

every congressional office. I hope it is true at the White House, and I hope Americans will not lose patience and will keep sending those messages, because now is the time we are going to balance the budget for the United States of America and get spending under control so every baby is not born with the prospect of \$187,000 of interest payments alone in his or her lifetime.

ENGLISH-ONLY LEGISLATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Guam [Mr. UNDERWOOD] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I want to address the House on the issue of English only, making English the official language of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, mandating English as the official language of the United States is unnecessary, resolves no particular problem of Government, and communicates a negative divisive message to the society about people who speak other languages. We all acknowledge that English is the common language. In fact, 97 percent of Americans over the age of 5 speak English. And every immigrant to this country recognizes this also. In fact, today's immigrants learn English faster than previous immigrant generations.

A variety of official language legislation has been introduced in the 104th. Some of these bills are less intrusive than others, but most of them include provisions similar to section 2 of H.R. 739, the Declaration of Official Language Act, which states that all communications by Federal officials and employees with U.S. citizens "shall be in English." This implies that English-only improves Government efficiency. In fact, just the opposite is true. Language restrictions will make carrying out the functions of Government more cumbersome in the few instances where languages other than English are used. In fact 99.96 percent of all Federal Government documents are printed in English according to GAO.

Members of this House would feel the burden of this legislation if it ever became law. Under English-only provisions I would be breaking the law if I wrote a letter to one of my constituents in the indigenous language of our island of Guam. My staff would be breaking the law if they spoke to a constituent in a language other than English. Many of our congressional offices would become less effective if forced to speak only English.

English-only advocates further claim that language is what binds us together as a nation. I maintain rather that our unity as a nation is rooted in common beliefs and values, as well as a common language. It is these distinctive American values that bind us together as a people.

There are those in this country who feel it necessary to declare English as an official language in a symbolic way,

but I want to remind Members of this House that most of this English-only legislation goes far, way beyond symbolism.

English-only legislation solves no real problem either in the Government or among U.S. citizens. What this kind of legislation does is stigmatize users of other languages as somehow not being quite American enough and discourages the cultivation of our linguistic resources. How can we value multilingualism, and simultaneously discourage the environment which would allow it to flourish. This country needs to develop not stifle our linguistic resources to compete in a global economy. This legislation communicates the wrong message. It tells citizens to speak only English while at the same time, American businesses seek persons with foreign language skills in order to maintain a competitive edge in today's global economy, and higher education degrees mark the truly educated as those who are multilingual.

In Arizona, English-only legislation has already been determined unconstitutional because it required all government officials to "act" only in English. This clearly inhibited the free speech of these employees. I find it ironic that those who fight for devolution, States rights, and limited government, also fight for English-only which takes power from the States and hands it over to the Federal Government. Further, it mandates that the Government infiltrate our private lives by regulating how we talk. This is the ultimate in Government intrusion and runs counter to the mood of the country which is to deregulate Government, to get Government out of our lives as free citizens. Nowhere did I hear a cry to regulate language, to regulate speech.

H.R. 739 also states that the Government "shall promote and support the use of English for communications among U.S. citizens." Provisions like this go far beyond encouraging the learning of English and move toward English-only, not English first but English-only. We make a distinction between attitudes. Frivolous litigation, which would no doubt follow such a law, would flood our already overburdened court system with claims such as: "I was spoken to in Spanish by a Government employee." "I heard them talking in Chinese on Government time." "The Government isn't doing enough to promote English." And on and on. Citizens will be permitted to sue for monetary relief based on these claims of linguistic abuse.

Because it solves no problems, English-only legislation which seeks to regulate language seems to be giving life to the social forces of resentment.

This resentment could stem from a rise in the number of foreign accents we hear day-to-day or the increase in the use of languages other than English. This kind of resentment is not based on a need to improve communications between individuals or their Government, but is based on a fear of the growing foreignness in our midst.

