

I would like to quote, please, Becky Cain, president of the League of Women Voters. She said about this, "The House investigation into campaign fundraising should include a thorough examination of both parties' Presidential and congressional practices, both improper and illegal. A limited scope will turn the investigation into a partisan charade."

Today's Washington Post editorial goes even further. It warns that this investigation runs the risk of becoming, and I quote, "its own cartoon, a joke and a deserved embarrassment."

The New York Times editorial recommended today that the House should follow the Watergate precedent and let the Senate conduct a single investigation.

I would like to submit into the RECORD the editorials in both the Washington Times and in the Washington Post against this investigation, and also the Roll Call editorial.

Instead of using this money for the slush fund for a partisan investigation of the House, we should be increasing funding for the bipartisan agency that is charged with regulating campaigns: The Federal Election Commission. The FEC has requested an increase of \$8.2 billion for fiscal year 1998 to deal with its increasing caseload. In the last 3 years the FEC's caseload has increased. I am opposed to the slush fund. We should be funding the FEC instead.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Connecticut [Mr. GEJDENSON].

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, we have a job here and the job is to make a decision as to what the proper method to proceed is.

Now, we are going to go back and see our constituents over this next recess. The question as constituents meet us on the street, whether we are on this side of the aisle or the other, is can we explain to them an \$8 million slush fund. That is the real question here. Are we going to vote for a process, adding all of the other issues about fairness, about how the investigation ought to proceed? Should we not really be looking at campaign finance reform and not just more partisan battles?

Putting all of that aside, the question is, do we want to walk down the streets of our hometown and have them ask, should Congress have a slush fund? We do not do that for other agencies. If we think this investigation warrants \$8 million more, then put it in the committee of the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. BURTON]. My colleagues on the other side do not have guts enough to do that. Frankly, I do not think we should support that kind of process.

Let us vote this rule down, because we were not given any opportunities to amend it; let us vote the rule down, let us continue the regular order. We can either have an extension tonight by unanimous consent, our side is ready

to do that, or we can stay here tomorrow and do it.

A lot of Members have plans. I think we can come back here on April 8 or 9 and deal with this properly. I do not think the American people want us to have an \$8 million slush fund in the budget. When we take a look at how we operate here and how we ought to operate here, we have never before put slush funds in. We have always come back to the Congress. We come back to the Congress, we say there is a need, we have a debate on the floor of the House, and when we complete that debate, we make a decision.

Not this time. This time we double the funding of the committee of the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. BURTON]; we come here, and on top of that doubling of funding we have the slush fund in the budget. Vote down this slush fund. Let us come back here and have campaign finance reform. Let us come back here, examine the way we work, not with a political motive, but a motive on how to rebuild confidence of the American people in our system.

We have to have real reform that limits spending, that limits the large amounts of money. That is what we have to do. But we are not going to achieve that in this game. This is a political game. I say to my colleagues, you are going to embarrass yourselves in this process.

Let us join together and vote this resolution down. Let us come back with a fair resolution, without a slush fund, with a proper activity legislatively that will give us the basis for coming together and passing campaign finance reform. That is what we ought to be doing. Join with us together, Democrats and Republicans, in rejecting this proposal which has a slush fund in it, and come back here with a bill that will make us proud to be Members of Congress.

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

CALL OF THE HOUSE

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I move a call of the House.

A call of the House was ordered.

The call was taken by electronic device, and the following Members responded to their names:

[Roll No. 66]

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—421

Abercrombie	Becerra	Boyd
Ackerman	Bentsen	Brady
Aderholt	Bereuter	Brown (CA)
Allen	Berry	Brown (FL)
Archer	Bilbray	Brown (OH)
Armey	Bilirakis	Bryant
Bachus	Bishop	Bunning
Baesler	Blagojevich	Burr
Baker	Bliley	Burton
Baldacci	Blumenauer	Buyer
Ballenger	Blunt	Callahan
Barcia	Boehler	Calvert
Barr	Boehner	Camp
Barrett (NE)	Bonilla	Campbell
Barrett (WI)	Bonior	Canady
Bartlett	Bono	Cannon
Barton	Borski	Capps
Bass	Boswell	Cardin
Bateman	Boucher	Carson

