

FUNDING FOR IMPORTANT PRIORITIES AND OBEYING EXISTING LAWS FOR CAMPAIGN FINANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from Arizona [Mr. HAYWORTH] is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. HAYWORTH. Madam Speaker, there is much that the lady from North Carolina had to say with which I agree, and we are honored to serve in this Chamber where we can both agree and disagree about a variety of subjects. I would simply hearken back to one of the most poignant and pointed observations ever made in this city just down The Mall when Dr. King came here in the early 1960's and dreamed of an America where his children would be judged not by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.

And, yes, the appropriations process is very important. That is why I hope the gentlewoman and many others on the other side of the aisle will join with Members of the new majority to appropriate funds to those who most need the funds.

One example of that will come later in our Labor-HHS appropriations bill with an amendment I offer to put an additional \$18 million into funding for Impact Aid school construction, because there is a Federal role to be played, both because of sacred and solemn treaty rights and obligations to native Americans, and also to the many children who are dependents of those in military service and who live on military bases both here in the United States and abroad.

To be sure, Madam Speaker, we confront many issues of great and grave importance in our constitutional Republic, but I would like to address one that I think has been discussed a great deal this morning during the morning hour, and that has to do with campaign finance reform.

Madam Speaker, it is ironic that so many of my liberal friends come to this floor now crying for campaign finance reform. Indeed, Madam Speaker, it is akin to having Bonnie and Clyde, during their heyday, call a press conference to demand that there be a cop on every block, on every street corner in America. That is the incredible irony.

Madam Speaker, there is one central truth with which we should all agree, and that is that everyone should obey existing laws. Indeed, Madam Speaker, as we read the revelations in recent headlines, it is becoming painfully apparent that there are serious questions involving members of the executive branch and the actions they have taken that appear to be in violation of those same campaign finance reform laws.

Indeed, Madam Speaker, one need only remember back a few months ago to hear the words of the Vice President of the United States when he deigned to claim that there was "no controlling

legal authority," end quote, to keep him from making fundraising calls on Federal property. Indeed, as records later revealed, the Vice President of the United States made several fundraising calls from his office on the White House grounds. That is in clear contradiction to existing law and to the precedents and the ethics of government where, Madam Speaker, as the gentlewoman from Missouri knows from her own experience, and indeed Members on both sides of the aisle know, we are told from day one that as Members of Congress, we are not here to solicit campaign funds on Federal property. We are not supposed to make use of the taxpayers' dollars to place money in the campaign till.

Campaign finance reform? Certainly. But reform begins with a recognition of existing law. That is why hearings continue in the other body; that is why hearings will take place under the aegis of this House, the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, to check and to examine the many disparate claims and the disturbing revelations which we read of almost daily. That is why, despite the great hue and cry for campaign finance reform, we need in this House, we need in this Nation, to take charge and to examine the deeds of those who perhaps have not obeyed existing law.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE SYSTEM IS BROKEN AND OUT OF CONTROL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentlewoman from California [Ms. ESHOO] is recognized during morning hour debates for 1 minute.

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, 8 months ago the President asked the Congress to have a campaign finance reform bill ready for him to sign by the Fourth of July, Independence Day. I think perhaps the President should have then specified the year, 1997. What has happened? Nothing. No hearings, no markups, no bill, no reform, no action.

Our campaign finance system is broken. It is out of control. Hearings and news reports continue to expose a corrosive and insidious system, a system that has cast a shadow of public disrespect, of doubt, of disillusionment, not only on our system, but on this institution. And we know that we can do much better.

In fact, the American people insist on it; and they are right. They are ahead of this system, and they know that something can be done.

Yet despite the hearings, the headlines and the public pressure, the majority continues to defer action, deny a vote and disregard the will of the American people.

We insist that a campaign finance reform bill to ban soft money be brought to the floor of the House before the Congress adjourns this year.

LET US FIX WHAT IS BROKEN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from California [Mr. FARR] is recognized during morning hour debates for 1 minute.

Mr. FARR of California. Madam Speaker, what is really going on in Congress? We are hearing the Republican leadership, and the Republican committees in the House and the Senate are conducting hearings. They want to investigate and they want to smear.

However, Congress was elected to legislate. We are lawmakers. We can fix what is broken. Why is it that the Republican leadership does not want to fix what is broken?

The GOP has failed to meet every deadline on campaign reform. No hearings on the bills, either Democrat or Republican bills, no vote on the rules, no schedule, no nothing. We are elected to make the law. Every time the Democrats were in control, we passed campaign reform. It was either vetoed or filibustered before it got into law.

Why do the Republicans not want to use that power to pass campaign reform? The answer simply is, they want to hear and smear, not fix.

Madam Speaker, I ask one simple question: When do we get to vote on campaign reform?

AMERICAN CITIZENS WANT ACCOUNTABILITY IN CAMPAIGN FINANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997 the gentleman from South Dakota [Mr. THUNE] is recognized during morning hour debates for 2 minutes.

Mr. THUNE. Madam Speaker, I too am very interested in the whole subject of campaign finance reform. As a first-time freshman Member of this body, I found out how difficult it is to try and run a campaign and to raise money.

As we talk about trying to reform the law and trying to figure out exactly what would be the best framework and structure in which to govern campaigns in this country, one of the things that is clear is, we have to find out what things are not working today. We have seen a lot of evidence of late that through the various investigations there are a lot of things that were done that were not consistent with the existing law. We have to find those out.

People get up on the other side and say, well, we need to change the law. Frankly, I think they would much rather change the subject.

I would simply ask the question, what is it that my colleagues would have us to change? John Huang, Charlie Trie, Webb Hubbell, what are the things that my colleagues would have us change about all this process?

As I have traveled the State, my State of South Dakota, some 77,000