

forward in this body. I want to particularly make reference to it for a few moments today to urge my colleagues, and particularly my conservative colleagues, to consider campaign finance reform.

I do not believe that campaign finance reform particularly is of any ideological persuasion, but I think the conservatives have been more reluctant, for various reasons, to join the effort to reform our campaign finance system. I think they can join the effort.

First of all, I am a conservative. I am very much in support of, as a former State party chairman, reforming our campaign system. If we look at the campaign finance reform ideas out on the table, we first have to acknowledge that there are some bad ideas out there. There are some ideas that I would not support, but then there are some other ideas for reform that are consistent with conservative principles.

I would not support, for instance, public funding of primaries. I would not support mandatory spending limits. But I do support reforms that stop the abuses of soft money, and I think that is what we need to address.

I have sponsored, along with the gentleman from Maine, Mr. TOM ALLEN, across the aisle, the Bipartisan Campaign Integrity Act of 1997. It is a good bill that bans soft money, that increases disclosure to the American public of what is being spent. In addition, it helps the parties in reference to raising hard money, the honest money. It empowers individuals and slows down the influence of special interest groups. So it is a good bill and it is based upon conservative principles.

In addition to the gentleman from Maine, Mr. TOM ALLEN, and myself sponsoring this, we have numerous other Members. In fact, we have one of the leading bills for cosponsorship from both sides of the aisle. That is why it is of a bipartisan nature. When I look at conservative principles I think of the free market system, I think of individual liberty, I think of smaller government, and I think of a strong defense. This bill really helps us to move in all of those things.

When we look at a free market, we have a free market system because we are able to control monopolies, and say monopolies cannot work because they infringe upon the free market system. Yet, we look at the free market system of ideas and they are being infringed upon by the international corporations that have such an undue influence on our political system.

So this bill levels the playing field, creates really a free market out there, empowers individuals. It encourages individual liberty by empowering individuals. It emphasizes those people who work at the grass roots rather than those people who simply try to generate gross profits. That empowers individuals.

Why does it encourage smaller government? Because if we do not act for

reform now, the call for public funding of our campaigns will grow and grow. We do not need the Government involved. We need to stop the abuse with campaign finance reform now.

Finally, a strong defense, if we can stop the foreign influence, and it will be reduced if we can eliminate the loophole of soft money.

For all of these reasons, the bill, the Bipartisan Campaign Integrity Act, is solid. It is based upon conservative principles. It will stop the abuses, and when I talk across this country, people of all ideological persuasions understand the need for honest, legitimate reform.

That is why I urge my colleagues to support this. Whether they call themselves a liberal, whether they call themselves a conservative, or whether they call themselves a moderate, this is reform that the American public demands across the aisle. Our bill is consistent with conservative principles. I urge my colleagues to support it.

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. Madam Speaker, let me begin by commending our colleague, the gentleman from Arkansas [Mr. HUTCHINSON], for the remarks that he just made. I think that he made some very good points about the need for us to address this whole issue of soft money, and I fully support the initiative that he and our colleague, the gentleman from Maine, Mr. TOM ALLEN, and other freshmen Members, against considerable resistance, have maintained in offering the Bipartisan Campaign Integrity Act.

Madam Speaker, indeed, I was the Member who stood here on the floor last Friday and asked Speaker GINGRICH personally when he was in the Chair to grant us consent to take up and consider that bill last week. It seemed to me appropriate that we should be considering campaign finance reform on the same day that our colleagues across the hall in the United States Senate were considering that issue last Friday, but instead, we were denied that opportunity.

It seems to me that the kind of bipartisanship that the gentleman from Arkansas has just demonstrated in working, both Democrats and Republicans together, to address this issue is the very kind of bipartisanship that has existed in the Senate, with the leadership of Senator MCCAIN joining with Senator FEINGOLD to propose realistic ways in which we can address this problem of the money chase that affects people of all political philosophies in both parties, devoting in many cases more time to finding the funds to maintain themselves in office or to achieve office than to attend to the public's business.

