

CONSERVATIVE AND LIBERAL GROUPS OPPOSED TO SHAYS-MEEHAN CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM BILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. DOOLITTLE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, I just have some comments on the Shays-Meehan bill. This thing just died of the weight of opposition against it. I just want to read from a list of both conservative and liberal groups who oppose this legislation.

In fact, you could get a positive rating from both the NARL, the National Abortion Rights League, and from the National Right to Life Committee by voting against this terrible bill. And then you can also get the same positive rating from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and from the AFL-CIO.

I would just like to read into the record all these groups, 81 groups, from information obtained from the Committee on House Administration, all the groups who are opposed to the big government's campaign regulation bill, known as Shays-Meehan.

We have the American Civil Rights Union; the American Conservative Union; the Business-Industry PAC; the Center for Reclaiming America; the Christian Coalition; the Free Congress Foundation; Gun Owners Of America; the National Rifle Association; the National Right to Life Committee; the AFL-CIO; the Alliance for Justice; the American Civil Liberties Union; the Cato Institute; the Freedom Forum; the Libertarian Party; the National Association of Broadcasters; the National Association of Manufacturers; Associated Builders and Contractors; the U.S. Chamber of Commerce; Americans For Tax Reform; the United Auto Workers; the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals; the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund; the Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law; the Business and Professional People for the Public Interest.

Again, just to remind you, Mr. Speaker, these are all the organizations opposed to the big government campaign regulation known as Shays-Meehan.

The Center for Digital Democracy; the Center for Law and Social Policy; the Center for Law in the Public Interest; the Center for Reproductive Law and Policy; the Center for Science in the Public Interest; the Children's Defense Fund; the Community Law Center; the Consumers Union; the Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund; the Drug Policy Foundation; Earthjustice Legal Defense Fund; Education Law Center; Employment Law Center; and Equal Rights Advocates.

Let me see, the James Madison Center for Free Speech; Gun Owners of America; Free Congress Foundation. Okay, we are at 41. Here are the other 40.

The Food Research and Action Center; the Harmon, Curran, Spielberg &

Eisenberg firm; the Human Rights Campaign Foundation; Institute for Public Representation at Georgetown University Law Center; the Juvenile Law Center; the League of Conservation Voters Education Fund; the Legal Aid Society of New York; the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund; the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League Foundation; the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers; the National Center for Lesbian Rights; the National Center for Youth Law; the National Center on Poverty Law; the National Education Association; the National Employment Lawyers Association; the National Immigration Forum; the National Immigration Law Center; the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty; and for number 60, the National Legal Aid and Defender Association; all against the big government, heavy-handed, campaign finance regulation known as Shays-Meehan.

Number 61, and, again, all these groups are opposed, the National Mental Health Association; National Organization for Women Legal Defense; National Partnership for Women and Families; National Veterans Legal Services Program; National Women's Law Center; National Youth Advocacy Coalition; Native American Rights Fund; Natural Resources Defense Council; New York Lawyers for the Public Interest; Physicians for Human Rights; Physicians for Social Responsibility; Planned Parenthood Federation of America; Public Advocates, Inc.; Public Justice Center; the Tides Center; University of Pennsylvania, Public Service Program; Violence Policy Center; Welfare Law Center; the Wilderness Society; Women's Law Project; and the Youth Law Center.

Eighty-one organizations opposed to the big government, heavy-handed campaign finance bill that went down today known as Shays-Meehan or McCain-Feingold in the Senate. No wonder this proposal is not moving forward. All these groups, from liberal to conservative, are opposed to it. And the Democrats voted to kill the rule that would have brought it up.

□ 1800

FUNDING FOR FAITH-BASED INITIATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KELLER). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I stand here in support of faith-based entities who have long worked to address social ills. In fact, we just recently, earlier this week, paid a tribute to the efforts of these entities and encouraged private corporations to contribute to their worthwhile efforts.