Castle	Hall (TX)	McKeon
Chabot	Hamilton	McKinney
Chambliss	Hansen	McNulty
Chenoweth	Harman	Meehan
Christensen	Hastert	Meek
Clay	Hastings (FL)	Menendez
Clayton	Hastings (WA)	Metcalfe
Clement	Hayworth	Mica
Clyburn	Hefley	Millender
Coble	Hefner	McDonald
Coburn	Heger	Miller (CA)
Collins	Hill	Miller (FL)
Combest	Hilleary	Minge
Condit	Hilliard	Mink
Conyers	Hinche	Moakley
Cook	Hinojosa	Molinari
Cooksey	Hobson	Mollohan
Costello	Hoekstra	Moran (KS)
Cox	Holden	Moran (VA)
Coyne	Hoolley	Morella
Cramer	Horn	Murtha
Crane	Hostettler	Myrick
Crapo	Houghton	Nadler
Cubin	Hoyer	Neal
Cummings	Hulshof	Nethercutt
Cunningham	Hunter	Neumann
Danner	Hutchinson	Ney
Davis (FL)	Hyde	Northup
Davis (IL)	Inglis	Norwood
Davis (VA)	Jackson (IL)	Nussle
Deal	Jackson-Lee	Oberstar
DeFazio	(TX)	Obey
DeGette	Jefferson	Olver
Delahunt	Jenkins	Ortiz
DeLauro	John	Owens
DeLay	Johnson (CT)	Packard
Dellums	Johnson (WI)	Pallone
Deutsch	Johnson, E. B.	Pappas
Diaz-Balart	Johnson, Sam	Parker
Dickey	Jones	Pascrell
Dicks	Kanjorski	Pastor
Dingell	Kasich	Paul
Dixon	Kelly	Paxon
Doggett	Kennedy (MA)	Payne
Doolittle	Kennedy (RI)	Pease
Doyle	Kennelly	Pelosi
Dreier	Kildee	Peterson (MN)
Duncan	Kilpatrick	Peterson (PA)
Dunn	Kim	Petri
Edwards	Kind (WI)	Pickering
Ehlers	King (NY)	Pickett
Ehrlich	Kingston	Pitts
Emerson	Klecza	Pombo
Engel	Klink	Pomeroy
English	Klug	Porter
Ensign	Knollenberg	Portman
Eshoo	Kolbe	Poshard
Etheridge	Kucinich	Pryce (OH)
Evans	LaFalce	Quinn
Everett	LaHood	Radanovich
Ewing	Lampson	Rahall
Farr	Lantos	Ramstad
Fattah	Largent	Rangel
Fawell	Latham	Regula
Fazio	LaTourrette	Reyes
Filner	Lazio	Riggs
Flake	Leach	Riley
Foglietta	Levin	Rivers
Foley	Lewis (CA)	Roemer
Forbes	Lewis (GA)	Rogan
Ford	Lewis (KY)	Rogers
Fowler	Linder	Rohrabacher
Fox	Lipinski	Ros-Lehtinen
Franks (NJ)	Livingston	Rothman
Frelinghuysen	LoBiondo	Roukema
Frost	Lofgren	Roybal-Allard
Furse	Lowe	Royce
Galleghy	Lucas	Rush
Ganske	Luther	Ryun
Gejdenson	Maloney (CT)	Sabo
Gekas	Maloney (NY)	Salmon
Gephardt	Manton	Sanchez
Gibbons	Manzullo	Sanders
Gilchrest	Markey	Sandlin
Gillmor	Martinez	Sanford
Gilman	Mascara	Sawyer
Gonzalez	Matsui	Saxton
Goode	McCarthy (MO)	Scarborough
Goodlatte	McCarthy (NY)	Schaefer, Dan
Goodling	McCollum	Schaffer, Bob
Gordon	McCrery	Schiff
Goss	McDade	Schumer
Graham	McDermott	Scott
Granger	McGovern	Serrano
Green	McHale	Sessions
Greenwood	McHugh	Shadegg
Gutierrez	McInnis	Shaw
Gutierrez	McIntosh	Shays
Halt (OH)	McIntyre	Sherman

Shimkus	Stump	Visclosky
Shuster	Stupak	Walsh
Sisisky	Sununu	Wamp
Skaggs	Talent	Waters
Skeen	Tanner	Watkins
Skelton	Tauscher	Watt (NC)
Slaughter	Tauzin	Watts (OK)
Smith (MI)	Taylor (MS)	Waxman
Smith (NJ)	Taylor (NC)	Weldon (FL)
Smith (OR)	Thomas	Weldon (PA)
Smith (TX)	Thompson	Weller
Smith, Adam	Thornberry	Wexler
Snowbarger	Thune	Weygand
Snyder	Thurman	White
Solomon	Tiahrt	Whitfield
Souder	Tierney	Wicker
Spence	Torres	Wise
Spratt	Towns	Wolf
Stabenow	Traficant	Woolsey
Stearns	Turner	Wynn
Stenholm	Upton	Yates
Stokes	Velazquez	Young (AK)
Strickland	Vento	Young (FL)

□ 1757

The SPEAKER pro tempore [Mr. LATOURETTE]. On this rollcall, 421 Members have recorded their presence by electronic device, a quorum.

Under the rule, further proceedings under the call are dispensed with.

PROVIDING AMOUNTS FOR THE EXPENSES OF CERTAIN COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH CONGRESS

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. MOAKLEY] be able to reclaim the 1 minute that he yielded back, and I ask unanimous consent that I be able to yield to him 2 minutes of the 5¼ minutes that I have remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. MOAKLEY] has 3 minutes remaining, and the gentleman from California [Mr. DREIER] has 3¾ minutes remaining.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California [Mr. CONDIT].