Recently, proponents of English-only have tried to frighten us by comparing America with Canada. They tell us that if we reject English-only, portions of America will again attempt secession from the United States. Every country has a different history and those who attempt to draw this comparison display an ignorance of the Quebec situation. In Canada, official languages were written into the original legal framework. It is because of legal language restrictions on languages that Canada finds herself divided. I doubt Americans want to create a bureaucracy to enforce language policy like our northern neighbors have.

English-only legislation is potentially dangerous because it encourages nativism, raises constitutional issue about free speech and empowers the Federal Government to regulate—for the first time in our country's 219-year history—how Americans speak. The message of English-only legislation cannot be that English should be America's common language because it already is. Is the message then that we are less than those who speak only English? For those of us with different mother tongues, it is not at all incompatible to practice the continuance of a mother tongue, to be a good American, and recognize that the lingua franca is English.

As Congress considers English-only measures, I urge my colleagues to consider the implications of such legislation and the message it will send to this Nation of immigrants.

Mr. Speaker, I urge every Member to take a close look at this legislation and examine it, and see it for what it is worth.

RECOMMENDING A LOBBYING DISCLOSURE BILL WITH NO AMENDMENTS

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

Mr. CANADY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today the House will resume consideration of the Lobbying Disclosure Act. As we resume consideration of this bill, we have a historic opportunity to pass a lobbying disclosure bill and send it to the President for his signature. We need to do that. For 40 years the Congress has been grappling with this issue unsuccessfully. We have seen 40 years of gridlock on the subject of lobbying disclosure reform. It is time that we end this gridlock and move forward.

When the House begins its consideration later today of this bill, we will vote on four amendments. I want to bring the Member's attention to the substance of these amendments and urge that the Members reject these and all other amendments to the lobbying reform bill.

The Washington Post summed the situation up in an editorial that appeared yesterday. The headline says "Amending Lobby Reform to Death." The editorial says, "The question now is whether the House will pass this bill and send it to the President or gum it up with amendments that would force a House-Senate conference and delay enactment indefinitely. The Senate

lobbying bill is worth passing, as written, and its enactment should not be delayed any further. The House should vote down the various amendments and send the bill straight to the President.

We need to focus on the task that is before us. That is the task of passing lobbying disclosure reform. I have some comments on the particular amendments. The first amendment we will vote on is an amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. FOX]. The gentleman from Pennsylvania has good intentions with his amendment, which would prohibit lobbyists from giving gifts to Members of Congress, but his amendment is unnecessary because we have already passed comprehensive gift reform in the House and in the Senate.

Furthermore, his amendment is dangerous because it contains a definition of "gift" which is different from the definition contained in the gift reform that the House passed. The only thing that will result from the adoption of the Fox amendment is confusion and trouble for Members of the House.

Furthermore, the amendment is unfair. It will create a double standard under which a lobbyist can be fined up to \$50,000 in a civil penalty for giving a gift to a Member of Congress that is prohibited, while a Member of Congress does not face a similar civil penalty. Is that fair? Should we have one standard for imposing fines on lobbyists and exempt Members of Congress for fines? I do not think that is consistent with the spirit of reform. The Fox amendment does that, and it should be rejected for that reason alone.

Another amendment that we will consider is offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. CLINGER]. The amendment of the gentleman from Pennsylvania deals with an important issue of lobbying by executive agencies. I believe there have been some abuses there which should be corrected, but the amendment of Mr. CLINGER is poorly drafted, it has not been through the committee process, and it will create all sorts of problems.

Under the Clinger amendment, agency press officers would not be allowed to answer inquiries from the press regarding the agency's position on legislative proposals. Does that make any sense I do not think so. This proposal goes too far. Mr. CLINGER should take this back through his committee, which has jurisdiction of the issue, and come forward with a refined proposal to really address the abuse. This amendment by the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. CLINGER] is designed and calculated to ensure a veto of this bill.

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The President is bound to veto this bill if anything like the Clinger amendment is attached to it. We should not derail lobbying disclosure reform by adding extraneous amendments such as this.

