

placed upon the American worker. Let us reform the overgrown Government agencies and roll back senseless and burdensome regulations. Let us grant the American worker the independence that he or she deserves from the Federal Government.

GINGRICH ETHICS

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, the House of Representatives is at one of its all-time-lowest approval ratings in history. The American people have lost confidence in this institution's ability to lead and to do what's right. We must do all we can to restore their confidence and prove beyond a shadow of a doubt that we can monitor our own House.

Stores like the series currently running in the LA Times do not help us in our quest for the public's confidence. The LA Times article and I quote "cited public records showing that six nonprofit organizations linked to GOPAC has raised at least \$6 million in tax-deductible funds that tax experts said appeared to have been used for Republican political purposes."

The American people demand—and deserve—a Congress that is above reproach ethically and morally. Questions have been raised and they need to be answered swiftly, and thoroughly.

No one is above the law in this Congress and no one has a right to be shielded and protected from legitimate questions regarding these very serious issues.

A SPECIAL COUNSEL FOR THE SPEAKER'S WRONGDOING

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to follow up on this resolution that will be proposed later which basically asks that an outside counsel be appointed for certain purposes. I think the notion that we police ourselves in the House of Representatives to some extent makes sense but, when the time comes, when a certain committee is not doing its job and not basically taking on the responsibility to make sure that certain Members here are properly investigated for alleged wrongdoings, particularly when it comes to tax-exempt organizations, the political process needs to be kept in a proper fashion.

If tax-exempt organizations or other organizations are being used to promote a particular candidacy or a particular political party, the time comes when the particular committee here, in this case the ethics committee, must do its job. If it cannot do its job, then we need have to have an outside counsel appointed.

I think that the LA Times article has clearly pointed out that there have

been a number of allegations here with regard to the Speaker, and the time has come for this House to move to appoint a special counsel to look into the Speaker's wrongdoing.

RESTORE AMERICANS' FAITH IN GOVERNMENT

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

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, integrity is extremely important to me. I have always been a great believer in Government and believe integrity in Government is also important. There is a very sad period in my life in the early 1970's when it appeared that the Federal Government, or at least some individuals in the White House, had betrayed the trust of the American people and had displayed a notable lack of integrity. It is at that time I decided to become involved in politics. I never expected to be in the Congress, but I did run for local government.

I am sorry to say that once again sadness affects me. Once again, we have an incredible abuse of power in the White House. We have the greatest invasion of privacy that has occurred in the history of the FBI. I am very saddened that this has taken place.

Mr. Speaker, I believe it is extremely important for all of us in this Congress and throughout the Federal Government to take whatever steps are necessary to make sure that those responsible are punished, but above all to once again restore the American faith in our Government and in the integrity of Government both in this Chamber and in the White House. I urge that we take strong action to do so.

INTEGRITY BEGINS AT HOME

(Mr. DOGGETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that integrity begins at home. Or, more particularly, integrity begins in this House. Every Member of this House will have an opportunity to go on record concerning the integrity of the proceedings of this House and of its Members today.

When the privileged resolution is presented, if you believe in a fair and impartial investigation, you vote "aye". If you believe in a cover up, you vote "no".

If you believe that this House should be muzzled and that this issue should not get a full and fair airing, you vote for DICK ARMEY's motion to muzzle.

This resolution, in its enacting clause, is one sentence. It does not pre-empt charges, as some have done in their remarks here today. It simply instructs the Ethics Committee to immediately transmit the remaining charges against Speaker GINGRICH to the outside counsel for his investigation and recommendations.

How could anyone oppose, given the way these charges have lingered for over 6 months in the committee, simply referring them to the outside counsel to fully and thoroughly investigate them and take such action as is appropriate. That is where integrity begins.

CHURCH ARSON PREVENTION ACT OF 1996

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 3525) to amend title 18, United States Code, to clarify the Federal jurisdiction over offenses relating to damage to religious property, with a Senate amendment thereto and occur in the Senate amendment.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Clerk read the Senate amendment, as follows:

Senate amendment:
Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Church Arson Prevention Act of 1996".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) The incidence of arson or other destruction or vandalism of places of religious worship, and the incidence of violent interference with an individual's lawful exercise or attempted exercise of the right of religious freedom at a place of religious worship pose a serious national problem.

(2) The incidence of arson of places of religious worship has recently increased, especially in the context of places of religious worship that serve predominantly African-American congregations.

(3) Changes in Federal law are necessary to deal properly with this problem.

(4) Although local jurisdictions have attempted to respond to the challenges posed by such acts of destruction or damage to religious property, the problem is sufficiently serious, widespread, and interstate in scope to warrant Federal intervention to assist State and local jurisdictions.

(5) Congress has authority, pursuant to the Commerce Clause of the Constitution, to make acts of destruction or damage to religious property a violation of Federal law.

(6) Congress has authority, pursuant to section 2 of the 13th amendment to the Constitution, to make actions of private citizens motivated by race, color, or ethnicity that interfere with the ability of citizens to hold or use religious property without fear of attack, violations of Federal criminal law.

SEC. 3. PROHIBITION OF VIOLENT INTERFERENCE WITH RELIGIOUS WORSHIP.

Section 247 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking "subsection (c) of this section" and inserting "subsection (d)";

(2) by redesignating subsections (c), (d), and (e), as subsection (d), (e), and (f), respectively;

(3) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

"(b) The circumstances referred to in subsection (a) are that the offense is in or affects interstate or foreign commerce.

"(c) Whoever intentionally defaces, damages, or destroys any religious real property because of the race, color, or ethnic characteristics of any individual associated with that religious property, or attempts to do so, shall be punished as provided in subsection (d).";