This Congress will also likely consider proposals aimed at providing gov-

ernment funding to faith-based entities, Charitable Choice. However, I have grave concerns with those proposals and believe that before adopting them, they merit serious examination to ensure that they do not work to dilute our Nation's constitutional principles and civil rights law.

First, are we prepared to modify our constitutional principle of separation of church and state to one promoting a church state?

The First Amendment says Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof. This clause was intended to erect a wall of separation between church and state. In essence, our Nation has been successful in preventing the church from controlling the state and the state from controlling the religion.

The current faith-based proposals threaten this very important principle. Which religious entities will qualify for the government funding? Will the more dominant or better financed faiths be awarded the grants? The government will be forced to choose one religion or denomination over the other.

Once the entities accept government funding, they then must be held accountable for the use of these funds. As such, faith-based entities will open themselves up to government regulation. So we must ask ourselves, will groups forego the full expression of their religious beliefs, their independence and autonomy in exchange for money? Are we comfortable with our houses of worship becoming houses of investigation?

Further, while the proposals state that government funds should not be used for worship or proselytization, meaningful safeguards to prevent such action are not included in the provisions. The consequence is the possibility of use of government funds to promote certain religious beliefs or a beneficiary of social programs being subject to religious influence that is not welcome.

In addition to ensuring that faith-based initiatives do not threaten our Nation's constitutional principles, we must also guarantee that our citizens will remain protected under our civil rights laws. Religious institutions are currently exempted from the ban on religious discrimination and employment provided under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. As such, if faith-based proposals do not include a repeal of this exemption, these institutions will be able to engage in government-funded employment discrimination.

Allowing the exemption to be applied to hiring and staffing decisions by religious entities as they deliver critical services flies in the face of our Nation's long-standing principle that Federal funds may not be used in a discriminatory fashion.

As I reflect on those who fought hard to secure civil rights for us all, and as one who has been a strong advocate myself, I cannot sit idly by and watch

them be eroded. As such, I believe that any faith-based proposals must include a repeal of the Title VII exemption.

As we review faith-based proposals, it is important to note that under current law religious entities can seek government funding by establishing a 501(c)(3) affiliate organization. Such religiously-affiliated organizations have successfully partnered with government and received government funding for years.

I urge my colleagues to carefully examine these issues. As we continue to support faith-based entities and their good works, we must remember our duty to also protect the very foundation of this Nation, our Constitution and our civil rights laws. Let us stand against discrimination and stand up for religious tolerance and freedom.

PAYING HOMAGE TO A SPECIAL GROUP OF VETERANS, SURVIVORS OF BATAAN AND CORREGIDOR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRBACHER) is recognized for 60 minutes as a designee of the majority leader.

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay homage to a very special group of American veterans. As all veterans, these World War II survivors have sacrificed and have suffered for their country. But this special group is different.

This group that I would like to call attention to tonight are men who continue to fight for justice even though these many years have passed since the close of World War II. These are men who fought and paid an enormous price for our freedom and for the peace and safety of the world, yet today, I repeat, continuing to struggle for justice to their own cause.

Instead of fighting the emperors of Japan which they fought during the second World War, these brave veterans are now forced to fight lawyers, the lawyers of Japanese and international business giants, companies like Mitsubishi, Matsui and Nippon Steel. Instead of battling in the jungles, instead of battling on the islands in the South Pacific, these veterans are battling in the courtroom.

Mr. Speaker, the greatest irony about what is happening today about the veterans of whom I speak, while they battled for our freedom in the Second World War, and today, as they say, they are battling lawyers of some of the biggest Japanese companies, the greatest irony is that these American heroes have the United States Government not on their side, but on the side of their adversary. They find themselves arguing against representatives of their own government.

Let me make this clear. Some heroic veterans from World War II were trying to find justice for their cause, men who put everything on the line and, as we

will find out, were held hostage and prisoner of war by the Japanese, these men now in seeking justice for their cause are having to argue against their own government. Their own government is now engaged in a legal process to thwart their efforts.

