

the Presidents of the parliaments of the Member States, and to the International Olympic Committee.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2001

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, the House this week begins debate on campaign finance reform. This debate is important for a number of reasons. We need to end the practice of unlimited soft money contributions from corporations and labor unions. We need to improve disclosure requirements so that ordinary citizens know who is paying for campaigns. Most importantly, we need to restore people's confidence that their elected officials are looking out for their interests.

In previous debates on campaign finance reform, I have supported a ban of soft money. These unregulated, unlimited contributions have cast a shadow of impropriety over electioneering efforts by both political parties. Soft money circumvents current campaign finance laws which prohibit corporate contributions to federal campaigns and limit how much an individual can contribute. Banning soft money would eliminate the largest source of questionable campaign money in elections and would help repair Congress's tarnished public image.

Another key principle of campaign finance reform is improved disclosure. Voters have a right to know who is contributing to campaigns, how much and when. They also have a right to know who is paying for advertising and other political activities on behalf of or in opposition to candidates. Armed with this information, voters are more than capable of judging who is representing them and who is representing special interest contributors. Reform legislation should strengthen disclosure requirements and improve electronic access to campaign finance information.

While I strongly support reforming our campaign finance laws, I do not support taxpayer financing of federal elections. Nor do I support proposals that infringe on the free speech rights of individuals or groups. The freedom to support or oppose candidates is fundamental to the American system of government. Public financing forces citizens to support with their tax dollars candidates they oppose at the ballot box. Similarly, it is wrong to prohibit citizens from using their own resources to advocate the election or defeat of a candidate. We need to ensure that we do not use the banner of reform to silence the voices of those who oppose us.

I will work to pass and send to President Bush a campaign finance reform bill that accomplishes true reform while protecting the rights of all citizens to participate in our democracy.

INDIAN MINORITIES SEEKING THEIR OWN STATES

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2001

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I was interested in a Washington Post article on Sunday, July

8 which reported that all across India, minorities are demanding their own states. For example, the article reports that the Bodos, who live in the northeast part of India, are demanding a separate state of Bodoland.

This demand underlines the fact that India is not one country any more than the Soviet Union was. Much of India's instability can be traced to the fact that it is a multinational state thrown together by the British for their administrative convenience, a vestige of the colonial era. The Soviet experience showed how difficult it is to keep such a multinational state together.

Unfortunately, instead of listening to the demands of the people, India has responded by stepping up the oppression of its minorities. Instead of listening to the people, the Indian government has killed more than 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, over 75,000 Muslims in Kashmir since 1988, over 200,000 Christians in Nagaland since 1947, and tens of thousands of other minorities. India was caught by the Movement Against State Repression admitting that it held over 52,000 Sikh political prisoners under the so-called "Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act," known as TADA, which is one of the most repressive laws in the world. TADA expired in 1995. India also holds political prisoners of other minorities, according to Amnesty International. In 1994 the State Department reported that the Indian government paid more than 41,000 cash bounties to police officers for killing Sikhs.

Recently in a village in Kashmir, Indian soldiers were caught red-handed in the act of trying to set fire to a Sikh temple, known as a Gurdwara, and some Sikh homes. This appears to have been aimed at setting the Sikh and Muslim residents against each other. Village residents, both Sikh and Muslim, came out and intervened to stop the soldiers from carrying out this nefarious plan.

Unfortunately, this is only one recent chapter in an ongoing saga of repression of minorities and denial of basic human rights in "the world's largest democracy." In India, minorities have seen the destruction of the Muslims' most revered mosque to build a Hindu temple, the burning death of a missionary and his two sons while they slept in their jeep followed by an effort to expel his widow from the country, church burnings, the murder of priests, the rape of nuns, attacks on schools and prayer halls, the massacre of 35 Sikhs in the village of Chithisinghpura, a recent attack on a train carrying Sikh religious pilgrims, troops attacking a crowd of religious pilgrims with lathis, police breaking up a religious festival with gunfire, and many other such intolerant acts.

In November 1994 the Indian newspaper Hitavada reported that the Indian government paid Surendra Nath, then the governor of Punjab, the equivalent of \$1.5 billion to generate terrorist activity in Punjab and in Kashmir. In India, half the population lives below the international poverty line. About 40 percent lives on less than \$2 per day. Yet they could find \$1.5 billion to pay a government official to generate and support terrorism. We have programs in our government that don't cost \$1.5 billion. This is not a small amount of money.