□ 1800

Mr. CONDIT. Mr. Speaker, I stand today opposed to the rule.

Let me say that all of us in this body today are working frantically to try to do what we can to balance the budget of this country. Both my Republican colleagues and my Democratic colleagues are working very hard to do that. Yet today we stand here considering expending \$15 million to do an investigation in the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, \$15 million, when we are trying very hard to balance the budget of this country.

This is confusing to the American people. We are spending \$15 million, or requesting \$15 million, when in the Senate they are spending \$4 million. They are spending \$4 million to do a bigger and broader, more encompassing investigation than what we are consid-

ering here in the House. That does not make sense to the American people.

I came here in 1989. I do not think there has been 30 days since I have been here that we have not been investigating someone or something. I will tell my colleagues, the American people are sick and tired of that.

I think that we ought to have full disclosure. We ought to have investigations, but it makes no sense when the Senate or the other body has an investigation, asks questions, calls in witnesses, and then 2 weeks later we are doing the very same thing over here. That is a show. That is a show, and we are doing it over here to the tune of twice, three times as much money as the Senate is spending.

What we need to do is to change the process. We need to quit this. If we are going to have investigations, and we should, from time to time, we ought to clean the process up. We ought not to duplicate what the other body does. We ought not to spend money that we do not have to spend.

This is about the process. This is about doing what is right and what is fair. We did not even have a committee hearing about this issue. We did not discuss it a bit. That is not right. We can do better than that. That is not the way to do the House's business. We, at a minimum, should have discussed this in a committee hearing.

I want to tell my colleagues that out of the \$15 million we have \$8 million in a fund that we do not even know what is done with it. What are the American people going to say about that, when we are talking about reducing the costs of Medicare and Medicaid? This is wrong. This is not right and we ought to reject this rule today.

I say to my colleagues, if we want to do what we said we were going to do a couple of weeks ago, we ought to start today. We ought to start today by rejecting this rule.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to inform my colleagues that on July 16th of 1787 we established the Connecticut compromise, a bicameral legislature.

Someone who understands that is the very distinguished chairman of the Committee on House Oversight, my friend from Bakersfield, California [Mr. THOMAS].

Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from California [Mr. THOMAS].

(Mr. THOMAS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I have to admit I am genuinely confused. It is indeed a rare occasion when I come to the floor and I find out that not only is my friend from Massachusetts saying good things about me in terms of the way I run a committee and the way we split funds, but I read the minority views from my friend from Connecticut, signed by all the members of the committee, about how fair I am and the fact that the distribution of the

funds was reasonable. And my colleagues really ought to read it, it is almost embarrassing how flattering they are about the way I run the committee, and then they immediately turn around and talk about this slush fund and they are worried about the slush fund and what is going to happen with it.

I am the same person who is chairman of the committee who is going to control the reserve fund. The reserve fund is just exactly that, reserve.

Now, these folks ought to know what a slush fund is. In the 103d Congress they had \$223 million to slush around. And what my colleagues need to know is that out of that \$223 million, more than half was spent outside public scrutiny. More than \$112 million was spent in the shadows, in closed door rooms.

What we did in the 104th Congress was put it all together, let sunshine in, and what you see is what you get. What we are asking for for this Congress is \$45 million less than they spent.

Now, how about a slush fund for \$45 million. Where was it? Soaked away in the committees. I just do not understand it, but we cannot have it both ways.

My friend from California, Mr. WAXMAN, he does understand it, his concern is that we said the funds are controlled by the majority. That is true, majority rules. That is called democracy.

He also said when we are in the majority we never went this far. That is a quote, and he is right. He is right. They never did go that far. He said, "We only have 25 percent of the resources." My friends, the 103d Congress, the minority, us at the time, had 14 percent of the resources in the Committee on Commerce. We had 15 percent of the resources in the Committee on House Oversight. We had 11 percent of the resources in the Committee on the Judiciary.

I tell my friend from California, he is right, they never went as far as we have.

My friend from Texas, Mr. DOGGETT, says we should not just point fingers, we ought to offer solutions. And then what he says is he wants more money to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight for the gentleman from California, Mr. WAXMAN, because Mr. WAXMAN has a letter from the Parliamentarian that says all they can do is investigate.

What is investigating? It is exposing. They cannot offer solutions. They cannot have it both ways. The committee that has the jurisdiction to pass the laws is the Committee on House Oversight. We have what we believe is appropriate. We will do the job.

Then I listened to a number of my friends in terms of how much money we are spending. My good friend from California, Mr. CONDIT, talks about how much money this is. In the 103d Congress they had \$223 million. We have passed welfare, we have passed reforming, we have ended patronage, and