

Shays-Meehan bill would regulate, limit or even prohibit individuals, organizations, and corporations from receiving or spending soft money for national political parties or political committees. The attempt to limit the free rights of political parties would clearly be unconstitutional, and the courts of course, most likely would strike down these restrictions.

Since the 1976 Buckley v. Valeo decision, strong majorities have supported protections for the expenditures of money for political communications. I do not believe government restrictions on issue ads can be reconciled with the first amendment. No matter how they are dressed up, such restrictions will still involve government regulation of political speech, which we do not want.

Furthermore, such a concept of campaign finance reform is both counterproductive and, as I mentioned earlier, unconstitutional. Moreover, the bill's relative impact on the two major parties is decidedly out of balance, in my opinion. That is why I voted for the bipartisan Hutchinson-Allen substitute, which unfortunately failed on the House floor.

This bill is simple in its path towards strengthening our system and increasing public trust in the elected Federal officials. Congress would implement full disclosure laws, treat soft money and hard money the same, and make all campaign reports filed with the Federal Election Commission available to the public electronically through the Internet and through other electronic sources within 48 hours after those reports are filed. That is what the Hutchinson-Allen substitute would do. That is the proposal I supported.

I also believe that strong bipartisan support exists for an array of the reforms that could pass if Shays-Meehan were set aside. These include technological improvements in disclosure, strengthening enforcement, greater safeguards against the entry of foreign money, and possibly tax deductions to encourage small in-State donations.

While any effective and feasible solution to campaign fundraising may be out of reach in this Congress, I am confident that next year, after the Presidential election and congressional races, this body can once again focus its attention on reforming our campaign finance laws.

THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO CONGRESS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, the week-long series in the Washington Post about the Corps of Engineers and its relationship to Congress and, more importantly, to the environment, raises key questions about the Corps' future direction.

The immediate challenge is for the Corps and Congress to respond carefully, thoughtfully, and in the right context to the real issues surrounding the Corps' important mission.

In its very name, the Army Corps of Engineers combines the two professions that are perhaps most results-oriented, focused, precise and committed to following orders: engineering and the military. It imposes upon those of us in Congress a special responsibility. We must be sure that we are asking the right questions and looking at the big picture. For if the Corps' assignment is to stop flooding in a particular area, that is precisely what they will do, but that may be all that they do.

As much as I agree with some of the concerns and criticisms of the Corps, it is wrong to single them out alone. The behavior of the Corps is just the most obvious example of our country's 2-century long certainty that we can conquer and bend to our will the force of nature. The Corps has simply been responding to the orders and expectations of Congress and the citizens.

Unfortunately, when it comes to the Corps' responsibility to deal with waterways and flooding, the policies that Congress has directed and funded often appear to be doing more damage than good. Our flood insurance program continues to subsidize people to live in harm's way. Combined with our tendency to engineer rivers, to channelize them, to raise levees ever higher, along with failure to insist on careful land use and wetlands protection, we have produced a situation that is dangerous and self-perpetuating. We are subsidizing people to stay in harm's way, and at the same time we are engineering rivers to produce more frequent and dangerous flooding.

Obviously, part of the message is to stop treating our rivers, wetlands and beaches like machines to be channeled, repaved and recontoured without regard for long-term costs to the environment or, frankly, to the Federal Treasury. The \$8 billion we are prepared to spend now to repair part of the damage that we inflicted on the Everglades through miscalculation and poor planning and engineering is an example of why reform is needed.

Madam Speaker, there are, indeed, serious efforts with real potential for reform right now. I have been pleased during my tenure in Congress with the Corps' efforts to reposition itself. Its Challenge 21 proposal would allow the Corps to enter into an agreement with local partners to provide passive flood mitigation and river restoration projects and do so more quickly and cheaply. Congress can help speed this on its way with adequate funding right now.

In WRDA 99, we made it easier for local communities to choose non-structural approaches to flood control, giving them more freedom to choose more environmentally and economical approaches.

The Corps of Engineers' shoreline protection program is in serious need

of reassessment to avoid a parade of costly and expensive projects that in the long run are environmentally destructive and put people again in harm's way. This is especially critical at a time when it is estimated that the average shoreline will retreat 500 feet over the next 60 years, and that in the next decade alone, 10,000 structures will fall into the ocean. We cannot afford a blank check from the taxpayer and another losing fight with irresistible environmental forces.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 4879, introduced by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND), of which I am a proud cosponsor, is another important piece of reform that would go a long way in addressing some of the problems that have been exposed. This bill would reform the project overview and authorization process, establish an objective outside review panel for controversial projects. To increase transparency and accountability, it would guarantee more citizen participation and lead to a better balance between economic and environmental considerations.

At the end of the day, we need more dramatic steps. When Congress found military base closing too polarized and politicized to tackle itself, we established a separate commission to handle it. Through that, we have been able to do the right thing for the military, while helping communities and the Federal taxpayers. Perhaps it is time for such a stronger mechanism to depolarize and depoliticize the Corps operation here in Congress and to help everybody look at the big picture.

