

support campaign finance reform, the American people support campaign finance reform, but the Senate Republican leadership will not let there be a clean vote on campaign finance reform.

And I say to my friends on the Republican side of the aisle, I know there is Republican support. I know there are many Republicans that support campaign finance reform.

Here on the House side we have had no hearings, we have had no votes on campaign finance reform, we have had no bills brought to the floor. In almost a year we have been in session, we have had no debate on the floor on campaign finance reform. And, again, the problem is the Republican leadership of this House.

I say once again, I know there are many Republican Members who will vote for campaign finance reform if it is brought to the floor of the House. The problem is the Republican leadership.

What is the problem? What is the problem with our campaign finance laws? This morning I held up this phony check I had made out here for a billion dollars, and the reality is it is now currently legal to make unlimited donations to the political party of our choice, Democrat, Republican, Reform Party, or any other party. Whether we are an individual, whether we are a corporation, whether we are a union, we can write out a check for any amount of money we choose to, as long as the account is good, and it is legal under campaign finance reform.

That is wrong. It contributes to the cynicism of this country, and it is a problem that needs to be fixed.

To discuss possible fixes to this very real problem facing America, I would like to yield to the gentleman from California [Mr. FARR], a leader in campaign finance reform.

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I want to engage with the gentleman in this discussion because, obviously, the gentleman saw yesterday that the Republican leadership in the Senate broke things, and the U.S. public is asking for a campaign reform fix. We have legislation here before us. In fact, the legislation before this House does not require that the Senate has to fix their side, we can fix just this side.

I have H.R. 600, which has more cosponsors than any other bill in Congress. It is the bill that historically has passed this House under Democratic leadership. It is the bill that received the most votes when this issue came up before the 104th Congress. It is a bill that totally reforms campaign expenditures, campaign collections, the whole gamut from A to Z, and it is a substantive bill.

The issue here is that we are the legislative branch of government. We are here to fix things that are broken. This is not just about hearing and smearing, it is about acting and doing. We need to have on this floor a vote on campaign finance reform.

The gentleman and I cannot do much about it because we are in the minority

party, but the majority party has indicated that they are some day going to do it. They have the ability to do it now, and we hope they will give us the date and the time soon and that there will be particular bills like this, H.R. 600, that are comprehensive, that allow us to have a vote on it, because I believe that this House, in a bipartisan way, can send a bill to the President that will reform campaign finance methods of collecting, spending and conducting campaigns in the United States of America for people who run for the House of Representatives.

I appreciate the gentleman's leadership. The gentleman has certainly brought about the evidence that there is too much money in politics and that we can fix it together.

Mr. SNYDER. I appreciate the gentleman's comments. There are several good ideas out there, and they are incorporated. I think we now have 85 bills filed. If no bill gets to the floor of this House, none of those bills are going to be discussed, and it is very discouraging, given the uproar in the last election cycle from the American people about the volume of money spent, that we see that we are not doing anything about it this year.

Mr. FARR of California. So the question is when.

Mr. SNYDER. The question is when.

Mr. FARR of California. The question is how.

Mr. SNYDER. The gentleman knows how. We have other Members that know how. The issue is having the debate to make the final decision about the how.

Mr. FARR of California. Well, we have colleagues here, and we hope that they will join us, listening to us, and demand that a vote be brought on campaign finance reform so that together, in a bipartisan fashion, we can fix it in a comprehensive form. Not just plug up one little leak or two little leaks, but do the whole thing so that we limit how much money people spend on campaigns.

That is the issue. We have to take the big mass, obscene expenditures out of campaigns, and we have a way of doing it. It has gotten to the President before. President Bush vetoed it, unfortunately, the Senate Republicans filibustered in the past, but now we have the ability because we do not need to have it go to the Senate and we can get the President to sign it.

So all we need to do is get 218 votes here and the job is done and, hopefully, it will be done soon.

Mr. SNYDER. In closing, I will just say it comes down to the question of the Republican leadership, the leadership in this House saying to the Members, yes, it is okay to bring that bill on the floor of the House.

