

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

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LUTHER. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to ask all Democrats and Republicans to sign the campaign finance reform discharge petition. I say that, Mr. Speaker, because there is no issue more important to the future of this country than this particular issue.

I ask Members to ask themselves why it seems that Congress can never get anything done. I ask Members to ask themselves why Congress cannot pass health care reform legislation, child safety legislation, or the many other pressing issues facing this country. Ask why that supplemental funding bill this week was filled with pork barrel spending, rather than dealing with national priorities like education.

A good part of the answer is the way we fund campaigns in this country, the influence of special interests. We passed this bill, we debated it last year. We can pass it again now. We do not need to wait so that it gets tied up in budget negotiations or in politics of next year's elections. We can pass it for the American people today.

#### THE HISTORY OF CAMPAIGN FINANCE

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

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to respond to the vacuous bleatings of my esteemed colleagues on the liberal side of the aisle who invoke campaign finance reform as their latest slogan.

How truly audacious for the very people who created the current campaign finance reform to now self-righteously proclaim their outrage at the way the government makes crooks out of the truly honest people among us.

Just what is it about the liberal mindset that allows them to avoid responsibility for so many of their bad ideas and failed initiatives?

Consider the history of campaign finance. The liberals imposed absurdly low limits on the participation of Americans in the political process. It is truly amazing how this has resulted in things that were entirely predictable.

What happened? Politicians were then forced to spend almost all their time raising money, and of course money then found other ways into the political process through soft money, through issue advocacy, and, dare I mention, through the Chinese Communist friends of the White House. And of course this money, unlike direct contributions, lacks full disclosure, which is an invitation to corruption.

Why are Democrats not talking about that?

#### URGING COSPONSORSHIP OF THE BORDER PATROL RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION ACT

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

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to urge my colleagues to co-sponsor a bill that the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) and I are introducing today, the Border Control Recruitment and Retention Act.

This bill will correct a longstanding problem within the INS, and begins to address some of the recruitment and retention problems we have heard so much about lately. This bill is not a cure-all. It is, however, a step in the right direction.

I will continue to work with my colleagues on legislation for comprehensive pay reform for the United States Border Patrol. Currently most Border Patrol agents are kept at the GS-9 Journeyman level, with only 30 percent of the work force actually working at GS-11, even though their work is much more comprehensive.

The bill we are introducing today states that any GS-9 with a current rating of fully successful will automatically qualify for GS-11. What does this mean? It means that on the average, Border Patrol agents will move from a salary of about \$34,000 a year to a salary of about \$41,000. It addresses a pay disparity. It is fitting that we introduce this legislation today and push for its passage this year, which is the United States Border Patrol's 7th anniversary.

I believe that this is the least we can do for an agency that is at the front line of the defense for this country.

#### TO FORMER DEMOCRAT RUDY BRADLEY, WELCOME TO THE GOP

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, there is a trend going on in America today that is not talked much about, particularly on that side, at least on the national level. It is a phenomenon of party switching, and it is party-switching going in one direction and one direction only, from Democrats to Republicans.

Over 390 elected Democrats have switched to the GOP since Clinton and Gore were elected in 1992. Well, the Republican Party would like to welcome the latest party-switcher, State Representative Rudy Bradley of St. Petersburg, Florida.

Rudy Bradley is the only black Republican in the 160-member Florida legislature, for now. Here we have a lifetime proud Democrat who has finally come to the conclusion that the Democratic Party simply does not reflect his values or the values of his constituents.

He is tired of the Democrats' constant demonizing those who disagree with them. He is tired of rhetoric that says one thing while governing as a tax and spend liberal. He is tired of the attacks on the traditional values that made America great to begin with.

Rudy, welcome to the GOP.

#### CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

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

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, every Member of Congress knows firsthand the control that money has over our electoral process, and what is worse, the American people know firsthand the control that money has over our electoral process.

The money spent on last November's election totaled \$1 billion. This is an outrageous sum that hurts our democracy and it hurts our constituents. If voters are disgusted and turned off by the excesses in campaign financing they will not vote, and make no mistake, voters are disgusted. They are turned off and they are not voting.

Our constituents deserve better. The American people deserve better. Let us ban soft money and stop the attack ads disguised as issue advocacy soft money pays for. Let us strengthen the Federal Election Commission and give it the teeth it needs to enforce campaign finance laws. This Congress must act to restore confidence and participation in our electoral system.

Last month my colleagues and I signed a discharge petition to demand that Congress take up the important issue of campaign finance reform. The very fact that as Members of Congress we must petition our government speaks volumes and is a testament to the control money has over our electoral process.

We must prove to our constituents that we are serious about real reform. We must make sure that our political system represents everyone, not just those that can afford it.

#### AMERICAN LAND SOVEREIGNTY PROTECTION ACT

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 180 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

#### H. RES. 180

*Resolved*, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 833) to preserve the sovereignty of the United States over public lands and acquired lands owned by the United States, and to preserve State sovereignty and private property rights in non-Federal lands surrounding those public lands and acquired lands. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Resources. After general debate, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute