

fact that there will be a Federal investigation into the Union Pacific because of its merger and the fact that the employees of Union Pacific are under such stress and fatigue because of the downsizing.

Let me point out that, as a result of testimony and actually visiting with young people in uniform of all services, there are stretches and strains and fatigue. The veterans of America understand this. The military retirees of America understand this. The parents of the young people understand this.

So let us not forget those young people today who are in uniform defending America's interest regardless of whether they be here in the continental United States or ashore somewhere else, the stresses and strains under which they exist. Let us give them a word of encouragement, a word of thanks. Because they are a national treasure.

WHAT A-PLUS ACCOUNTS ARE REALLY ABOUT

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

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, it is against the House rules to question the motives of other Members. But in the last several days, we heard our Democratic colleagues saying that the reason we want to pass A-Plus accounts is to harm public education. Does anybody really believe that?

Eighty-eight percent of America's schoolchildren attend public schools. I went to public schools my entire life. Two of my children graduated from public schools. I believe in public schools. What A-Plus accounts are really about is giving the same kinds of choices to poor families, like those here in Washington DC, that wealthier families have all across America. What is wrong with giving American families, American schoolchildren choices? That is what this is all about. It is about who decides.

Some of our Democratic friends wanted to have bigger bureaucracies here in Washington. They want more of the decisions made in Washington. But look at the Washington schools themselves. We are spending over \$10,000 per student per year on the schools here in Washington, and they are arguably among the worst schools in the country.

What we want to do is allow those parents, whether in Washington, DC, or Baltimore or Minneapolis, to have the same kinds of choices that the wealthy people have.

AMERICANS DO NOT TRUST FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, poll after poll suggests a growing problem in America. Many Americans do not

trust the Federal Government. Pollsters keep trying to figure it out. I believe it is not all that complicated.

In my opinion, the American people in growing numbers do not trust the Federal Government because many Americans believe that the Federal Government does not always tell the truth. The pollsters can constipate all they want over this issue. This is no brain surgery. It is very simple. No truth, no trust. Trust and truth are inseparable.

I yield back Waco, Ruby Ridge, Pan Am 103, and Camelot.

"PORKER OF THE WEEK" AWARD

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

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, those redesigned \$50 bills are hot off the Bureau of Printing and Engraving presses. But what are we going to do with the more than \$217 million in printing errors? That is right, many bills were rejected by the Federal Reserve because the fine concentric lines surrounding the portrait of Ulysses S. Grant were broken. This may seem like a minor flaw to some, but it is a major problem because the Treasury spent \$15 million on an international education campaign touting the lines as a special feature added to thwart counterfeiters.

Most likely the only option for the Treasury Department is to destroy the flawed notes and start over. This will cost the taxpayers at least \$16.3 million, \$8.7 million for the misprinted bills, \$360,000 to destroy them, and \$7.2 million to reprint them.

If that is not bad enough, the Bureau of Printing and Engraving most recently purchased \$50 million in printing equipment that it did not install in its Washington facility because they would have to have major renovation at that facility.

The Bureau of Printing and Engraving gets my "Porker of the Week" award.

STILL NO DEBATE ON CAMPAIGN FINANCE SYSTEM

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

Mr. LUTHER. Mr. Speaker, here we are today, with only a week or two left before the scheduled planned adjournment of the House, and still no debate has occurred on cleaning up our campaign finance system in this country.

One of the big arguments used around here to have business as usual and to do nothing is that people do not care, it is not being demanded by the American people. Well, let us get it straight. The American people hired us to come to Washington to figure out what is wrong with the system and to fix it. Nearly everyone knows that the campaign finance system is broken and needs to be repaired, that it needs to be cleaned up.

So let us do our job. Let us do the job we were hired to do by the American people. Let us debate this issue. Let us pass a tough, comprehensive campaign finance reform bill. Mr. Speaker, we must not adjourn this Congress until we have done our job.

PARENTS NEED MORE CHOICE IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Speaker, the next time those opponents of parental choice in education on the other side argue that the Federal Government should be running our public schools instead of giving parents more local control, I hope that they will consider these recently released facts.

