

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM
HEARINGS NEEDED IN HOUSE NOW

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, today, for the first time in this Congress, Democratic determination has produced some results on reducing the influence of special interest campaign money.

A debate is under way at this very moment in this very building on specific bipartisan campaign finance reform, the McCain-Feingold proposal. But it is not enough that reform pass the Senate. In my civics class we learned it has to pass the House of Representatives also. And what is the news on that subject? Today's banner headlines, "GINGRICH Asserts Campaign Bill, Alive in Senate, Is Dead in House."

The American people do not want this proposal stillborn in the House. We are pleased that there is a debate finally after so many Democratic demands underway, but it must occur in both parts of this Capitol Building, not just in one.

As we read on through the story, we learn we have the same problem with the Republican leadership. They say they want more money in campaigns, not less. We need reform now.

NO FEDERAL FUNDING OF STUDIES
OF USE OF MIND-ALTERING
DRUGS

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

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, we just adopted an amendment to the appropriations bill currently before this body that would prohibit, at least for those agencies and departments of this Government covered by that bill, H.R. 2267, that none of them can use any funds so appropriated for the study of legalization or so-called medicinal use of marijuana or other schedule I controlled substances.

Mr. Speaker, I wish it were not necessary to offer such amendments, but it is. The fact of the matter is that even though our Office of National Drug Control Policy asserts under oath and in writing that it is neither the intent nor the purpose of this administration to expend taxpayer moneys for such purposes, such as the medicinal use of marijuana or other drugs or the legalization thereof, they are in fact doing so.

Therefore, these amendments become necessary to stop this administration from talking out of both sides of its mouth on drug policy. This amendment and others I intend to offer on spending bills will send a very clear message to the taxpayers of this country that they are not going to have to continue to fund the study of legalization of mind-altering drugs.

DEBATE NEEDED IN HOUSE ON
CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

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

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, this is the people's House. This is where the debate of our constituents is supposed to take place by those who have been elected by them.

But we cannot have a debate, apparently, in the people's House on campaign finance reform, and yet it is campaign contributions and soft money contributions to campaigns that is distorting the decisions that are being made in this House. It is campaign contributions that allow a \$50 billion tax break to be given to the tobacco companies in the middle of the night, with no vote, no discussion, and no debate.

In the other body, in the U.S. Senate, they are starting the debate on campaign finance reform. But here, because of Speaker GINGRICH, Majority Leader ARMEY, we are told we cannot debate that in the people's House.

We need to have that debate. We need to free the people's House from the influence of soft money and special interest contributions that are corrupting the legislative process and are corrupting the democratic process in this country. No longer can we have the decisions being made based upon who gave you a contribution.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I, the pending business is the question of agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal of the last day's proceedings.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY,
SEPTEMBER 29, 1997

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 10:30 a.m. on Monday next for morning hour debates.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR
WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON
WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

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. SHIMKUS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. SHIMKUS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.]

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, it is really now or never. Either this Congress acts now to remedy at least some of the shortcomings of the 1996 campaigns and the way that they are financed, or we can kiss good-bye to any hope of reform in time to affect the 1998 elections.

Many Americans have been concerned about practices and events that occurred in both of the political parties during the 1996 elections. But the time is today to decide, are we going to do anything about it, or just talk about it a little bit more?

Fortunately, the determination of Democrats in the U.S. Senate is leading to action today. As I speak here, in the Senate a specific proposal to change the way campaigns operate is being debated fully, and I am sure it will be discussed over the next several days there. After considerable obstruction by Republicans and the leadership and probably more obstruction to come, there is at least a debate going on there, according to agreed terms.

But here in the House of Representatives, where this proposal must also be approved, we read in this morning's paper, "Gingrich asserts campaign bill, alive in Senate, is dead in house."

Indeed, we find ourselves in a situation where, back in 1995, that same Speaker GINGRICH shook hands with President Clinton and said he wanted to achieve bipartisan campaign finance reform. That is essentially the last we heard of it. The smile had hardly faded before the interest in reforming campaigns, which could have been in place for the 1996 elections, was forgotten. Nothing happened until the eve of the elections, when a contrived proposal was brought here on a very short notice for 1 hour, and even many of our Republican colleagues rejected it, because it was not reform. Rather, it was the kind of proposal that was condemned by every good government group that had worked to reform our campaign and election laws in the past.

I prefer the kind of comprehensive reform that Mr. MCCAIN, a Republican, and Mr. FEINGOLD, a Democrat, are urging over in the Senate. But whatever the approach that we might take

to reform this system, and there may be many good ideas, there have been many proposals advanced, the question is, Will we have a firm day now in terms of debate that provide for full and fair discussion of the proposals?

I must say that this same story from this morning's paper is not very encouraging in that regard. It does point out, as for the House, Republican leaders have been publicly silent, until this week, on the idea of bringing up the campaign finance bill, even as Democrats agitated daily for a vote on this issue.

We have had to file motions to adjourn, to approve the Journal, to count the votes, to do these various things, because under our rules, we have no other mechanism to adjourn the special interests that want to dominate this House and that have influenced legislation with the \$50 billion tax break for tobacco companies and so many other ways this year.

