Meehan bill without amendments, it will be the gun manufacturers through their contributions, who will determine whether we ever address the question of gun violence in our society.

And certainly, as we have seen in this abominable, huge trillion-dollar tax cut proposed by the Republican leadership, unless we get effective campaign finance reform, it will be the special interests here in Washington, who continue to write loopholes for themselves in our Tax Code, designing it as a more and more complex code where the ordinary, hard-working American family has to pick up most of the cost of Government and the special interests manage to avoid paying their fair share.

The debate in this Congress today on this bill will determine on whether or not we really require complete disclosure by the so-called independent campaigns when they are really campaigning with unregulated, undisclosed money for a handful of special interest candidates.

Secondly, it will eliminate the soft money contributions, the unreported, unregulated, unlimited contributions that these same special interests, the pharmaceutical companies, the insurance companies, the tobacco lobbyists dump into these campaigns to tie up the Congress and to control its agenda.

I believe that what we need to do is not just some slight housekeeping amendments, as have been proposed, to thwart the Shays-Meehan bill, but we need a clean sweep of the system.

If the Shays-Meehan bipartisan campaign finance reform has any defect, the defect is that it does too little, not that it does too much. But it does represent an important first step on a bipartisan basis to overcome the deficiencies in our current system, which permit a stranglehold through special interest contributions on the operations of this Congress.

Doris Haddocks, a woman from New England, who has referred to herself as ''Granny D,'' is 89 years old. She began a walk out in California. I believe she has about reached the Mississippi River, walking by herself across America, as an 89-year-old great grandmother, to speak out and draw attention to the need for reforming our campaign finance system and getting so much of this special interest money out of our system.

I would say to my colleagues that she has a better chance, a much better chance, of completing her walk step by step across the wide expanse of America, ''from sea to shining sea;'' she has a much better chance to accomplish that objective than this Congress does to ever escape special interest domination unless we reform our campaign finance system.

We need true, genuine reform. Without that reform, this Congress and its entire agenda will continue to be set largely on the basis of who gave how much to whom.

I believe that campaign finance reform, certainly the modest steps we propose today in the Shays-Meehan bipartisan campaign finance reform, will not correct every wrong in this Congress. But without real, meaningful, comprehensive reform, the American people will continue to be wronged by the special interests that dominate this Congress.

Let us approve bipartisan reform today.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. There being no further requests for morning hour debates, pursuant to clause 12, rule I, the House will stand in recess until 10 a.m. today.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 23 minutes a.m.) the House stood in recess until 10 a.m.

□ 1000

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Florida) at 10 a.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

O give us peace, O give us hope,
O give us light above.
O God, from whom all blessings flow,
We thank You for your love.
Bring us faith and give us hope,
And keep us always true;
That whatever path we walk,
We walk that path with You. 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.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Chair's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico 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.

IMPORTANCE OF MINING INDUSTRY TO AMERICA AND ITS FUTURE

(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, unfortunately, there are some Members of this body that would like to eliminate the American mining industry. However, many of them do not realize how important this industry is to America and to its future.

Without the mining industry, we would not have the system of transportation that enables America to get to work and be productive. In fact, we would not have a refrigerator that preserves and keeps our food cold and would not have a bed to sleep in or even a house to live in, not to mention that the combined direct and indirect economic impact of the Nation's metal mining industry amounts to more than $112 billion per year.

The metal industry paid $523 million directly to State and local governments, $620 million in taxes and fees to the Federal Government, $7 billion to other businesses for supplies and almost $3.5 billion in wages and benefits. By the time this $11.6 billion circulates throughout the economy, the metal mining industry directly had a $112 billion impact on the Nation's economy.

Mining is not just about our quality of life, however, or the hard working families. It is also about the contributions it makes to medical advancements, our schools, neighborhoods, State and local and Federal Governments.

Mining is a partner with government, with communities all across America.

PASSING SHAYS-MEEHAN STRIKES A BLOW FOR DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES

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

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, today we have the opportunity to put democracy back in the hands of the people. Increasingly, the power of the special interests and big money have had their sway in the Congress. Now is the time to let the people's voices be heard. By passing the Shays-Meehan campaign finance reform bill, we will be striking a blow for Democratic principles. Shays-Meehan will restore confidence in our democratic system. It will inject new integrity into the process and it will assure