Last year, new rigorous exams were given to 130,000 elementary school children. The performance results were dismal. Only 39 percent of 8th graders and 33 percent of 4th graders had any kind of basic understanding in reading and writing. New reports also show that 75 percent of American college students are struggling with high school-level math. One textbook expert said, "There is no question that every time we adopt a textbook, the reading level of the book is lower than the last."

Yesterday, the Washington Times did an editorial that hit the nail directly on the head. They said that, "Phonics is out, whole language is in, spelling primers and spelling bees are passe, invented spelling is the vogue. Self-esteem reigns supreme. The education establishment, the bureaucrats, and the unions still reject rigorous teaching of a rigorous curriculum in favor of the feel-good fuzziness that got us into this mess in the first place."

Mr. Speaker, we will never correct this deficiency until parents, and not Washington bureaucrats, have the say in the education of our precious children.

SENATOR BOB DOLE SHOULD EXPLAIN HIS INVOLVEMENT WITH CHILE

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, Legal Times this week reports how Bob Dole has gone to great lengths to avoid having to register as a lobbyist or file as a foreign agent. The fact is Senator Dole is clearly working on behalf of Chilean interests against United States salmon farmers in a trade dispute. He has visited salmon farmers in Chile, met with the President in Chile, and met with the Foreign Minister of Chile. At the same time, he is taking sides in the fast-track debate, writing op-ed pieces for the New York Times and speaking outside on the issue.

Legal Times illustrates how former Senator Dole is taking great care not

to cross the line into lobbying or working as a foreign agent. One possible reason is that if Mr. Dole were to cross that line, he would not be able to make his loan to bail out the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. GINGRICH]. If Dole were a lobbyist or a foreign agent, the loan to the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. GINGRICH] would be a violation of the gift ban.

Mr. Speaker, Senator Dole should explain his involvement with Chile to the American people.

EDUCATION IS MATTER OF RIGHT VERSUS WRONG

(Ms. GRANGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, Benjamin Disraeli once said, "The fate of our Nation depends on the education of our children." I rise this morning because I believe we can do a much better job of planning for our Nation's future through education.

That is why I am so pleased that today Congress is considering important education proposals like the Charters School Amendments Act and the Help Scholarships Act. These proposals are part of a positive, profamily education agenda. All are aimed at improving schools. All are aimed at educating children.

As we begin this century, let us begin a renewed commitment. Let us commit ourselves to having schools that are safe and curriculum that is sound. Let us commit ourselves to having teachers who know the subject they are teaching and the name of the child they are teaching it to. And let us commit ourselves to having our children learn to read so they can read to learn for a lifetime.

Mr. Speaker, too often in Washington we talk about issues in terms of politics. But this issue is different. Education is not a matter of right versus left; it is a matter of right versus wrong. And it is always the right time to do the right thing. Let us support these initiatives. Let us support our schools. And let us support our children.

DORNAN-SANCHEZ ELECTION

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, the Republican leadership has spent 10 months and more than \$500,000 investigating the election of our colleague, the gentlewoman from California [Ms. SANCHEZ]. This money could have been better spent providing immunizations for 3,000 children or providing prenatal care for 450 pregnant women.

What is most disturbing about this investigation is that the Republican leadership seems to be focusing on this race because it is a seat held by a

Democratic Hispanic woman and Hispanic voters might have made the difference in this election. Other closer elections last year for Congress did not result, did not result, in similar investigations. This, unfortunately, is only the latest example of the Republican Party's attempts to suppress Hispanic voting and to intimidate Hispanic voters.

The latest move to turn this investigation back to the Republican Secretary of State in California is clearly another attempt to prolong this partisan witch hunt.

The gentlewoman from California [Ms. SANCHEZ] won this election fair and square. The people of the 46th deserve to have her undivided attention. Let us bring an end to this investigation.