So I would say, first, I come tonight to agree with my Republican colleague,

and I will say secondly that I agree with comments that many of our Republican colleagues have made on this floor recently concerning the need to enforce existing campaign finance laws.

I read with alarm the reports in the New York Times and otherwise about three campaign aides to the Teamster chief making guilty pleas about illegal money and reelection of the Teamsters tied to a scheme including Democrats. There are already three people that have pled guilty. I want to see that fully and thoroughly investigated, fully and thoroughly prosecuted, along with any other violation by anyone on either side of the political aisle, the political philosophy, of our existing laws.

The problem that brings us here tonight, because we are not an enforcement body of existing laws, is not those existing laws and such violations as may or may not have occurred. To me the problem is that what is legal is not right.

What is legal under existing campaign finance laws is the ability of special interests to pour in millions and millions of dollars that influences what happens in this Congress every day and every evening. What is legal is not right, by the view of the American people, who watch their Congress coming increasingly under the control of special interests who can afford to dump more and more money, soft money, to soften up the political process.

What I find indeed amazing were the comments this weekend of colleagues, both Speaker GINGRICH here in the House and various Members of the other body, saying that they had a solution to the problem of campaign finance reform. What is their solution? They do not think we have enough money in the system. They think that all of the existing reforms in terms of campaign finance limitation, they want to have campaign finance reform by repealing the existing laws and by allowing anyone to pay whatever it costs to buy whatever it is they need in the political process.

I do not believe that people who have studied our system, the ordinary person who is out there working, trying to make ends meet, that they begin to believe the nonsense of those who perhaps have spent too much time focused on how to raise the money for the next campaign instead of how to make ends meet out in the real world; that anyone out there with good sense, looking at this system, thinks that we can make it better if we allow the big boys to pour in even more money than they are funneling into the system already; money that distorts the legislative priorities, that results in a tobacco company being able to come in here and give more soft money to the Republican Party than any other special interest in the first 6 months of this year, and then come along in month 7 and they get a \$50 billion tax break tucked into page 300-and something of

the balanced budget bill; to have another contributor who was an individual family contributor who contributed about \$1 million in the spring of this year, and then come along in month 7, and they got a pretty good tax break buried in that balanced budget bill, also.

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That is the way this system has worked, and that is what is wrong with the system. Too much time is focused on fund-raising and not enough time on good public policy. We can change that by bringing campaign finance system reform to this floor for full and open debate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. GRANGER). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. NORWOOD] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. NORWOOD 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 New Jersey [Mr. PALLONE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

CITIZENSHIP REFORM ACT OF 1997

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

Mr. BILBRAY. Madam Speaker, let me first say, as one of the original cosponsors of the bipartisan campaign finance legislation, I would ask those of us on both sides of the aisle who truly want to see this body finally address that issue to go to our colleagues and ask them to quit the dilatory procedures in asking for adjournment after adjournment so we can get through the budgetary process, not have to have a CR, not have to be threatened with the close-down of the Government. And then we can address the issue that we all want to take a look at, especially those of us who cosponsored the bipartisan campaign finance reform.

That set aside, I am here to specifically address an issue of fairness and an issue of common sense. It is the bill that is called H.R. 7. It is the Citizenship Reform Act of 1997. It amends the Naturalization Act to stop giving automatic citizenship to the children of illegal aliens and tourists. It is basically there because those of us who have worked in local government and had to address this issue in local communities realize that it is a much bigger issue than what most people say.

I served as a county supervisor in a county in California. We came to the conclusion that Washington has to quit giving incentives to people to break our immigration laws. Madam Speak-

er, in California, in fact in Los Angeles County alone, there are over 250,000 citizen children of illegal aliens who qualify for such benefits as Medicare, AFDC, WIC, SSI. And, de facto, their parents get that money rewarded to them for breaking the law and having a child here. We are talking about two-thirds of the births in the largest populated county in the United States, Los Angeles County, and those public hospitals, are children of illegal aliens. We are talking about a cost in California alone to the State of California of over \$500 million annually in providing health care services to the children of illegal aliens.