□ 1800

PROPOSAL BY FDA AND EPA TO BAN MEASURED-DOSE INHALANTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Florida [Mr. FOLEY] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to the attention of the Members and Members outside of this Chamber a proposal by the FDA and EPA to ban measured-dose inhalants which contain CFC's, or chlorofluorocarbons, that are used by people suffering from asthma.

Now, clearly, the goal of the FDA and EPA is laudable. They want to remove CFC's from all products in order to protect the ozone. But let us start with the basic premise that, first and foremost, the measured-dose inhalants contribute insignificantly to the problem.

But let us also stress, the need for these is so great, 30 million Americans suffer from asthma. CFC's are able to propel the medication necessary to help a struggling asthmatic sustain life, receive that important breath, and go on living a reasonably healthy life.

In 1999, through the Montreal protocol, the EPA and FDA wanted to start removing from the list products that are currently available to substitute one item that currently is on the market. Clearly, we expect further research to indicate that there will be options and alternatives.

What we are asking in a bill that I have filed is that the EPA and FDA report back to the Congress with a wide range of options available for asthmatics so that they can find products suitable to solve their medical emergency when necessary. Currently there are over 70 types of inhalants available on the marketplace.

My colleague, the gentleman from Rhode Island [Mr. KENNEDY], testified that he uses three different types of inhalants during the day that help provide life-sustaining breath to his lungs. I was an asthmatic as a child and suffered greatly when I tried to strive for breath.

These products are not contributing to the problems in the ozone. I talked to Dr. C. Everett Koop on Friday, and he clearly indicates that this is the wrong approach by the FDA and EPA, that this is not the problem.

Now, I applaud them for banning refrigerators with CFC's, air conditioning compressors with CFC's, hair spray and underarm deodorants that were polluting the air because of the excess of chlorofluorocarbons. But an asthma inhaler pumps the measured dose into the system and does not leach it out into the air. It is not something you waste. It is not something you spray. It is something you ingest, inhale into the lungs, to gain greater capacity.

So I urge my colleagues to support me in this initiative and urge the Speaker to consider this initiative to allow us to have those agencies report back when there are adequate amounts of materials available that can clearly be CFC-free but also provide the needed relief for patients around our country, clearly a policy decision being made that has the right intentions but has

devastating consequences to those that suffer from asthma.

Thirty million Americans suffer from asthma. Thirty million Americans will not find comfort in knowing that they are only allowed to use one inhalant. Right now, the one on the market, to some people, does not contain enough propellant to bring the medication into the lungs.

CONGRESS SHOULD NOT SPEND BUDGET SURPLUS

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, the other thing I want to discuss quickly is Alan Greenspan's testimony today that Congress should not spend budget surplus. And I agree.

To get our fiscal house in order, we have got a \$5.3 trillion debt, we should be reducing the deficit, reducing the outlay that we are spending on interest on the debt alone, finding ways to reduce that so we will then free up capital that is now being spent on interest to help the needed projects in America, the road construction and other things.

My colleague, the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. NEUMANN], and several of my colleagues have cosponsored his measure that would allocate additional increases or surpluses, 1 percent of those surpluses to Social Security Trust Fund restoration, Highway Trust Fund restoration, and, more importantly, reduction of the debt. That would bring us into a balance, if you will, allowing us to use legitimate business principles.

When we have debt, we reduce debt, it frees up capital to spend on other programs. It is very simple, very common sense. And it probably will fail in this city, because people like to spend more than they have, because they are used to it.

We clearly feel that Mr. Greenspan's testimony today indicates that we have significant benefits from running some surpluses. There is nothing wrong with running a surplus. We tell all Americans to save for a rainy day. We tell all Americans they should have a surplus in their checking account. We tell businesses that if they are profitable and have excess revenues, that they are a great thing, an American institution. Only in this building do we consider spending more than we take in. Excellent advice that we should spread around the world.

Five point three trillion dollars in debt, incurring about \$265 billion in spending on interest alone on the debt, and not reducing it by a nickel. So if we are to get our fiscal house in order, we need to start now.

I yield back the balance of my time.

TRIBUTE TO DR. EDNA P. DAVIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, let me tell my colleagues a story and why I love and respect what public school education can do for all of us.

