

us a more responsive and vibrant democracy.

Last year, a large bipartisan majority passed Shays-Meehan. We must have the courage to do the same this year. I urge my colleagues, Democrats, Republicans, Independents, to vote for passage of meaningful campaign finance reform.

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION ON EAST TIMOR

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

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, this Member rises to advise his colleagues that he intends to introduce a resolution this afternoon regarding the institution in East Timor. Among its provisions, this resolution notes the abject failure of the government of Indonesia to fulfill its responsibility to guarantee the safety and security of the people of East Timor and calls on the government of Indonesia to terminate the current violence in East Timor.

The resolution also expresses the support of the House for a United Nations Security Council-endorsed multinational force for East Timor which, under duress, President Habibie has agreed to permit.

Australia is willing to lead this force and should be commended and supported. We need to get that force into East Timor now. The United Nations surely knew that some degree of violence would follow the announcement of the election results. It is a tragedy they were so unprepared for the rampage of the militia forces.

Given the human tragedy that has been unfolding in East Timor and the pressing need for the House to speak out for action against the violence and mayhem there, it is the intention of this Member to move this East Timor resolution through the Committee on International Relations and bring it to the House floor as expeditiously as possible.

Therefore, any colleagues who would like to be original cosponsors of this resolution should contact the subcommittee at 67825 this afternoon.

TRIBUTE TO CHICAGO JOURNALIST PHIL WALTERS

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

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, this morning I rise to pay tribute to the life of a respected journalist, a superb writer and a true Chicagoan. Phil Walters covered the streets of Chicago with his own unique style and in his own brilliant way. He shared Chicago's life and times with millions of television viewers for more than 30 years.

My relationship with Phil began some 30-odd years ago when as a re-

porter for NBC's Channel 5 he covered me in my work as a civil rights activist. Even then, as a young journalist, Phil's insightful reporting and the passion he brought to telling Chicago stories proved to be award winning. The man and his work will be long remembered and long cherished by Chicagoans for years to come.

Phil Walters passed on Sunday, September 12, 1999, and is survived by his wife Paula Weiss and his son Tyce. Our condolences are with his family and with his friends.

ELIMINATE THE MARRIAGE TAX PENALTY NOW

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

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker. I have often asked from the well of the House a basic question. That is, is it right, is it fair, that married working couples with two incomes pay higher taxes just because they are married? I have often asked, is it fair, is it right, that 21 million married working couples pay \$1,400 more on average in higher taxes just because they are married?

Meet Michelle and Shad Hallihan, two Joliet school teachers, young people just starting a family, just had a baby. They suffer the marriage tax penalty just like 21 million other married working couples.

It is an issue of fairness, an issue of difference between right and wrong. The end of July, this House and the Senate voted to eliminate the marriage tax penalty for a majority of those who suffer it, benefiting over 21 million married working couples.

The President has an important choice. Is he going to help families like Michelle and Shad Hallihan, 42 million Americans who suffer the marriage tax penalty, or is he going to practice partisan politics?

I hope the President will join with us in a bipartisan effort to eliminate the marriage tax penalty by signing into law the Financial Freedom Act. Let us eliminate the marriage tax penalty.

ANTI-AMERICAN TRADE AND TAX POLICIES

(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, remember the Singer sewing machines? Most married couples in America had one. Today the Singer Company filed bankruptcy in New York.

The Singer Company is now headquartered in Hong Kong. They make their sewing machines in Japan, Brazil, and Taiwan. It is called the New World Order, Mr. Speaker.

Here is how it works: American factories move overseas. They send their products back and sell them in America. If it does not work out, they go

bankrupt and screw the American creditors. What a system.

I yield back all the anti-American trade and tax policies that this Congress continues to support and pass.

KEEP AND MAINTAIN ERISA, THE EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT INCOME SECURITY ACT OF 1974

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

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I would like to remind my colleagues of the many benefits of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, better known as ERISA. After all, voluntary ERISA-based employer self-insured plans cover nearly 80 percent of the workers in this country.

ERISA retains the State's authority over the business of insurance. It also ensures that plans would be subject to the same benefit laws across the States. ERISA provides flexibility by allowing employers and employees to agree to choose a benefit package which best suits their needs. This approach keeps costs down because it allows them to do so without the government regulation that drives the costs up.

Make no mistake about it, the chief beneficiaries of preempting ERISA would be the trial lawyers. Consumers and employers will be left to pick up the bill for increased and often frivolous litigation.

Mr. Speaker, this Congress must ensure the patient's right to care, not the lawyer's right to bill.

NOW IS THE TIME TO CLEAN UP THE SPECIAL INTEREST MONEY MESS THAT DOMINATES OUR CAMPAIGNS

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, today this House has an important opportunity to clean up the special interest money mess that dominates our campaigns. Approval of the bipartisan Shays-Meehan campaign finance reform legislation can go a long way in correcting some of the wrongs that dominate this Congress.

To get real change, however, we must approve this bill without any change. The amendments that are being offered, the substitutes, some of them appear to be direct, straightforward efforts to kill this legislation. Others of them are in seemingly innocuous form but the sole purpose of every amendment, every substitute, is to block reform.

Last year, the Republican leadership, every single Member of the Republican leadership of this House, voted against reform. And they managed to delay consideration of this bill, delay it long enough that they finally succeeded in killing it.