You give the most soft money in the first 6 months, and in the seventh month you get a \$50 billion tax break that all the rest of us have to pay for. That is wrong. But it is not just a matter of talking about it up here and talking about it in the Senate. We have got to do something about it. And the "something" is comprehensive reform that is scheduled now.

But if we read on in this morning's paper, what we learn is that the kind of reform that the Speaker says might come up sometime this fall, and fall has already begun, is not reform, but it would allow unlimited personal contributions.

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He wants to solve the problem of big money influence on this body that is crippling the operation of our Congress; he wants to solve the big money problem by making it bigger. Let the big boys give what they are giving now, and let them give any amount they want to do to influence the priorities of this Congress. That is not reform, it is repealing the only reforms that we have been able to get on the books thus far.

We need a real reform, not a repeal of the existing law, little as it is, to try to control the way the system has operated, and that real reform could come as early as next week.

I am pleased that this same story reports that our leader, the gentleman from Missouri, [Mr. GEPHARDT], has written to Speaker GINGRICH and he has said, "Until we receive your commitment to follow through on rhetorical offerings," and that is all we have had, "we shall not treat these overtures as serious," and certainly they should not be, "and we will continue our efforts to force action to daily floor proceedings."

That is precisely what will occur on this floor on next Monday, and it is precisely what will occur in the future. Until we get fair play in this House, until the American people have a

chance to see specific proposals out here, we will have other procedural votes to get the American people the reform that they deserve.

BUDGET PRIORITIES FOR AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Florida). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, just a short while ago we had a vote to cut \$54 million out of the U.N. appropriation. The vote tally was 242 to 165, 165 in favor of cutting this \$54 million of so-called past dues.

I want to compliment the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. BARTLETT] for bringing to this our attention, because I think it is a very important point, because we are never reimbursed for all of the peacekeeping missions throughout the world. Therefore, they actually owe us, we do not owe them. So it is rather sad to see that we, as a Congress, cannot rectify this; instead, we vote more funds for the United Nations.

Of course, I do not hide the fact that I do not think a lot about the United Nations. I think ultimately it is very detrimental to America's policy and very detrimental to our sovereignty, so I have a specific agenda in that regard.

Actually, the problems we face with the United Nations can be solved, because there has been a compromise offered. Instead of abolishing the United Nations like I would like to do, I think Ted Turner has offered us a real solution. Ted Turner is a very wealthy man, has made a lot of money in the capital system, and he is voluntarily willing to submit \$1 billion to continue with the United Nations, and I think that is fine. I think the United Nations ought to be funded by donations such as from Ted Turner. An additional advantage of having Ted Turner send his money to the United Nations, we can be assured that with the next war started by the United Nations, we can send Jane Fonda to do the fighting for us.

On another subject, I want to just mention something about the recent discussions we have had here on the floor here in the last week on the pay raise. I am not in favor of the pay raise. I voted against the pay raise. As a matter of fact, I think our pension fund is outrageously obscene, and I do not participate in it. But in comparison to some other matters, I think the amount of attention that we gave to the pay raise is probably a little bit more than needed to be done.

For instance, the pay raise, after taxes, would come to \$40 a week, but nevertheless, I think the point was well taken that we should not be taking a pay raise when so many people in this country are actually suffering the consequence of a decreasing standard of living. Until we solve that, I do not be-

lieve we should be taking a pay raise. That so-called pay raise would have been a 2.3-percent COLA increase.

But in comparison to what we were doing in the particular bill that that was attached to, the Treasury-Postal Service appropriation, informed many Members of the Congress that were not aware of it, but in this bill, we actually increase the budget for the IRS by more than a half a billion dollars. At the same time we hold these grand hearings, make grand speeches against the IRS, and at the very same time we are expanding the role and the power and the authority of the IRS by expanding their budget by more than a half a billion dollars.

Then there is another agency of government that is probably the second least favorite of mine to the IRS, and that is the BATF. The BATF budget was increased 14 percent. It went up \$66 million. So at the time we were talking about a small cost-of-living increase for Congress, which again I oppose, we at the same time were pretending that we were fighting this IRS and the abuse of the IRS, but expanding the role of the IRS.

I think what we need to do is get things in perspective. I think that first off, we should exist here for the liberty, protection of liberties of American citizens; we should be protecting the sovereignty of the United States; we should not be paying the dues out of proportion to what everybody else pays throughout the world at the same time we sacrifice much of our liberties and we live in a nation today where our troops are actually serving under the commanders of foreign generals. Everybody I talk to, everybody in my district I talk to, they do not like this. They would like to see this change.

So once again, I would like to express the sadness about the recent vote that we could not even cut the \$54 million away from what is called overdue back dues for the United Nations. I think it is so important that we put all of this in perspective. Yes, we do not need pay raises, but we certainly do not need to raise the amount of money we give the IRS and the BATF.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

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

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, Members of the House, the pictures that have been painted in the hearings in the Senate and in the disclosures by national news media about what took place in the last campaign is not a pretty picture for the American people.

In fact, I am sure it is quite painful when they see that the last campaign of what we call soft money, that is money that essentially is not regulated by Federal campaign laws, was made in contributions to both parties, both major parties in this country, in huge