

Family Publishers. Mr. Clark should save his good reputation, stick to American Bandstand and ditch American Scamstand.

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As we have heard here today, this bill truly is the product of bipartisanship and it started with the gentleman from California (Mr. CONNIT) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. LOBIONDO) and their work, and I think carried through with the support of the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON), the chairman of the Committee on Government Reform, and the ranking member of the full committee, the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN), as well as the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), and all the members on both sides of the aisle.

So this is, as we have heard repeatedly, a bill whose time has come. I urge all our colleagues to join us in supporting it.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 170, the "Honesty in Sweepstakes Act of 1999." This legislation will curb the devastating effects of one of the most troubling consumer abuses—deceptive and misleading sweepstakes and other mass mail promotions. This legislation will help end this horrendous practice which has been devastating financially and emotionally to many seniors and other individuals on limited budgets.

Mr. Speaker, millions of Americans receive sweepstakes letters each year that use deceptive marketing ploys to encourage the purchase of magazines and other products. Many of my constituents, especially seniors, regularly receive these offers for products in the mail that include extravagant promises of money and prizes in order to entice them to make unnecessary and unneeded purchases.

Some common ploys used by unscrupulous mailers include "promises" of huge winnings printed in large type and other enticements such as "immediate response required—\$1 million cash payment pending." While these promises scream out in bold letters, the real details and conditions are hidden in fine print at the bottom of the last page where it is hard to find and particularly hard for seniors to read.

Mr. Speaker, each year millions of consumers nationwide are deliberately misled into believing that they have won or are likely to win a sweepstakes, when, in fact, they have neither won, nor are they likely to win. The Honesty in Sweepstakes Act requires that all mailings which offer prizes through games of chance clearly state that the recipient has not automatically won.

Another disgusting and deceptive method, Mr. Speaker, is sending mailings which contain slips of paper which are deceptively printed to look like cashier's checks, but which are actually worthless. These marketing tactics unfairly prey on people's hopes and dreams. H.R. 170 requires that all sweepstakes mailings that contain look-like cashier's checks prominently display that the check itself is non-negotiable and has no cash value.

One deceptive practice which I find particularly offensive is sending mailings which are designed to look like a mailing from a Federal

government agency. Seniors have been particularly vulnerable to these tactics, because they are generally more trusting of these mailings. H.R. 170 would prohibit mailings that suggest that they are sanctioned by or connected with the federal government.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 170 also requires companies that send sweepstakes or "skill contests" through the mail to establish a notification system, similar to the "do not call" lists of telemarketers under which consumers can call a toll-free number to be removed from mailing lists. The legislation also requires that all sweepstakes mailings contain information about the existence of such "do not mail" lists and how a consumer can place his or her name on such a list. I am pleased that the bill will also permit individuals who receive a follow-up mailing after they have requested that their names be removed from a mailing list to sue sweepstakes companies in state court for violation of this law.

Mr. Speaker, many consumers spend thousands of dollars each year on deceptive sweepstakes mailings, often spending their life savings without ever winning anything. H.R. 170 will help to protect consumers from unscrupulous operators of deceptive sweepstakes scams and will help end many of the most abusive practices of the sweepstakes industry. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this important legislation.

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCHUGH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 170, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SUPPORTING NATIONAL CIVILITY WEEK

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 324) supporting National Civility Week, Inc., in its efforts to restore civility, honesty, integrity, and respectful consideration in the United States.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 324

Whereas our civilization is founded upon the values of honesty, courtesy, and respectful consideration among its citizens;

Whereas we seek to teach and reaffirm these fundamental values of civility;

Whereas a lack of civility in recent years has become frighteningly apparent, as seen in media tales of road rage and school violence, of personal deceit and public corruption;

Whereas common courtesy has become bewilderingly uncommon;

Whereas a large part of many Americans' behavior can be traced to a failure to honor the codes of civil conduct that have governed society for many generations;

Whereas the teaching of courtesy has declined while the celebration of vulgarity and effrontery has increased;

Whereas many Americans have ceased to honor the good examples that surround them;

Whereas in this context, too many people find it easy to manifest disrespect for other age groups, races, and religions;

Whereas National Civility Week, Inc. is a nonpartisan and nonprofit corporation devoted to reintroducing civility in our Nation;

Whereas National Civility Week, Inc. has encouraged the establishment of Civility Weeks in a number of states in an effort to reaffirm society's commitment to adhere to well-established rules of civil conduct;

Whereas National Civility Week, Inc. will honor those who practice common decency and simple honesty; and

Whereas National Civility Week, Inc. will draw attention to the behaviors and standards that we respect as a people, and will celebrate the conduct that ties together the threads of our social fabric: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives supports these efforts to restore civility, honesty, integrity, and respectful consideration in the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 324, supporting National Civility Week. I would like to thank the distinguished chairman of the House Committee on Government Reform, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON), who recognized the importance of this measure and assured its consideration today on the House floor. I also want to express my appreciation to the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) for introducing this important legislation as well.

This resolution provides an opportunity for all of us to reflect upon the changing nature of our culture and its increasing lack of civility. In 1998, former Secretary of Education William Bennett and former Senator Sam Nunn of Georgia collaborated on an assessment of our Nation's civic health. After reviewing rates of volunteerism and other forms of civic participation, they concluded that civility among the American people has declined dramatically in recent decades.