This is the story of the American survivors of the Bataan Death March in Corregidor. These are some of the most heroic of America's defenders during the Second World War. When they were captured, they were forced to serve as slave labor for private war profiteering companies, Japanese companies during the Second World War. These men, these prisoners of war, these American heroes were deprived of food, medicine and clean water. These large Japanese companies, whose own work force was away fighting the war in the Japanese uniform, these corporations used our POWs as work animals. These Japanese companies, knowing that they were violating the international law, used our American soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines whom they had captured in the Philippines and other places around the Pacific, but mainly the Philippines, they used these people and often worked them to death. The standards they had to endure violated the most basic morality, decency and justice. It also violated international law.

Instead of righting wrongs and admitting that violations had been made and violations of law existed, like German companies have done since the end of World War II, and the German companies have tried to close that chapter by giving compensation and recognizing the violation of rights that took place by their companies to the people whom they wronged, the Japanese corporations have ignored the claims of these American heroes.

And why should they not? These large Japanese corporations ignore the pleas of American survivors for justice. Why not? After all, the United States State Department has sided with the Japanese and is working against our former POWs that were held by the Japanese during the Second World War. This is a travesty.

Mr. Speaker, if the American people knew what was going on, I am sure there would be a wave of protest and indignation that would sweep this country, a wave that would sweep right into the State Department and perhaps sweep out these individuals who are siding in a battle against America's most heroic defenders.

Dr. Lester Tenney, a survivor of the death march, a survivor of slave camps, says, "I feel as if I am once again being sacrificed by our government, abandoned not for the war effort, as in the past, but for the benefit of big Japanese corporations."

Dr. Tenney is right. In the hours following the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Japanese attacked U.S. installations in the Philippines. A U.S. contingent there made up of our military forces retreated to the Bataan Peninsula and

made their historic standing. They held off the Japanese military juggernaut while the United States had been crippled in Pearl Harbor, and gave us time to rally America, and gave us time to, and gave us time to organize an offensive to take back the territory that the Japanese had taken.

Our defenders in Corregidor and on the Bataan Peninsula bought time for the whole United States, and they bought time at the greatest risk to their lives. Our government at that time was forced to make a heart-tearing decision, and that decision was that they were going to have to sacrifice our brave heroes in the Philippines. MacArthur was pulled out, and our troops were left behind. And they were sacrificed because the planners in Washington, D.C., knew full well that much of our strength in the Pacific had been destroyed at Pearl Harbor, and if we tried to save these brave heroes on the Bataan Peninsula, we would have risked so many other military personnel. If we lost that battle, the entire war would have been lost. The risk was so great that it was impossible for us to go to save them.

Yet these men and women, these brave defenders stood their ground and fought a heroic battle. As the song of the day went, their song, the battling bastards of Bataan, no mama, no papa, no Uncle Sam.

After the fall of Bataan, after these men were overwhelmed and American-Filipino troops were captured, they were forced to walk more than 60 miles to their places of captivity, to the prison camps and concentration camps in which they were held. That 60-mile march is known in history as the Bataan Death March. They were denied water, beaten; and during the march, hundreds of them, many of them fell, and many of them were bayoneted to death. Some of them were cut to pieces, at least a few beheaded by Japanese officers who were practicing with their samurai sword.

Let us remember at that time the Japanese culture reflected the view that any warrior who survived a battle and was on the losing side of the battle, any warrior who survived and surrendered was unfit to be considered a human being.

□ 1815

The Japanese treated our prisoners as less than human beings. They treated them as animals and they murdered them. Over 650 to 700 Americans died on that 60-mile march, the famous Bataan Death March. These were truly heroes, and their sacrifice inspired our Nation. The outrage that swept across our Nation gave us strength to fight against the Japanese militarist thrust in the Pacific and to stand up to the Nazis in Europe, because we saw the heroism of these men. And then, after enduring this hell and taken out of sight of the American people, our prisoners of war that were being held by Japan there in the Philippines, many