

should encourage that participation, not discourage it.

I, for one, do not want the Federal Government controlling who contributes money and who they contribute it to, a clear violation of first-amendment rights.

Members of this body should not be stampeded into supporting campaign finance reform simply because a few people view it as politically correct.

MORE ON CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

(Mrs. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, we need to vote on and pass campaign finance reform. The Speaker has said that there is not enough money in the system. Yet everyone else knows that there is too much money in the system.

In the 1996 elections, soft money rolled into campaigns at a record level. We need to ban soft money. The American people want elections, not auctions to the highest bidder or the person who can spend the most money to buy and win an election.

The opposition party has budgeted \$12 to \$15 million to investigate the 1996 campaigns, yet they have not scheduled one hearing on how to reform the election process. We need to legislate, not just investigate.

Mr. Speaker, you promised the President in the famous handshake in New Hampshire that you would vote on and work and pass campaign finance reform. Mr. Speaker, it is time to turn the promise of your handshake into the reality of a law.

RICHIE ASHBURN

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

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, yesterday we lost a Philadelphia legend, a baseball legend and an American legend. Richie Ashburn passed away at 6 a.m. yesterday morning after having broadcast the baseball game for the Phillies the evening before.

Richie Ashburn was involved in major league baseball for 50 years of his life. Forty-seven of those years with the Philadelphia Phillies organization. He was Rookie of the Year, two-time national league batting champ. Nine times he batted over .300. He had an exemplary career and was recognized by being inducted into the baseball Hall of Fame in 1995.

But Richie Ashburn, being one of the Whiz Kids from Philadelphia, was more than a baseball legend. He was a role model. He was an example for this country and our young people to follow and to look up to. He really was an American hero.

Born and raised in Tilden, NE, he became the favorite son of the city of

Philadelphia and the region around the Philadelphia city. In fact, his most famous quote was, in talking about his city that he loved so dearly, "If I looked at my life and I had a chance to change it, I wouldn't change anything. I really wouldn't. Philadelphia is where I wanted to be, and where I wanted to play, and where I wanted to live."

We are going to miss Richie Ashburn.

FIGHT TO IMPROVE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call on this Congress to support our public schools. As the first member of my family to graduate from college, I know firsthand that quality public education is the key to the American dream, an opportunity for all children, not just the privileged few or those who have funds.

As a former superintendent of my State's schools, I know that educating all of our children is the key to America's strength and our Nation's security.

There is a lot of arguing in Washington today about the role of the Federal Government in education. But I have spent many hours in the classrooms of my State. No child has ever asked me who paid for the books, who paid for the building or who paid for the computer. Children only know what they have received or whether or not they have been denied an education. We must stop this bickering over the role of the Federal Government. These are our children. They are America's children.

We have a responsibility to make sure that they have the opportunity for a good education. We must build new schools, rebuild old ones, raise education standards, involve parents in education, improve the quality of our teachers, and make our schools safe. We can become the education Congress.

TOBACCO TAX

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

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to my colleagues' attention here a letter that is probably in their offices today from me requesting them to join me and cosign a letter to the Speaker on the subject of the tobacco tax giveaway that was buried in the tax bill that we passed last August. This is really not an issue that is going to go away. Nor should it. We owe it to our constituents to correct this onerous tax windfall to big tobacco. I am suggesting that we take the lead of the other body, which is debating this very issue today. But under our rules, we need the Speaker to schedule this vote.

Mr. Speaker, if we neglect this issue we will again be feeding the cynicism

of the American people. This will detract from and undermine our own success in the budget and the tax bill that we passed. Now we find out that there was a provision, a big giveaway, multiple billions of dollars, maybe \$50 billion over time to the tobacco industry.

I am urging to my colleagues that whatever merits there are on either side, and I obviously take one side of the issue, I do not like it. It is wrong. But whatever merits there are, the Speaker has an obligation to call up for a vote repeal of this onerous windfall to big tobacco, schedule the bill, and begin to restore the professionalism, integrity, and honor of the House of Representatives.

THE SPIRIT OF CONGRESSMAN GEORGE WILLIAM CROCKETT III, WILL LIVE FOREVER IN THOSE WHO LOVE JUSTICE

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

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to formally announce the passing of our former colleague, Congressman George William Crockett, Jr., who passed on Sunday, September 7, 1997, here in the Washington, DC, area.

Congressman Crockett was born in Jacksonville, FL. He earned his law degree from the University of Michigan and, in 1943, was appointed by President Roosevelt as the first African-American lawyer to serve in the U.S. housing department.

In 1986, after being elected in 1981 and serving 10 years, Congressman Crockett authored the Mandela freedom resolution. He was an outstanding jurist, husband, father, and grandfather.

It is my honor and privilege, Mr. Speaker, to ask that when the House of Representatives adjourn tonight, that we do so in honor of Judge Crockett. There will be a private memorial funeral for the family this evening here in the Washington, DC.

On Saturday at noon in the city of Detroit at 11 a.m. at Hartford Memorial Baptist Church, the final resting and memorial service will be held for Congressman Crockett.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska). The Clerk will report the motion.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. MILLER of California moves that the House do now adjourn.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska). The question is on the motion to adjourn offered by the gentleman from California [Mr. MILLER].

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.