We do not need to look too far to understand that this lack of civility is permeating our political discussion. In the first papers of *The Federalist*, the author expressed hope that Americans might establish good government through reflection and choice. In contrast to what later essays in *The Federalist* would call the heat and violence

of faction, the founders hoped that our government would come to reflect the deliberate sense of the community.

Too frequently today this body's deliberations represent the violence of faction through partisan posturing. Too often in our deliberations we hear accusations and innuendo. The occasional lack of civility in this body reflects what is happening to our culture in a broader sense. As a society, we have become detached from and, in many ways, no longer honor the traditional codes of civil conduct.

Reattaching ourselves to a system that honors decency and promotes common courtesy is one of the most important things we can do. This recognition of National Civility Week, while a small gesture, provides an opportunity to reaffirm the importance of civility in our culture as well as in this body's political deliberations. It can provide additional impetus to the bipartisan congressional retreats we hold each year at Hershey and elevate the quality and civility of our political discussions.

I am pleased to have the opportunity to offer this legislation for consideration, and trust that it will draw attention to behaviors and standards that we ought to expect but do not always practice. When I was elected to this body, I pledged to work to restore faith in government through honesty, decency, and personal responsibility.

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We must hold ourselves to a higher standard, not a lower one, that we expect of other people. I encourage my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I first wanted to thank many of my colleagues who have worked on this legislation: The gentleman from Indiana (Chairman BURTON), chairman of the Committee on Government Reform; the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN), the ranking Democrat; the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SCARBOROUGH), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Civil Service; and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS), the ranking member.

I particularly want to thank my friend and distinguished colleague, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT), for managing this legislation. Although she has been with us only a short time, she has brought a great deal of civility to this body for which we are deeply grateful.

I also want to thank our colleagues who have been the principal cosponsors of this legislation, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LAHOOD) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. SAWYER).

As my colleague the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) has already indicated, these two colleagues have been committed to increasing the civility here within this House. They

have been the leading force behind our biannual retreats in an effort to improve personal relations among colleagues here in this body.

Their commitment to improving relations between Members is fully consistent with the purpose of this resolution that we are considering today. I am grateful for their enthusiastic support.

Mr. Speaker, a student-created and student-run nonprofit organization, National Civility Week, Incorporated, deserves our support to restore civility, honesty, integrity, and respectful consideration in the United States.

Our civilization, Mr. Speaker, is founded upon and cannot function without the values of honesty and courtesy and respectful consideration among its citizens. As parents and grandparents, we seek to teach and reaffirm these fundamental values of civility. But unfortunately, the lack of civility in recent years has become frighteningly apparent, as seen in road rage and school violence, personal deceit, and public corruption.

Common courtesy has become bewilderingly uncommon. A large part of many Americans' behavior can be traced to a failure to honor the codes of civil conduct that have governed other societies for so many generations. The teaching of courtesy has declined, while the celebration of vulgarity and effrontery have increased.

Many Americans have ceased to honor the good examples that surround them. In this context, too many people find it easy to manifest disrespect for other age groups, other races, other religions. National Civility Week, Incorporated, is a nonpartisan and nonprofit corporation which is devoted to reintroducing civility to our Nation.

It honors those who practice common decency and simple honesty. It draws attention to the behaviors and standards that we respect as a people and celebrates the conduct that ties together the threads of our social fabric.

I strongly urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, I want to pay tribute to the young founder of this organization, Ms. Charity Tillemann-Dick, for her outstanding efforts in bringing this measure to our attention.

I urge my colleagues to support the resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 324 provides a wonderful opportunity to strengthen the character and manner of our public and political deliberations, as well as to improve the way we treat each other.

Congress should seize this opportunity to lead by example. Not only should we pass House Resolution 324, celebrating National Civility Week, but we should provide on a daily basis the examples of civil speech and conduct that contribute to the rule of reason and show the American public that civility does count.

I congratulate the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) for sponsoring this fine legislation. I am proud to bring it to the floor and ask for the full support of all Members on this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, House Resolution 324.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO OFFER A RESOLUTION PRESENTING A QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 2(a)(1) of House Rule IX, I rise to give notice of my intent to present a question of privilege to the House expressing the sense that its rights and integrity have been impugned.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman state the form of his resolution.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, the form of the resolution is as follows:

Calling upon the President to abstain from renegotiating international agreements governing antidumping and countervailing measures.

Whereas under Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution, the Congress has power and responsibility with regard to foreign commerce and the conduct of international trade negotiations;

Whereas the House of Representatives is deeply concerned that, in connection with the World Trade Organization Ministerial meeting to be held in Seattle, Washington, and the multilateral trade negotiations expected to follow, a few countries are seeking to circumvent the agreed list of negotiation topics and reopen debate over the WTO's antidumping and antisubsidy rules;

Whereas strong antidumping and antisubsidy rules are a cornerstone of the liberal trade policy of the United States and are essential to the health of the manufacturing and farm sectors of the United States;

Whereas it has long been and remains the policy of the United States to support its antidumping and antisubsidy laws and to defend those laws in international negotiations;

Whereas the current absence of official negotiating objectives on the statute books must not be allowed to undermine the Congress' constitutional role in charting the direction of United States trade policy;

Whereas under present circumstances, launching a negotiation that includes antidumping and antisubsidy issues would affect