

of recent developments. It is hard to fathom, for example, why Justice Department investigators were so clearly taken by surprise when it turned out that the Democratic Party had engaged in a systematic scheme of juggling its books, transferring money from one account to another in possible violation of the law. Had the investigators been doing their job, they would have also discovered months ago that the basis for Ms. Reno's repeatedly saying that there were no credible allegations of wrongdoing against Vice President Al Gore was flat wrong.

After disclosures in the press that the Democrats mixed campaign accounts that are supposed to be rigidly separate, Ms. Reno abruptly announced that her department would actively consider asking for a special counsel to take over the case. But there really is no need for delay in recognizing the obvious. Moreover, it would be a political subterfuge to limit the special counsel to Mr. Gore. His boss has earned one, too.

The first order of business ought to be fixing responsibility for the Democrats' fundraising abuses, not simply the shuffling of accounts but whether there were any quid pro quos for all those donors and whether anyone in a major responsibility knew of the laundering of money and illegal transfers of funds from foreign sources. Among the highest priorities, in addition, is determining whether Mr. Gore violated Federal laws by soliciting money from big donors from his office at the White House.

There may be a temptation among Democrats and others to suggest that bookkeeping violations are inconsequential. But that would be a fundamental misreading of the issue. The reasons go back to the reforms that followed the biggest political scandal in modern American history.

Watergate led to two historic changes in American politics. First was the establishment of a process in which the Attorney General may seek the appointment of a special prosecutor, which later became known as an independent counsel, to investigate cases against top Administration officials. In 1993 when the statute was renewed, Ms. Reno herself affirmed the importance of being able to turn to an outside counsel to avoid "an inherent conflict of interest" when the Attorney General, an appointee of the President, must oversee an investigation that could damage the Administration politically. She is burdened by that conflict today.

Watergate also produced limits on campaign contributions that were flagrantly violated last year. Since 1974, it has been illegal for an individual to contribute more than \$1,000 to a Federal candidate per election or more than \$20,000 per year to a political party for candidates election expenses. Individuals may not give more than \$25,000 in such contributions a year for all candidates and parties put together. These strictly limited contributions that are used for direct candidate support are called "hard money." Federal election law separates hard gifts from the unlimited "soft money" that can be given to the party for their operating and promotion efforts. Last week we learned that the Democratic National Committee routinely deposited soft money in its hard money or candidate accounts without informing the donors. Although some of the money was later shifted to other accounts, it is clear that the D.N.C. was casual about one of the law's most basic distinctions.

Ms. Reno's primary duty is to uphold the laws on the books. But her Democratic loyalty seems to flow toward those bearing endless legalistic explanations as to why the laws either do not mean what they say or can be ignored with impunity. She should step aside and let someone with a less partisan view of law enforcement take over the

crucial task of investigating the White House money flow.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. EWING] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. EWING addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Montana [Mr. HILL] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. HILL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. HORN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. HORN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. DIAZ-BALART] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. DIAZ-BALART addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. MANZULLO] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. MANZULLO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. ROGAN (at the request of Mr. ARMEY), for today, on account of illness.

Mr. COLLINS (at the request of Mr. ARMEY), for today, after 1 p.m. and the balance of the week, on account of a death in the family.

Mr. LAZIO of New York (at the request of Mr. ARMEY), for today, after 2:30 p.m., on account of illness in the family.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska (at the request of Mr. ARMEY), for today, after 6 p.m., on account of personal reasons.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mrs. MORELLA) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. HORN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MANZULLO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. JONES, for 5 minutes, on September 29.

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

By unanimous consent, permission to revise and extend remarks was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. MOLLOHAN) and to include extraneous matter:)

Mr. KANJORSKI.

Mr. MATSUI.

Mr. CLAY.

Mr. MORAN.

Mr. MILLER of California.

Mr. POSHARD.

Mr. TORRES.

Ms. Christian-Green.

Mr. FILNER.

Mr. UNDERWOOD.

Mr. CLEMENT.

Mr. LIPINSKI.

Mr. STARK.

Mr. SHERMAN.

Mr. MARTINEZ.

Ms. Velázquez.

(The following Members (at the request of Mrs. MORELLA) and to include extraneous matter:)

Mr. GOODLING.

Mr. WALSH.

Mr. WOLF.

Mr. CASTLE.

Mr. MCCOLLUM.

Mr. PAPPAS.

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia.

Mr. GILMAN.

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma.

Mr. RILEY.

Mrs. MORELLA.

Mr. PORTER.

SENATE BILLS REFERRED

Bills of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 542. An act to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to issue a certificate of documentation with appropriate endorsement for employment in the coastwise trade for the vessel FAR HORIZONS; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

S. 662. An act to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to issue a certificate of documentation with appropriate endorsement for employment in the coastwise trade for the vessel VORTICE; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

S. 880. An act to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to issue a certificate of documentation with appropriate endorsement for employment in the coastwise trade for the vessel DUSKEN IV; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Mr. THOMAS, from the Committee on House Oversight, reported that that

committee had examined and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 2209. An act making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2443. An act to designate the Federal building located at 601 Fourth Street, NW., in the District of Columbia, as the "Federal Bureau of Investigation, Washington Field Office Memorial Building", in honor of William H. Christian, Jr., Martha Dixon Martinez, Michael J. Miller, Anthony Palmisiano, and Edwin R. Woodruffe.