Now, some people may say that 40 percent of all births paid by Medicare in California going to illegal aliens is not that big a deal because it is California. But, Madam Speaker, all of the United States pays for this and all the people of the United States bear the responsibility of sending the wrong message, and that is, we will reward people for breaking our laws and punish those who wait patiently.

This loophole needs to be closed. It is not the responsibility of an illegal alien to close this loophole. It is not their fault that Washington has invited people in to get paid for breaking the law. The fact is, this loophole falls on our shoulders. It is not the mother of illegal aliens that should be blamed. It is Washington and our lack of commitment to fairness and common sense.

In Texas alone, there were fraudulent birth certificates sold to foreigners just so they can gain access to these public benefits. In fact, in one county in Texas, over 3,800 phony birth certificates were sold to the mothers so their children could get this automatic citizenship. Eighty-nine people today are being indicted, and over \$400,000 worth of welfare fraud has been identified.

Now, granting automatic citizenship to the illegal aliens in this country is one of those terrible bait and switches that we say, come on in, break our laws, and we will reward you. We are talking fairness here, because there are thousands of would-be immigrants who are waiting patiently to immigrate into this country who do not get these benefits because their children were born while they were waiting.

The other issue is, what is really the difference between an illegal immigrant who comes in with a child who is 1 year old in their arms? Do they not have as much need for service as somebody who came across and gave birth right after getting on U.S. soil? It is totally absurd, and we have got to talk about the fairness.

Madam Speaker, there are those who will say that it is unconstitutional not to give everyone on U.S. soil automatic U.S. citizenship. I remind you, the children of diplomats do not get automatic citizenship and the children of certain tribes did not get automatic citizenship until 1924. The 14th amendment has never been clarified by the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court has

never ruled on the right of illegal alien children to get automatic citizenship.

I think it is the obligation of Congress, under the fifth section of the 14th amendment, to raise this issue, bring it forth, and let the chips fall where they might. Why are people so scared of fairness? Why are they so scared of taking care of this?

Madam Speaker, I close with the fact that we have 51 bipartisan cosponsors. A hearing was held on June 25. We are looking forward to the gentleman from Texas [Mr. SMITH] chairman of the Subcommittee on Immigration and Claims, setting a date in October. I encourage everyone to join with us, call your Congressman, let us address this issue fairly and up front.

DEMOCRAT RECORD ON CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

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

Mr. FARR of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to continue the discussion on campaign finance reform. As you have heard earlier, there is a big effort here in the House to come up with a meaningful package.

I would like to remind everyone that this is not the first time that we have debated this issue. In fact, in the last Congress, in the 104th, which is the Congress that was elected in 1994, a bill came to the floor, a bill that I authored so I am very familiar with it, that was a repetition of the bills that had been here before that had been passed out of this House when Democrats were in control. And I think that the approach that we need to be reminded of, in this era when everybody wants some campaign reform, they will take the cream off the top and try to do something immediately, trying to do an easy fix. We do not even seem to be able to do the easy fix.

We were shown the now historical handshake where the President and the Speaker of this House agreed that it would be campaign finance reform done in the last session. It has not been done. It was supposed to be done in this session. We have not even had a committee hearing or a scheduled vote.

I want to remind people that the bill that has always gotten the most votes in this House, and that in the 103d and the 102d and the 101st sessions of Congress got off of the floor of this House only to be filibustered by Republicans in the Senate or vetoed by President Bush, was a campaign finance reform bill that was comprehensive that did set campaign spending limits.

My colleagues, we are not going to have a meaningful campaign reform bill until we can limit how much candidates can do. We know from case law and the Supreme Court decision that we cannot, as a Congress, limit free speech, but we also know that we can set up a process where one can volunteer to set the limits for themselves in