In the meantime, we can use the new public attention and new leadership at the Corps to promote change and reform within the Corps itself so that they can be a critical ally in protecting the environment, making our communities more livable and our families safe, healthy and economically secure.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 43 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PETRI) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord God of covenant love, grant penetrating peace and patient understanding to all families and this Nation as we learn to live with each other and all our differences.

Spread over us today the Spirit of Your covenant; that we may recognize Your presence in ordinary things and

freely acknowledge You as Lord of all and in all.

May the relationship of husband and wife and between parent and child be nourished by this life-giving Spirit.

Let understanding put an end to strife and humble resolve overcome all difficulties so, Your lasting and compassionate love be cradled anew in our homes and become vibrant strength across this Nation.

Bless and protect the families of this Congress, especially those in most need of Your healing and mercy. We are confident in Your love for each of them now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SMITH of Texas led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ADDITIONAL APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO ATTEND THE FUNERAL OF THE LATE HONORABLE HERBERT H. BATEMAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 573, the Chair announces the Speaker's additional appointment of the following Members of the House to the committee to attend the funeral of the late Herbert H. Bateman:

Mr. GOODLING, Pennsylvania;
Mr. LEWIS, California;
Mr. TAYLOR, Mississippi.

LORI HARRIGAN AND THE 2000 OLYMPICS

(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, I rise today to recognize Lori Harrigan, a Las Vegas native, who made history this weekend.

Lori pitched the first-ever solo no-hitter in Olympic history. Nicknamed "Vegas," Lori Harrigan lead the United States team to victory over the Canadian team in the first softball game of the Olympics in Sydney, Australia.

Harrigan was also a member of the U.S. Olympic softball team that won the gold medal in Atlanta in 1996. The United States is honored to have such talented and distinguished athletes

representing our country in the Olympics.

And while the U.S. team still has several more games to play before making it to the gold medal game later this month, I want to join with my fellow Nevadans in wishing Harrigan and her teammates the best of luck in extending their 111 gaming-winning streak in Sydney.

And to every other U.S. Olympian in Sydney, America is very proud of you and your accomplishments. Best of luck in the coming weeks of Olympic competition.

ALLOWING JANET RENO TO GET AWAY WITH TREASON

(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, when faced with solid evidence that China funneled cash illegally to the Democrat party, Janet Reno turned her back. When 100 witnesses took the fifth amendment before Congress, Janet Reno said no to the independent counsel.

Janet Reno, as reports now say, even said no to an FBI request to wire-tap a suspected Chinese spy. Now, if that is not enough to prop up Communism, even when the CIA told Janet Reno China had missiles pointed at us, Janet Reno said no. Beam me up, Congress. We are allowing Janet Reno to get away with treason. She has betrayed America before our very own eyes.

The only time she has said yes was to helping Communist China. I urge Congress to pass H.R. 5161, mandating a thorough investigation into this Chinese communist business.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the treason with reason I believe I can prove of Janet Reno.

MEDIA BIASED IN MANY WAYS

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in the presidential election, George Bush really faces three opponents: AL GORE, Bill Clinton and his manipulation of the government bureaucracy, and a bias by many in the media.

During the next few weeks, I am going to point out examples of media bias. The slanting of the news appears in many forms. Reporters injecting their own opinion into articles, the decision by editors and reporters to cover or not to cover certain subjects, and one-sided stories that fail to achieve a fair balance of opinions.

The American people will know there is something wrong with media coverage. In fact, a survey conducted by the American Society of Newspaper Editors showed that more than three-quarters agree there is bias in news coverage.

Conscientious editors and reporters know the media should provide the facts and fair and objective coverage. The American people are smart enough to make up their own minds.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas or nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Such record votes on postponed questions will be taken after debate is concluded on all motions to suspend the rules but not before 6 p.m. today.

FISHERMAN'S PROTECTIVE ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1999

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 579) providing for the concurrence by the House with an amendment in the Senate amendment to H.R. 1651.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 579

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution the House shall be considered to have taken from the Speaker's table the bill H.R. 1651, with the Senate amendment thereto, and to have concurred in the Senate amendment with the following amendment:

Page 1, line 4, strike "**SEC. 401. USE OF AIRCRAFT PROHIBITED.**" and all that follows through "**SEC. 402.**", and insert "**SEC. 401.**"

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST) and the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.Res. 579.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1651, the Fisherman's Protective Act Amendments. This bill makes a number of fishery conservation improvements in several important laws.

Title I amends the Fisheries Protective Act to extend current law so that reimbursement may be provided to owners of U.S. fishing vessels illegally detained or seized by foreign countries. Since this provision has expired, the bill will ensure that U.S. vessels illegally seized or fined by a foreign nation are able to seek reimbursement in the future.