The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Colorado [Mrs. SCHROEDER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mrs. SCHROEDER addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. RIGGS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. RIGGS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Illinois [Mrs. COLLINS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mrs. COLLINS of Illinois addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. HORN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. HORN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from West Virginia [Mr. WISE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. WISE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. KIM] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. KIM addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio [Ms. KAPTUR] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

INNOCENT MISTAKE TRANSFORMED INTO AN ETHICS COMPLAINT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. EHRLICH] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. EHRLICH. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. MCINTOSH].

Mr. MCINTOSH. Mr. EHRLICH, I wanted to conclude my remarks from earlier and just to say that, regardless of these types of attacks on our subcommittee and the process there, we do not feel that that should be the type of debate we have in this Congress. What we are going to do is continue on the merits of our bill that will protect the taxpayer and end the taxpayer subsidy for lobbyists here in Washington, and I look forward to working with my colleague from Maryland in doing that.

Mr. EHRLICH. If the gentleman will stay right there, I hope the American people are watching this tonight, Mr. Speaker, and I would like the gentleman in very concise terms to go before me in 2 minutes the facts of what was set out earlier.

From my understanding, you have a hearing, you were the subcommittee chair, a mistake was made, a prop was made, a mistake was made by a staffer; correct?

Mr. MCINTOSH. We should have used the prop first and then distributed the smaller version.

Mr. EHRLICH. It was distributed prior to the time it should have been distributed; is that correct?

Mr. MCINTOSH. That is correct.

Mr. EHRLICH. When you found out about this mistake performed by the staffer, what did you do?

Mr. MCINTOSH. At the hearing I told people this is our document. We intended to make the point this way, and that evening I sent a letter of apology to Miss Erin saying, if there was any umbrage taken, it certainly was not our intent.

Mr. EHRLICH. And to my colleague how long was the offending piece of paper on the desk for public consumption? Do you know?

Mr. MCINTOSH. I am not sure exactly how long it was there. It did not take long before we were asked about it, and the staff withdrew the document and have since then reissued it with a disclaimer that this information about the grants comes from the subcommittee.

Mr. EHRLICH. The irrefutable facts, however, are once I found out the staffer had made a mistake, you ordered it off the table, you offered an immediate apology, at least you recognized a mistake had been made publicly; correct? And that evening you wrote a formal letter of apology; is that correct?

Mr. MCINTOSH. That is correct.

Mr. EHRLICH. Now, Mr. Speaker, a political culture that encourages this scenario to be transformed into an ethics complaint against my colleague from Indiana is not what the American people have a right to expect. A political culture that seeks to personalize innocent, innocuous mistakes and attacks a Member of this body personally not on the issues, not on political philosophy, not on political orientation, that is all fair, I would submit, to the general public and the Members of this body, but a political culture that requires even a personal attack against my colleague from Indiana on these facts is broken, and I thank my colleague from Indiana for his indulgence.

Mr. Speaker, the bottom line to this entire situation, as the chairman of the full committee stated, as the chairman of the subcommittee stated tonight, we were sent to Washington to change this culture, and if there is one thing I hope we can claim success on come November 1996, and I will direct this comment to my colleague from Indiana, it is that we change the culture that seeks to personalize innocent mistakes. Where I came from, in a State legislature, this is a nonevent.

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Here, it is an ethics complaint. I submit to the people of this country, this is not what they voted for November 8, 1994. I am making it my business, and I want the Members to know, and I want every Member of this body to know that this has to stop. I thank my colleague for his indulgence.

Mr. MCINTOSH. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield, let me say that I wholeheartedly agree, that we need to get to debating the facts. In this particular case, I think what is feared more than anything by these groups is that we will succeed in telling the American people about how their tax dollars are being used. In this case it was $7 million that indirectly went to benefit this lobbying group through a laundering scheme. Interestingly enough, when I asked Ms. Aron at the committee hearing to help us bring out those facts and to tell us if she did not agree with these dollar amounts, how much Federal subsidy there was, this was her response.

Mr. EHRLICH. Let me understand this now. This quote that you have produced was her response, and that is the reason the entire document was generated in the first place?

Mr. MCINTOSH. She said, ''We are not going to tell you, Members of Congress, how much taxpayer dollars go to our membership, how and whether that taxpayer dollar is being used to subsidize our lobbying effort.'' In a typical kind of arrogance that has grown up in this city of people who have gotten used to living off of the taxpayer dollars, she said, ''I will not. I will not go into the amounts of Federal monies that my members receive.'' To me, we owe it to the taxpayer to tell them that information.

Mr. EHRLICH. Mr. Speaker, if only our opponents would debate the issue on the merits.

THE VA-HUD-INDEPENDENT AGENCIES CONFERENCE REPORT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. GEKAS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DORNAN. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GEKAS. I yield to the gentleman from California.

REGARDING ATTACKS ON MEMBERS AND THEIR REPRESENTATIVE DUTIES

Mr. DORNAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to say to my distinguished colleague, the gentleman from Pennsylvania, that I just went up and checked our own