Mr. Speaker, India has been caught red-handed engaging in domestic terrorism against its minorities. This is why they are seeking their own states. This is why there are 17 freedom movements within India's artificial, colonial-era borders. The minorities are look-

ing for any means of protection against the brutal Indian state.

America is the beacon of freedom, and as an old song from the 70s said, "you can't be a beacon if your light don't shine." We must do what we can to shine the light of freedom on all the people of south Asia. We can do this by maintaining the existing sanctions against India, by stopping our aid to India until it stops denying basic human rights that are the cornerstone of real democracies, and by supporting self-determination for the peoples of South Asia in the form of a free and fair plebiscite on their political status. By these measures, we can help bring freedom, security, stability, and prosperity to the subcontinent and bring America new allies and new influence in this dangerous region.

HONORING NANCY MACCONELL

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2001

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great wife, mother, sister, aunt, grandmother, great grandmother and friend. Eighty years ago this Saturday, July 14th, Nancy Leigh MacConell, was born in Globe, Arizona, eldest daughter of Elijah and Alta Phillips.

Nancy is also a treasure to one and all. She has brought great joy to all her family including her beloved sisters Joan and Sidney and her late husband Michale MacConell, Jr.

Nancy is the mother of three; Suzanne Du Pree, Michele King and Michale, the grandmother of ten and the great grandmother of thirteen. And all firmly believe she has the patience of Job and is the greatest mom there ever was.

I rise today to celebrate and honor Nancy MacConell's 80th birthday and wish her as much and love and joy in the next 80.

SUPPORTING A COMMEMORATIVE STAMP FOR THE HONORABLE ADAM CLAYTON POWELL, JR.

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2001

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to urge my colleagues to support House Concurrent Resolution 182, which recommends a long overdue commemorative stamp for a lawmaker, civil rights advocate and American statesman whose achievements continue to resonate.

Congressman Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. remains one of the greatest and most effective legislators in the history of the U.S. Congress. When he was first elected to Congress in 1945, he was one of only two African-American members, and became the first of his race to chair the powerful Committee on Education and Labor from 1961 to 1967.

As Chairman, he spearheaded the legislation that authorized the Medicare, Medicaid, Head Start and school lunch programs, increased the minimum wage and established student loan programs. Chairman Powell also pushed through the landmark Civil Rights Act

of 1964, finally codifying his famous "Powell Amendment"; a rider that would deny federal dollars to institutions who practice racial discrimination, which he had introduced repeatedly for years.

Congressman Powell was a pioneer among lawmakers whose legacy continues to inspire countless generations of Americans of all backgrounds, colors, creeds and religions to take part in this grand experiment we call "representative government".

I respectfully urge my colleagues to join me and cosponsor H. Con. Res. 182 to celebrate a lawmaker whose accomplishments are among the greatest examples of perseverance and triumph in our democratic system.

IN RECOGNITION OF EDUCATOR
LARRY RATTO

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2001

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to a legendary educator in my congressional district who retired on June 30, 2001 after an illustrious thirty-six year career filled with memorable contributions to the Hayward, California school district.

A native of Alameda, California, Larry began his career in 1965, when he worked as a history/government teacher and counselor at Mt. Eden High School. Four years later, he became an administrator at Tennyson High School where he took the reins and lead with vigor and creativity.

He stood on hot coals more than once for a good five to ten minutes during pep talks to student leaders at their annual weekend retreat.

Many recall the time in 1970 when Larry rode a galloping horse between the Tennyson High School buildings to chase down a truant student—a legendary story that people still talk about three decades later.

In 1971, Larry became vice principal at Hayward High School and five years later he led as principal of Sunset High School until it closed in 1990. He returned to the 1,900-student Hayward High School as principal, the last position he held before his retirement.

"You got to have some pizzazz," Larry said, while wrapping up his final days as a public school administrator. "You are competing with the MTV culture." Larry describes his career as "fun." He said, "There were days when it was not fun and hours that I thought, 'Why am I doing this?'"

Having once considered being a lawyer, Larry enjoyed the excitement of a high school principal's life, that every day was different. He is proud of Hayward High School and its wide class offerings and plethora of extracurricular student activities.