Today I stand in tribute to Dr. Edna P. Davis. Some would wonder, is she a famous actress or has she dunked a shot on the basketball court? No; Dr. Edna P. Davis is a public school teacher who has taught for 47 years. She lives in Houston, TX. I had the pleasure of joining her colleagues and her church members at Williams Temple just a few short weeks ago in honoring this soldier on the battlefield of education.

Dr. Edna P. Davis is an educator, a humanitarian, and a scholar. I am moved by her words regarding all children when she says, "Every boy and girl, irrespective of race, ethnic group, or color, or below par in physical condition, should be taught to achieve and aspire to high ambitions of their capacity."

She loved education and religion so much that I would like to note, for the RECORD, she wrote "The Education and Religious Life of Dr. Edna P. Davis." No, this is not a self-study to promote herself but her virtues and values and pearls of wisdom, for Dr. Davis is a lover of the written word and the spoken word.

And as we listen to the testimony of her students and her friends and colleagues, they said that she was able to instill in her children and her pupils the love of the English word, the love of the ability to communicate. Her commitment to God's work and others is most appreciated by those who know her best. She is a model of good Christian conduct and academic excellence.

Dr. Davis believes that teachers should be dedicated, teachers should love children. She taught in a public school system. And Dr. Davis' contribution to education, she has taught from kindergarten through the 12th grade.

I am privileged to know one of her students, Dr. Elwin Lee, my husband, who was able to be under her tutelage at Blackshear Elementary School. The children she has taught have scored high on their tests. She never took "no" for an answer. There was no child who could not succeed or take these standardized tests. She has always been punctual, and we could count readily on her attendance record as almost perfect.

The in-depth analysis of Dr. Davis' education and her numerous accomplishments as an educator, her work in the church, and her volunteer work in education with children and extending charitable contribution to Riverside Hospital have made her a legendary figure in our community.

My colleagues would have been amazed at the numbers of individuals who came from far and wide to pay tribute, the representatives from the Houston Independent School District, classroom colleagues, school chums, next-door neighbors, and, most of all, her students, those who work at NASA, those who are law enforcement officers, those who are doctors, those who are individuals who benefited from her teachings.

At an early age, Dr. Davis was trained in the Christian concept of the golden rule. How many of us would benefit from understanding that we really should do unto others as we would want them to do unto us? And her training came from her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Jefferson Davis.

Growing up in Third Ward in Houston, TX, she noticed early the challenge for a black teenage girl from Douglas Elementary School. She went to Jack Yates High School, which was then on Elgin Street. She studied hard. And at graduation time, she was designated class valedictorian. She was noted as a quiet young woman but a studious young woman, again, someone who loved to understand and learn.

Upon leaving Jack Yates High School, she enrolled at Texas Southern University. At Texas Southern, she pursued her mission as a teacher in the School of Education. She graduated from TSU in 1953, receiving the B.A. and B.S. degree with the highest honors. Summa Cum Laude was bestowed on her for her diligent study.

Seeking intensively to learn as much as she could, Dr. Davis in 1960 received an M.A. in English and history with the same distinction.

Her further study leading to doctorate was centered at Texas Southern University, University of Houston, and New York University. Determined to get her doctorate, she enrolled at Albany State College, away from Texas. From 1974-77, she received the ED.D., the highest degree in the field of education.

Her teaching career began in 1953, when she taught at Booker T. Washington Junior High School under Principal Bryant and Principal J.R. Cunningham at Blackshear Elementary in 1954. For the past 25 years, she has taught at Blackshear Elementary School under Principal George Mundine.

Let me say, Mr. Speaker, that I am delighted to be able to rise today and pay tribute to truly a great American and American teacher, someone who loves children, loves the ability to teach children, and believes that all of our children, no matter who, can learn, truly learn. She is a wonderful American and a wonderful teacher.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer words of gratitude and recognition for the wonderful work done by Dr. Edna P. Davis, educator, humanitarian and scholar.

I am moved by her words regarding all children when she said:

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Her commitment to God's work and others is most appreciated by those who know her best. She is a model of good Christian conduct and academic excellence.

Dr. Davis believes that teachers should be dedicated. Teachers should love children. In Dr. Davis' contribution to education, she has taught from kindergarten through the twelfth grade. The children she has taught have