting the free exercise of religion.

REPUBLICANS CAUGHT IN CONTRADICTION IN DISPUTED ELECTION

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

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, once again we find the Republicans caught in a very big contradiction. On one hand they put out feelers to the Hispanic community saying, "Come into the party, join us, we want to serve you, we want to help you." On the other hand they launch the unprecedented attack on LORETTA SANCHEZ and Hispanics throughout the Nation, somehow insisting that every Hispanic

in the country, perhaps including myself, participated on election day in some fraud to get LORETTA elected.

It is time that Americans realize that this is their way of not dealing with the truth. Self-denial is a very pitiful state to be in, and that is what Republicans find themselves in. Americans do not like it. Hispanics like it even less. It is time that Republicans got it through their right-wing, reactionary minds that this is not going to work. It is not going to work. LORETTA won fair and square, and it is time to let her go on with this work in this House and stop harassing Hispanics throughout this country.

GET BACK TO BASICS IN EDUCATION

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, somewhere in the education debate, we have lost the reason we send our children to school. If we ask parents, they want their kids to capture the ability to learn, something their children can take with them into higher education or into the work environment so that they can pursue the American dream. But the parents' wishes are ignored. Instead the debate is about national education standards that measure how much paper teachers can produce and how much money we can spend, not how well our children are learning.

This Nation is blessed with many wonderful teachers, but they have been betrayed. In most school systems, less than half the money actually makes its way into the classroom. The teachers are diverted from scholastics to social engineering, and the paperwork demanded by the education bureaucracy steals teaching time. Education is about learning, discipline, respect for authority, and scholastics. Let us get back to the basics in education.

AGAINST H.R. 856, PUERTO RICO STATEHOOD BILL

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

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to oppose H.R. 856, the Puerto Rico statehood bill. Supporters want us to believe the goal of H.R. 856 is to give Puerto Ricans a fair opportunity to decide their future relationship with the United States. Sadly, the only goal of H.R. 856 is to bring statehood to Puerto Rico, despite the clear and consistent opposition of the majority of Puerto Ricans.

I want to be an enthusiastic supporter of a true process of self-determination. That is why I am adamantly opposed to any efforts to force statehood on Puerto Ricans. This flawed bill distorts the definition of "commonwealth," the favored status of the plurality of the Puerto Rican people, threatening to deny U.S. citizenship to

the children of Puerto Ricans if commonwealth is chosen. It threatens the Puerto Rican people with the loss of Federal benefits if they reject statehood. It denies Puerto Ricans on the mainland in the United States the right to participate in this vital process. It neglects our distinct Puerto Rican history as a people and a nation. It abandons the idea of democracy and embraces the imposition of the will of the few on the hopes and dreams of the many. I urge my colleagues to stand with the majority of the Puerto Rican people and oppose H.R. 856.

CENSUS SAMPLING

(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, today this House will begin to address the year 2000 census and the adverse effect of sampling. Sampling is not about politics. It is about the Constitution. The Constitution clearly states that the actual enumeration shall be made within 3 years after the first meeting of Congress within every 10 years in such manner as Congress shall by law direct.

Further, title 13 of the U.S. Code authorizes sampling except for the determination of population for purposes of apportionment of Representatives in Congress shall be allowed. This exception was enacted because when determining congressional districts, guessing is just not good enough.

Nowhere in this country is the case against sampling any clearer than in my home State of Nevada. Nevada has only two Representatives in Congress, and it has nearly 2 million people. Nevada is the fastest growing State in the Nation. This sampling could greatly underestimate our State's growing population, costing Nevada residents their constitutional right of representation.

CALIFORNIA ELECTION AN ABUSE OF DISCRETION

(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, I am not sure how Bob Dornan appreciates the precious right to vote, but Americans understand how precious it is to exercise our rights to vote in this Nation. I would ask on behalf of the American people, let Congresswoman LORETTA SANCHEZ do the job that she was duly elected to do. No proof, no truth, no justice; only abuse of Hispanic voters and horrible immigrant terrorizing, reminding me of the Republican poll watchers who went into the deep South and watched black voters and intimidated them from voting.

That is right, Mr. Speaker. The process of determining the election of Congresswoman LORETTA SANCHEZ is an abuse of discretion. No fraud has been