Parents, teachers, students, administrators and community leaders express great admiration for Larry Ratto's three decades of outstanding leadership in education as well as his exemplary involvement in community activities. I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this colorful, legendary educator, and community leader.

IN HONOR OF THE REOPENING OF
THE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL &
TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY CENTER

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2001

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the reopening of the newly renovated and recently renamed Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center located in New York City. The stated mission of the Center is to provide a home for the birth, nurture and celebration of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender organizations, institutions and culture. For nearly two decades the Center has successfully fulfilled that mission by providing groups and individuals a safe space in which to achieve their fullest potential. The newly renovated space at 208 West 13th Street in Manhattan, will be a permanent home for the local LGBT community, fostering creativity, compassion, and activism.

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center has long been a beacon of hope for many in the community, serving thousands upon thousands of residents from all walks of life and from every corner of the world. The Center is not only a host to a wide variety of civic, athletic, health, and cultural groups, but it also provides an array of its own programming. Programs such as Project Connect, CenterBridge, Center Kids, the Pat Parker/Vito Russo Center Library, and the National Museum and Archive of Lesbian and Gay History add to the expansive fabric that binds New York's LGBT Community.

Mr. Speaker, I salute The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center in its ongoing effort to better enrich the LGBT Community and society as a whole. I am eminently proud to represent such a living landmark. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing them well and all the hope for the future in their new spectacular facility.

HONORING SUPERINTENDENT
GEORGE KELEDJIAN

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2001

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Central Unified School District Superintendent George Keledjian. After many years of dedicated service to the district and the community, Mr. Keledjian has announced his plans to retire.

George Keledjian has an extensive educational background and a remarkable life story. After completing high school in Cyprus, Keledjian attended the Teacher's Training Institute where he decided education would be his focal point. While teaching high school in Lebanon, he earned the equivalent of three dollars a month. After five years of teaching in Lebanon, he boarded a ship for Pasadena, CA. Keledjian then attended Point Loma Nazarene College. After four years of schooling he received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees, both in Education. He began working towards his Ph.D., but due to a serious car accident he

was unable to obtain his degree. After many years teaching at a junior high school in Southern California, George Keledjian came to Fresno, CA in 1966. He became Principal at Madison Elementary School in 1971. In 1984, he accepted the position of Superintendent of Central Unified School District.

In his 35 years with the district, Keledjian has overseen the building of five new schools and the renovation of many others. Performance on standardized test scores has increased to above state and county averages. Under George Keledjian's management, the district's General Fund remains financially solvent. He has also led many Central Unified schools to recognition for various awards. Two schools were recognized as California State Distinguished Schools; one school was recognized as a Bonner Foundation Virtues and Character School; two schools were recognized as 2000 Governor's Reading Award Recipients; and Central Unified's Future Farmers of America program is recognized nationally.

Mr. Speaker, I want to pay tribute to George Keledjian for his accomplishments and his years of service to Central Unified School District. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing George Keledjian a happy retirement.

ADAK ISLAND TRANSFER
LEGISLATION

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2001

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation which will facilitate and promote the successful commercial reuse of the former Naval Air Facility on Adak Island, Alaska. At the same time, this legislation will allow the Aleut people of Alaska to reclaim the island and to make use of its modern developments and important location.

The legislation I introduce today ratifies an agreement between The Aleut Corporation, an Alaska Native Regional Corporation, the Department of the Interior, and the Department of the Navy. "The Agreement Concerning the Conveyance of Property at the Adak Naval Complex, Adak," Alaska was signed last September and is the result of more than four years of discussions and negotiations among the three parties.

The bill and the Agreement also further the conservation of important wildlife habitat. A portion of Adak is within the Aleutian Islands subunit of the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge. The Agreement facilitates the Department of the Interior's continued management and protection of the Refuge lands on Adak and even adds some of the Navy lands to the Refuge. Moreover, in exchange for the developed Navy lands, which are not suitable for the Refuge, but are commercially useful, The Aleut Corporation will convey environmentally sensitive lands it holds elsewhere in the Refuge to the Department of the Interior.

For many years the Navy was an important constituent in Alaska's Aleutian Chain. Its presence was first established during World War II with the selection and development of the island because of its combination of ability to support a major airfield and its natural and protected deep water port. The Navy's presence there contributed greatly to the defense