There are other amendments that will be considered; some of them have

some merit. Some of them, standing alone, are amendments that I would support. But this is not the time; this is not the place. We need to get on with the business that has occupied the Congress off and on for more than 40 years, and if we can pass this bill and send it to the President I believe that we will demonstrate to the American people that things really have changed here in Washington, that we can accomplish things in this Congress that other Congresses have been unable to deal with.

So I would encourage the Members to support lobbying disclosure reform and oppose all amendments to the lobbying disclosure reform bill. These amendments all have one thing in common. They will derail this effort to reform this law, which everyone admits desperately needs reforming.

THE SHUTDOWN OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BARR). Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia [Ms. NORTON] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, if we ask the average American what got shut down 25 days ago, they will say that the Federal Government got shut down 25 days ago. Well, I am here to tell my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, that the city in which the Congress does its business got shut down completely 25 days ago. The city got shut down with its own money.

Mr. Speaker, because of limitations on home rule, our entire budget has to come here, although 85 percent of that budget is raised in the District of Columbia from District taxpayers. The District got shut down with its own money, although the District of Columbia is second per capita in taxes paid to the Federal Treasury among the 50 States and the District of Columbia.

Suppose you represented people who paid that much tax and got shut down because they got caught in the middle of a debate that had nothing to do with them? I think you would be pretty mad, and so am I.

Mr. Speaker, I am asking on day 18, as we move toward December 15, that whatever quarrels the Federal Government and the President get in among themselves, that you not shut down my city again. This is a city in the midst of an awesome financial crisis, and the most that the Congress of the United States has been able to think to do to it is to allow it to be shut down.

Our appropriation is caught up here, 85 percent of that money, of course, being our own. What the Federal Government contributes is not a grant but is only a payment in lieu of taxes, because we cannot build on land occupied by the Federal Government and because we cannot build very high because of limitations put on us by the Congress of the United States. So who in the world would shut down people

who are already in the midst of a financial crisis, except people who are unaccountable to the people in that city, the 600,000 people that I represent?

Of course we, like the Federal Government, had to pay our employees, because they were put on forced administrative leave; and, thus, we have to pay for all of that lost productivity. Mr. Speaker, because of the fiscal crisis, these employees had already given back 6 furlough days and had already given back 12 percent of their pay because the city is in crisis.

This city is not a Federal agency. We are demanding that we be treated like a city and not like a Federal agency—like a city that pays its own way.

Mr. Speaker, I am asking that if we get to Day Zero and another continuing resolution is necessary, that D.C. not be put in another short-term continuing resolution. Do you realize what it is like to have to calibrate on a 2- or 3-week basis so that you do not overobligate your own money?

My continuing resolution will say look, you can spend your own money; we are holding back part of the Federal payment. That is the least you can do if you want to insert onto our appropriation stuck up here on provisions you want to insert onto our appropriation that have been undemocratically put there by Members unaccountable to the voters of the District of Columbia. Free the D.C. appropriation.

The chairman of the subcommittee, Mr. DAVIS has cosponsored an independent D.C. continuing resolution with me. Congress has already done damage, incalculable damage in shutting the District down. All I am asking now is if you cannot get our appropriation out, and I would not bet on getting it out by December 15, that the Congress not do more to hurt the innocent bystanders.

Those are the people who pay the highest taxes, barring none, if you combine local taxes and Federal taxes in the United States. Those are the people who contribute more to the Federal Treasury than Members who represent any jurisdiction in the United States, except New Jersey. We are second in Federal taxes only to New Jersey. So if you are not from New Jersey, you have to get behind the people I represent, get way behind them.

Let us keep our city open. Can you imagine that the Federal Government was delivering mail, but we could not pick up the trash in the District of Columbia for a week because of a dispute between the President and the Congress? That is your business. Stay out of our business. Let us keep our city open. Do us no harm. Do not get caught in the middle.

Shut down the Federal agencies if you must. That is your money. Do not shut down D.C. We have already paid for our city.