

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

found, only a Republican runaway committee and a runaway Congress.

The voters of California's 46th Congressional District have spoken. These voters want you to stop harassing Hispanic surnames and Hispanic citizens and those who want to vote and those who will have justice and truth. Republicans, stop the abuse of Americans and our Hispanic citizens.

CALIFORNIA ELECTION AND EDUCATION

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

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, as to Mr. Dornan's case, I believe the procedures that the House has to review elections are being followed. It is a question of how many ineligible, illegal people voted. That is something we should take up, and I am confident that as a body we will do a good job of doing that when the time comes.

Education. A lot has been said about education. Apparently there is a great confrontation about the Nation. The President said he would veto the Labor-HHS bill if we do not agree to national testing. Mr. President, you just do that. If you want to federalize education, we will have a fight. It is a fight long overdue.

Your agenda has been since day one to take everything local and make it national. National testing is a \$39 million farce, 90 to \$100 million to implement the test in 1999. It is truly a local function being done in abundance. We need to stop testing children. We know the problems. We need to start educating children. If he wants to veto the bill and shut the Government down to federalize education, I think that is a debate that is long overdue, and I await that day.

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BOB DORNAN'S TAXPAYER-FINANCED WITCH HUNT

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

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, now almost 1 year and a half a million dollars later neutral observers are saying what everyone in this House has been saying for the longest of times. The people of the 46th Congressional District in California voted Bob Dornan out of office, and they voted the gentlewoman from California [Ms. SANCHEZ] in. Yet the Republican leadership continues to waste taxpayer dollars funding Bob Dornan's election witch hunt against the gentlewoman from California [Ms. SANCHEZ] and his customary tirades. Now we hear that the Republican leadership has a scheme to reject the vote of the people of the 46th Congressional District and to take away the job that the gentlewoman from California [Ms. SANCHEZ] earned from the voters. The

leadership on the Republican side will allege that there were too many questionable votes in the 984-vote victory of the gentlewoman from California.

Who was the target of this so-called questionable voting campaign? Hispanics. Who was the target of the harassment in this investigation? Hispanic voters.

It is the people of America who vote people into office; it is the people of America who vote people out. It is not witch hunts that are paid for and financed by taxpayers at the expense of those people who vote and do so. Bob Dornan does not have the right to do this at taxpayer expense.

DEMOCRATS SHRED EVIDENCE, THEN ACT OUTRAGED ABOUT "THE SYSTEM"

(Mrs. LINDA SMITH of Washington asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. LINDA SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, sometimes we just have to sit back and admire the Democrats for their breathtaking audacity. Democrats have found themselves caught red-handed in more than one sense taking money from foreign sources. Let us make it very clear that is illegal. That is why the Democrat Party has already returned millions of dollars in contributions from foreign sources. Of course that is after they used the money to help the President get re-elected.

So now they feel qualified to tell the American people how to do it and that they are the party that would be expert in raising money. Well, would that still be from foreign sources? Maybe they think that under a better system, a system that does not force them to break the law, it should be OK to raise money for political campaigns from Communist China, launder that money to conceal its source, shred evidence to conceal the criminal behavior and then act outraged about the system.

Or maybe they just want to change the subject.

FRESHMEN BIPARTISAN TASK FORCE ON FINANCE REFORM HAS PRODUCED A COMMON SENSE APPROACH

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

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, we are now in day 83, 83 days after July 4, the day that the President asked this body to enact campaign finance reform.

I do not know what we are so concerned about, what we are so afraid of on this side of the congressional House. The Senate is starting to make some movement; I think it is time for us in the House of Representatives to do the same.

But I do not want to have a false debate or a false bill come before this floor. I do not want a bill that we are

going to sit here and look at that contains a poison pill. A poison pill is something that is going to place one party at a distinct disadvantage of another party. That is why I am proud of the product that I and other Members of the freshman bipartisan task force on finance reform have produced and have introduced. It is a commonsense approach that gets rid of the biggest of the big money, a soft money ban, requires greater identification of groups trying to influence the outcome of elections, requiring greater disclosure of candidates and where the money sources are coming from, but we need to schedule this now: An honest debate, a bill that is receiving bipartisan support, something that us freshmen have produced together, working in a way that can receive support on both sides of the aisle.

The time to get to work is now.

WE DO NOT NEED NEW LAWS ON CHEATING

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

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, well, it is pretty clear somebody has been cheating out there. We do not need new laws, we already have laws against illegal campaign contributions. And let me remind those colleagues of mine who have been up here talking moment after moment about campaign cheating, look at the headlines on this morning's paper, and let me read it:

"Democratic National Committee Teamsters Traded Funds."

It reminds me in high school when one of my classmates got caught cheating. The first thing he told the teacher was everybody was. "Well, everybody is cheating." Well, not everybody was cheating; he was the only one in that classroom that was cheating. Then his next excuse to get out of trouble for cheating was, "Well, you know you need to make new rules, Mr. Teacher. You need to make new rules about cheating. And therefore let me off the hook."

Mr. Speaker, I will be one of the first to stand up and say we should not have cheating. That is exactly what the Democratic National Committee is doing. We have campaign laws in effect, we have an Attorney General that should investigate those, should appoint an independent investigator, and we have a Democratic National Committee that should step forward immediately and let the American public know the scenario and the scheme they have got going with the Teamsters.

CALLING ON THE SPEAKER TO SCHEDULE A VOTE ON CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM TODAY

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