□ 0915

ANNOUNCEMENT OF INTENTION TO OFFER RESOLUTION RAISING QUESTION OF PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Ms. FURSE. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 2 of rule IX, I hereby give notice of my intention to offer a resolution which raises a question of the privileges of the House.

The form of the resolution is as follows:

Whereas, Loretta Sanchez was issued a certificate of election as the duly elected Member of Congress from the 46th District of California by the Secretary of State of California and was seated by the U.S. House of Representatives on January 7, 1997; and

Whereas A Notice of Contest of Election was filed with the Clerk of the House by Mr. Robert Dornan on December 26, 1996; and

Whereas the Task Force on the Contested Election in the 46th District of California met on February 26, 1997 in Washington, D.C. on April 19, 1997 in Orange County, California and October 24, 1997 in Washington, D.C.; and

Whereas the allegations made by Mr. Robert Dornan have been largely found to be without merit: charges of improper voting from a business, rather than a resident address; underage voting; double voting; and charges of unusually large number of individuals voting from the same address. It was found that voting from the same address included a Marines barracks and the domicile of nuns, that business addresses were legal residences for the individuals, including the zoo keeper of the Santa Ana zoo, that duplicate voting was by different individuals and those accused of underage voting were of age; and

Whereas the Committee on House Oversight has issued unprecedented subpoenas to the Immigration and Naturalization Service to compare their records with Orange County voter registration records, the first time in any election in the history of the United States that the INS has been asked by Congress to verify the citizenship of voters; and

Whereas the INS has complied with the Committee's request and, at the Committee's request, has been doing a manual check of its paper files and providing worksheets containing supplemental information on that manual check to the Committee on House Oversight for over five months; and

Whereas the Committee on House Oversight, subpoenaed the records seized by the District Attorney of Orange County on Feb-

ruary 13, 1997 and has received and reviewed all records pertaining to registration efforts of that group; and

Whereas the House Oversight Committee is now pursuing a duplicate and dilatory review of materials already in the Committees possession by the Secretary of State of California; and

Whereas the Task Force on the Contested Election in the 46th District of California and the Committee have been reviewing these materials and has all the information it needs regarding who voted in the 46th District and all the information it needs to make judgments concerning those votes; and

Whereas the Committee on House Oversight has after over nine months of review and investigation failed to present credible evidence to change the outcome of the election of Congresswoman Sanchez and is pursuing never ending and unsubstantiated areas of review; and

Whereas, Contestant Robert Dornan has not shown or provided credible evidence that the outcome of the election is other than Congresswoman Sanchez's election to the Congress; and

Whereas, as a member of Congress whose election in 1994 was won by far smaller a majority than that which Ms. Sanchez won the 46th District race in 1996; and

Whereas, as an immigrant myself who proudly became a U.S. citizen in 1972, I believe that this Republican campaign of intimidation sends a message to new citizens that their voting privilege may be subverted. We should encourage new voters not chill their enthusiasm; and

Whereas, the Committee on House Oversight should complete its review of this matter and bring this contest to an end and now therefore be it:

Resolved, that unless the Committee on House Oversight has sooner reported a recommendation for its final disposition, the contest in the 46th District of California is dismissed upon the expiration of November 7, 1997.

The SPEAKER pro tempore [Mr. SHIMKUS]. Under rule IX, a resolution offered from the floor by a Member other than the majority leader or the minority leader as a question of the privileges of the House has immediate precedence only at a time designated by the Chair within 2 legislative days after the resolution is properly noticed.

Pending that designation, the form of the resolution noticed by the gentlewoman from Oregon [Ms. FURSE] will appear in the RECORD at this point.

The Chair will not at this point determine whether the resolution constitutes a question of privilege. That determination will be made at the time designated for consideration of the resolution.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF INTENTION TO OFFER RESOLUTION RAISING QUESTION OF PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 2 of rule IX, I hereby give notice of my intention to offer a resolution which raises a question of the privileges of the House.

The form of the resolution is as follows:

Whereas, Loretta Sanchez was issued a certificate of election as the duly elected Member of Congress from the 46th District of