

Every single Republican leader voted against the bipartisan reform, supported by good government groups, and every Democratic leader voted for it. Nevertheless, Republican delay wrote the obituary for this proposal in the Senate.

This year we face the same problem. Here in this House, 196 Democrats have signed a petition to force debate on all proposals, Democratic and Republican, now. Speaker HASTERT and Mr. DELAY say wait until some time in the fall. Every Republican member who refuses to sign this petition for timely action is complicit in killing reform. Join us in a bipartisan effort. Sign now and act now.

HMO REFORM

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

Mr. GANSKE. Mr. Speaker, I want to correct the record. The other night I gave a special order on HMO reform and inadvertently mentioned the NFIB. In fact, the results I mentioned were from the National Survey of Small Business Executives on Health Care by the Kaiser-Harvard Program on Public Health and Social Policy. I was correct, however, in citing the numbers.

When this group of 300 small business executives was asked if HMO reform were passed into law and would increase premiums by up to \$5 a month, only 1 percent said they would drop coverage and 5 percent did not know; 94 percent would continue coverage.

This cost is in the range of what I think my legislation would affect premiums. This is borne out by the CEO of Iowa Blue Cross/Blue Shield telling me that his plan is implementing the President's commission recommendations on quality and they do not expect to see an increase in premiums from that.

Mr. Speaker, the opponents of HMO reform are trying to scare people about the effects of cost on access to care. I will be happy to share this survey of small business executives with anyone who wants to see some real data.

VOTE ON SHAYS-MEEHAN BEFORE MEMORIAL DAY

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

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, with all civility, Congress is still divided between those who believe there is too much money in our campaigns and those who believe there is never enough. We sell democracy short if we think the voters are not watching our electoral behavior. They are becoming very interested in how we handle campaign financing.

Last year, the freshman campaign finance bill was used as interference in getting Shays-Meehan to the floor. With the discharge petition from both sides, we accomplished a vote. We do

not need any obstructions now. Let us get on with it. Let us restore credibility to the electoral process now, not later.

Shays-Meehan needs to be voted on before Memorial Day. We can do this in a bipartisan way. I appeal to my colleagues, let us conclude this debate in a civil tone. I think it is the best for America.

BREAST CANCER COALITION

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, did my colleagues know this year alone one in eight women will be diagnosed with breast cancer and did they know that of those positively diagnosed women 75 percent will have had no family history of breast cancer?

It continues to be the leading cause of cancer deaths for all women ages 35 to 54. My home State of Florida has the third highest rate of breast cancer. These numbers have caused champions like Jane Torres, President of the Florida Breast Cancer Coalition, to dedicate their lives on heightening awareness.

Due to the work of groups like the Florida Breast Cancer Coalition, Federal funds for research have now increased by as much as sixfold. Eager advocates like Jane, Jill Lawrence, Shelly Greenberg, Midge Blumberg-Krams, Teresa Menendez, Claudia Dobelstein and all of the members of the Florida Breast Cancer Coalition will continue to fight until this treacherous disease is eradicated. Congratulations to them.

A NATION THAT BANS GOD IS A NATION THAT OPENS THE DOOR TO THE DEVIL

(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, another school shooting; this time in Georgia. Everyone is desperately searching for answers. I say the search should stop right here. Congress must look in the mirror, because in America today our students can study cults, devil worship, Hitler, but God is banned, banned from our schools. I say a nation that bans God is a nation that opens the door to the devil and to the problems that we are facing as a nation.

Congress, it is time to allow God back into our schools, and I further recommend after all the technicalities we allow God back into our Nation.

RETURN "THE HUMAN RIGHTS" TO THE DEMOCRACY MOVEMENT

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

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to protest a violation of the U.S. Constitution's Bill of Rights by the Clinton administration. The Fourth Amendment to the Constitution guarantees that the right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures shall not be violated.

Mr. Ramon Saul Sanchez, the President of the Democracy Movement, has been on a hunger strike in Miami for 16 days. He began this protest on May 5 to protest the illegal confiscation of the boat, The Human Rights, by the Coast Guard, acting on orders from the Clinton-Gore White House. The small boat was confiscated for the crime of carrying copies of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on the high seas the same day that dissidents within Cuba had announced that they would peacefully be commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

That apparently seditious document for the Clinton administration reads, everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence.

Mr. President, today is Cuban Independence Day. Bring an end to the hunger strike. Return The Human Rights to the Democracy Movement.

NINE OUT OF TEN AMERICANS SUPPORT CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

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

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, referring to the Democratic campaign finance reform discharge petition, which has 196 Democratic signatures, a Republican recently remarked in Roll Call and I quote, "People who sign the discharge petition are committing treason against the party. That is how strongly I feel about that. That is a dangerous position to take and we need to end that talk."

It is no surprise the Republican Party, which outspends Democrats two-to-one, has proclaimed that supporting campaign finance reform should be a felony offense.

Mr. Speaker, our political system needs and our constituents demand campaign finance reform now. Nine out of 10 Americans support campaign finance reform. I repeat, 9 out of 10 Americans. Last year, 196 Members signed the discharge petition that led to bringing the Shays-Meehan bipartisan campaign finance reform bill to the House floor.

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Without that petition process, the House Republican leadership would never have let that debate occur. Time is running out. In order to have enough time for the Senate to pass campaign finance reform, moderate Republicans must sign this discharge petition immediately.