H.R. 2248. An act to authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew in recognition of his outstanding and enduring contributions toward religious understanding and peace, and for other purposes.

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Mr. THOMAS, from the Committee on House Oversight reported that that committee did on the following dates present to the President, for his approval, bills of the House of the following title:

On September 24, 1997:

H.R. 111. An act to provide for the conveyance of a parcel of unused agricultural land in Dos Palos, California, to the Dos Palos Ag Boosters for use as a farm school.

On September 25 1997:

H.R. 2443. An act to designate the Federal Building located at 601 Fourth Street, NW., in the District of Columbia, as the "Federal Bureau of Investigation, Washington Field Office Memorial Building", in honor of William H. Christian, Jr., Martha Dixon Martinez, Michael J. Miller, Anthony Palmisiano, and Edwin R. Woodruffe.

H.R. 2248. An act authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew in recognition of his outstanding and enduring contributions toward religious understanding and peace, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2209. An act making appropriations for the legislative branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 50 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, September 26, 1997, at 9 a.m.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. SHUSTER: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 2516. A bill to extend the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 through March 31, 1998; with an amendment (Rept. 105-270). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. HYDE: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 1313. A bill for the relief of Nancy B. Wilson (Rept. 105-269). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House.

SUBSEQUENT ACTION ON A REPORTED BILL SEQUENTIALLY REFERRED

Under clause 5 of Rule X the following action was taken by the Speaker:

H.R. 695. Referral to the Committee on Commerce extended for a period ending not later than September 29, 1997.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 5 of Rule X and clause 4 of Rule XXII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mrs. MORELLA:

H.R. 2544. A bill to improve the ability of Federal agencies to license federally owned inventions; to the Committee on Science, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BROWN of Ohio (for himself, Mr. BALDACC, Mr. BONIOR, Ms. CHRISTIAN-GREEN, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. DELUMS, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. FILNER, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. FROST, Mr. HILLIARD, Ms. JACKSON-LEE, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. McNULTY, Mr. MURTHA, Mr. NADLER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. NORWOOD, Mr. OLVER, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. SAXTON, Mr. STEARNS, Mr. UNDERWOOD, Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania, Mr. EVANS, Mr. LANTOS, and Mr. FAZIO of California):

H.R. 2545. A bill to amend title 39, United States Code, to allow postal patrons to contribute to funding for prostate cancer research through the voluntary purchase of certain specially issued United States postage stamps; to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

By Mr. CLAY (for himself and Mr. KILDEE):

H.R. 2546. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to make college more affordable and accessible; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. FARR of California (for himself, Mr. SAXTON, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. MILLER of California, Mr. GILCHREST, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. BROWN of California, Mr. GOSS, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, and Mr. ORTIZ):

H.R. 2547. A bill to develop and maintain a coordinated, comprehensive, and long-range national policy with respect to ocean and coastal activities that will assist the Nation in meeting specified objectives, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. FILNER:

H.R. 2548. A bill to curtail illegal immigration through increased enforcement of the employer sanctions provisions in the Immigration and Nationality Act and related laws; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be

subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts:

H.R. 2549. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to restrict the application of the windfall elimination provision to individuals whose combined monthly income from benefits under such title and other monthly periodic payments exceeds \$2,000 and to provide for a graduated implementation of such provision on amounts above such \$2,000 amount; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. KLECZKA:

H.R. 2550. A bill to adjust the rules for deducting military separation pay amounts from veterans' disability compensation; to the Committee on National Security.

By Mr. LAFALCE (for himself, Mr. HOUGHTON, Mr. BARCIA of Michigan, and Mr. OBERSTAR):

H.R. 2551. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to authorize the Attorney General to eliminate the fee associated with the issuance of an I-68 landing permit; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MCCOLLUM (for himself and Mr. BACHUS):

H.R. 2552. A bill to amend the requirements in the Federal Credit Union Act relating to audit requirements and supervisory committee oversight of insured credit unions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

By Mrs. MORELLA (for herself, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. CHRISTIAN-GREEN, Mr. SANDLIN, Mr. OLVER, Mr. FROST, Ms. RIVERS, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, and Mr. MCGOVERN):

H.R. 2553. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make the dependent care credit refundable, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 2554. A bill to prohibit discrimination on the basis of certain factors with respect to any aspect of a surety bond transaction; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PALLONE (for himself, Mr. JONES, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. NADLER, Mr. GEJDENSON, and Ms. DELAURO):

H.R. 2555. A bill to prohibit the Department of the Interior from expending any funds for a mid-Atlantic coast offshore oil and gas lease sale; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. SAXTON:

H.R. 2556. A bill to reauthorize the North American Wetlands Conservation Act and the Partnerships for Wildlife Act; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. STARK:

H.R. 2557. A bill to provide for the removal of abandoned vessels; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. STARK:

H.R. 2558. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for payment for hospital outpatient department services equal to payment rates established for similar services provided outside the hospital setting; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. STARK:

H.R. 2559. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to limit the ability of hospitals to treat noncontiguous facilities as hospital outpatient departments; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Commerce, for a