Today we call on them to join with us, to join with leaders on both the Republican and Democratic side, in support to reform, in cleaning up this mess, so that we can move forward to address the real issues that concern the American people.

THE PRESIDENT HAS BEEN MAKING THE CASE FOR THE REPUBLICAN TAX RELIEF BILL FOR MONTHS

(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, a few thoughts on the President and our tax relief bill. If we listen to what the President has been saying, we will see that he has actually been making the case for this tax relief bill for months. The President says he supports seniors. So do we. That is why the Republican tax relief plan walls off and locks away Social Security trust fund monies for America's seniors.

The President says he supports America's farmers and ranchers. So do we. That is why the Republican tax relief bill eliminates the death tax for farmers and for small businesses so that they can pass the family farm or business on to the next generation.

The President says he supports working families. So do we. That is why the Republican tax relief plan reduces the marriage penalty tax.

The President says he is for reducing the Federal debt. So are we. That is why the tax relief bill pays down \$2.2 trillion of the public debt. It also encourages savings and investments with other targeted tax cuts.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the President to listen to his own rhetoric, to join the cause in reducing the tax burden, the national debt, on all working Americans. Next year is an election year. Mr. President, this is the year for your opportunity to do something with bipartisan support.

THE BIPARTISAN CAMPAIGN REFORM ACT

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

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, today we will be debating a piece of legislation that could more than any other single act put an end to the troubling cynicism of the American electorate, the Bipartisan Campaign Finance Reform Act. In our Nation, the birthplace of modern democracy, our citizens are less likely to vote than any other country in the rest of the industrialized world. While there are other factors that influence this disturbing trend, the perception that our elections are bought and sold rank at the top.

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The numbers are staggering. In 1998, over \$781 million was contributed to us,

we, congressional candidates. In the last presidential election, the Clinton and Dole campaigns spent a combined \$232 million. What has this got to do with free speech?

The time has come to restore some sanity to our electoral process. The leadership of the House is again trying to submarine the Shays-Meehan bill by making several poison pill amendments in order. That is why we must take the courageous decision today, Mr. Speaker, and pass the Shays-Meehan bill.

REAL REFORM COMES FROM OBEYING EXISTING LAW

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

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, to hear my colleagues on the left talk about it in concert with other folks at the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue, it is very interesting to hear all of these calls for campaign finance reform, because, in fact, mindful of these pleas at the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue I would equate them, Mr. Speaker, with Bonnie and Clyde in the midst of their crime spree calling a press conference to call for tougher penalties on bank robbery.

The fact is, Mr. Speaker, real reform first comes by obeying existing law. That is the problem this administration has never come to grips with in a variety of different areas. It would be good to obey existing laws. That is why they are already on the books.

Mr. Speaker, I hope the President enjoyed his round of golf today in the South Pacific. He came here in January and gave a State of the Union message and the next day went to Buffalo, New York and told the American people they could not be trusted with their money, and yet last week, he said he would trust the word of Puerto Rican terrorists and grant them clemency. How curious, Mr. Speaker, when the President of the United States will not trust the American people with their own money and yet trust the word of terrorists.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM REQUIRES TRUST OF THE PEOPLE IN GOVERNMENT

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

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, political consultants say campaign finance reform, in their words, does not poll. The opponents of campaign finance reform legislation think that if they prevent or water down this legislation, no one will notice. There will be no price to pay.

There will be a price to pay, Mr. Speaker. We face a crisis of trust in our Government.

America cannot deal successfully with the tough problems that face this

legislature, taxes, Social Security, Medicare, unless we have the trust of the people.

The Shays-Meehan legislation on campaign finance reform is a very good and excellent first step in restoring trust in government.

ATTORNEY GENERAL JANET RENO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR WACO

(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, in 1993, the tragedy in Waco, Texas left many unanswered questions for Congress and the American public. One question remains, of course. What happened? Where does the responsibility lie?

In 1993, in April, Attorney General Janet Reno said, quote, "The buck stops with me," end quote. She took responsibility then for the Waco tragedy, but of course, now, it is shifting blame. Where is her responsibility for the information supplied to Congress and the American people?

It was reported in the Washington Times that the Justice Department omitted in its December 1993 report to Congress the one key page of information quote, "documenting the use of 40 millimeter tear gas project tiles at Waco," end quote. Now, it appears the Justice Department is saying they gave this information 2 years later, in 1995.

This latest revelation and other ones that will probably follow are just an indication that the Justice Department is not handling this situation well. There is incompetency in her department, and much of the information provided is not accurate. So I urge my colleagues to look at this question of responsibility and help us to get to the bottom of this matter.

Attorney General Reno should take full responsibility and not try to shift blame.

VOTE FOR SHAYS-MEEHAN AND DEFEAT POISON PILL AMENDMENTS

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

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, we have an opportunity today to take an important step towards returning control of this Congress to the people and away from the special interests that have a disproportionate influence in Congress. This will be the Shays-Meehan bill that we will debate later today that will close two of the most gaping loopholes in our campaign finance system: soft money and sham issue ads.

Let us be clear about what opposition we face today. The leadership of this House has arranged for amendments to be offered that are very innocuous, but will have the effect of depriving the