Mr. Speaker, the House must act now on campaign finance reform, and pass it before Memorial Day.

THE COLD WAR IS OVER, BUT DANGEROUS ENEMIES STILL EXIST

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, the Cold War is over. These words we have heard repeated thousands of times since the end of Communist tyranny in Berlin in 1989, especially by leftists whose eagerness to gut our military forces was similarly obvious, even at the height of the Cold War.

But though the Cold War is temporarily over, all of human history argues that it would be foolish to let our defenses down. Dangerous enemies still exist. They do not care what treaties we sign, how much good will Americans have, and they do not care how prosperous we become.

They wish to do us harm because they resent our wealth, reject our democratic values, despise our religious traditions, and cannot maintain their tyrannies at home knowing that freedom exists in a bastion we call America. The very existence of our Nation threatens their existence.

This chart dramatically shows what happens when a Nation ignores the lessons of history. We do so at our peril.

THE BOMBING IN YUGOSLAVIA MUST STOP AND DIPLOMATIC MEASURES TOWARDS PEACE MUST BE ACCELERATED

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, last night three innocent people died and scores were injured in the bombing of a Belgrade hospital by NATO air forces.

This tragedy, taken with the NATO bombing of the Swedish Ambassador's residence, the recent NATO bombing of the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade, the NATO bombing of refugee convoys, the NATO bombing of passenger buses and trains and other civilian infrastructure, raises grave questions about the strategy and the morality of NATO's actions.

It is no longer acceptable for NATO to blithely declare that the mass of civilian casualties resulting from the bombings are unintentional and therefore simply accidental. When such accidents keep repeating themselves and result in the countless deaths of innocent people, it is time to say this must stop.

The continued bombing and the consequent catastrophic parade of innocent human carnage, and NATO's arrogant willingness to endanger innocent civilians, even to mothers giving birth in hospitals, forfeits NATO's claim to

the moral high ground. The bombing must stop, and diplomatic measures towards peace must be accelerated.

URGING MEMBERS TO JOIN IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 883, THE AMERICAN LAND SOVEREIGNTY PROTECTION ACT

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG), chairman of the Committee on Resources, and the 183 Members who are cosponsors of H.R. 883, the American Land Sovereignty Protection Act.

It is time that the Congress reclaim its authority granted under the Constitution to make decisions over lands belonging to the United States.

The United Nations has absolutely no right to make land designations for America's liberty bell, our Independence Hall, or the Statue of Liberty, or for that matter, any land management decisions for our national parks like the Grand Canyon or Yosemite.

Former Ambassador Jeanne Kirkpatrick said it best: "What recourse does an American voter have when U.N. bureaucrats from Connecticut or Iraq or Libya have made decisions that unjustly damage his or her property rights that lie near a national park?"

It is time that this Congress reclaim its constitutional authority and it is time that America reclaims her lands. I encourage Members to join me in supporting H.R. 883, the American Land Sovereignty Protection Act.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back any constitutional authority we may have left.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

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

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I am speaking from the other side of the aisle to reach out to our Republican friends. Many of them have been leaders in the effort to reform our campaign finance system. I applaud them for this. Today we need their courage more than ever.

It now appears we will not be debating this issue until September, if at all. It is difficult to go against leadership. No one likes to do this. I do not, either. But some issues require us to take a stand, and this is one of those times.

Today I am asking Members to stand for what they and I and the American people believe by signing the Blue Dog discharge petition. Let us bring campaign finance reform to the floor for a debate. We need to do it now.

THE ADMINISTRATION IS AGAIN PLAYING POLITICS WITH MEDICARE

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

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, whom should Americans trust more to protect the Medicare program for seniors? Let us look at the facts.

Democrats sat idly by while Medicare was on the verge of bankruptcy during the period of time that they controlled both the White House and the Congress. Then Republicans won the majority of the Congress, and almost immediately reformed and strengthened Medicare for the first time ever. Democrats then attacked Republicans for reforming a program that should have been reformed a long time ago. That is fact number one.

Now consider this. We find out that this administration is spending \$20 billion less on Medicare than the law allows. Let me repeat that. This administration is spending \$20 billion less on Medicare than Congress intended and as authorized by law.

Hospitals are feeling the pinch. Seniors are not getting the care they need as quickly as they need it. Why is this administration playing politics once again with Medicare? Again, I ask the question, whom should seniors trust more to protect Medicare?

TRANSPORTATION BUREAUCRATS SEEK TO PENALIZE WORKING AMERICANS

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, the same Federal government that wants to see our medical records, monitor our banking transactions, register our private post office box, and if the Vice President has his way, tell us where to live, now wants to tax our drive to work every day.

Transportation officials in Maryland, with the apparent support of the Federal Highway Administration, are cooking up a silly idea that will allow those who can afford it to skirt rush hour traffic by paying to drive in a special HOT or high-occupancy toll lane. Those who cannot afford or do not want to pay an additional tax on a highway their tax dollars are already paying for are welcome to sit in rush hour traffic while those in the so-called Lexus lanes speed by.

Mr. Speaker, the reason there is a rush hour is that people have to go to work. They have to go to work to support their families and to pay their taxes, which help to pay the salaries of transportation bureaucrats who come up with these lame-brained ideas like this one.

Let us put a stop to this silliness before it is too late.

ASKING ALL MEMBERS TO SUPPORT THE CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM DISCHARGE PETITION

(Mr. LUTHER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1