

This title may be cited as the "Department of Education Appropriations Act, 1998".

The CHAIRMAN. Are there further amendments to this portion of the bill? The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

TITLE IV—RELATED AGENCIES
ARMED FORCES RETIREMENT HOME

For expenses necessary for the Armed Forces Retirement Home to operate and maintain the United States Soldiers' and Airmen's Home and the United States Naval Home, to be paid from funds available in the Armed Forces Retirement Home Trust Fund, \$71,777,000, of which \$16,325,000 shall remain available until expended for construction and renovation of the physical plants at the United States Soldiers' and Airmen's Home and the United States Naval Home.

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. DICKEY] having assumed the chair, Mr. GOODLATTE, Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2264) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

PERMISSION TO INCLUDE EXTRANEOUS MATERIAL ON H.R. 2264, DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert in the RECORD extraneous material on H.R. 2264 relating to the issue of school reform.

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

There was no objection.

REPORT ON PAYMENTS MADE TO CUBA PURSUANT TO CUBAN DEMOCRACY ACT—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 105-127)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

This report is submitted pursuant to 1705(e)(6) of the Cuban Democracy Act of 1992, 22 U.S.C. 6004(e)(6) (the "CDA"), as amended by section 102(g) of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996, Public Law 104-114 (March 12, 1996), 110 Stat. 785, 22 U.S.C. 6021-91 (the "LIBERTAD Act"), which requires that I report to the Congress on a semiannual basis de-

tailing payments to Cuba by any United States person as a result of the provision of telecommunications services authorized by this subsection.

The CDA, which provides that telecommunications services are permitted between the United States and Cuba, specifically authorizes the President to provide for payments to Cuba by license. The CDA states that licenses may be issued for full or partial settlement of telecommunications services with Cuba, but may not require any withdrawal from a blocked account. Following enactment of the CDA on October 23, 1992, a number of U.S. Telecommunications companies successfully negotiated agreements to provide telecommunications services between the United States and Cuba consistent with policy guidelines developed by the Department of State and the Federal Communications Commission.

Subsequent to enactment of the CDA, the Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) amended the Cuban Assets Control Regulations, 31 C.F.R. Part 515 (the "CACR"), to provide for specific licensing on a case-by-case basis for certain transactions incident to the receipt or transmission of telecommunications between the United States and Cuba, 31 C.F.R. 515.542(c), including settlement of charges under traffic agreements.

The OFAC has issued eight licenses authorizing transactions incident to the receipt or transmission of telecommunications between the United States and Cuba since the enactment of the CDA. None of these licenses permits payments to the Government of Cuba from a blocked account. For the period January 1 through June 30, 1997, OFAC-licensed U.S. carriers reported payments to the Government of Cuba in settlement of charges under telecommunications traffic agreements as follows:

AT&T Corporation (formerly, American Telephone and Telegraph Company)	\$13,997,179
AT&T de Puerto Rico	274,470
Global One (formerly, Sprint Incorporated)	4,857,205
IDB WorldCom Services, Inc. (formerly, IDB Communications, Inc.)	1,427,078
MCI International, Inc. (formerly, MCI Communications Corporation) ...	4,066,925
Telefonica Larga Distancia de Puerto Rico, Inc.	113,668
WilTel, Inc. (formerly, WilTel Underseas Cable, Inc.)	5,032,250
WorldCom, Inc. (formerly, LDDS Communications, Inc.)	1,378,502
Total	31,143,432

I shall continue to report semiannually on telecommunications payments to the Government of Cuba from United States persons.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, September 10, 1997.

□ 1815

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from California [Mr. FILNER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. FILNER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

VACATION OF SPECIAL ORDER AND GRANTING OF SPECIAL ORDER

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from California [Mr. FILNER] and to proceed at this time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DICKEY). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

TRIBUTE TO THE HELLENIC DANCERS

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

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, one of the greatest strengths of our great Nation is the diversity of our people, cultural, religions, and heritage. Every American has a story to tell of where their family is from. Whether you can trace your roots back to a particular native American tribe or to another country, maybe across the sea, many of us seek out ways to preserve what has been passed down to us so that we may pass it along to the next generation.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Hellenic Dancers of New Jersey, a group that has dedicated themselves to perpetuating Greek culture through dance. For those of us, including myself, that are of Greek ancestry, the service this group provides is invaluable. Aside from performing the dances of Greece, the Hellenic Dancers are committed to researching, documenting and educating others in the Greek heritage.

The dancers are a group of Greek descendants that travel each week without compensation from every part of central and northern New Jersey to perform and share the Greek culture. They have also ventured outside of New Jersey, from coast to coast in this Nation, with their music and dance recognizing the spirit of Greeks that have gone before, the Greeks that have brought so much to this country, and those Greek-Americans living here today.

Over the past 25 years, the group has grown tremendously. What began with a few members now numbers well into the hundreds of selfless individuals who share the songs, dances, and traditions that have been passed along to them.

Greece has survived through a great deal of turmoil over the years and has reached maturity because its people, proud, freedom-loving, God-fearing and peaceful, have nourished and upheld the ideals on which their nation was founded. It is this heritage that we, the

thousands of Greek-Americans, bring to the United States and share with our fellow citizens.

I would like to congratulate Father Jim Chakalos and his wife Eleni Chakalos, who is the group's dance director and codirector Vasilis Brembos in their efforts.

Greece has sent some of its brightest to the shores of America to pursue dreams in this the land of opportunity, and I applaud the Hellenic Dancers for giving those Americans of Greek descent a means by which to connect to their past.

Tonight, as I stand before my colleagues, the grandson of Greek immigrants, I am pleased to recognize the investment the Hellenic Dancers have made in the future by preserving the past, and I wish them well as they continue to dance and sing into the future.

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

[Mr. DIAZ-BALART addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

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

[Mr. JONES addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

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

[Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the order of the 5-minute special orders granted today to the gentleman from Montana [Mr. HILL] and myself be transposed, and that I be allowed to proceed at this time.

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

There was no objection.

DEDICATION OF NEW STERN CENTER

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

Mr. FOX. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to address my colleagues tonight to salute a special facility within my district that recently opened, the Raymond and Ruth Perelman Jewish Day School. This is a very special facility. It is going to

serve 600 students. It recently opened, and I can tell you this, it is going to be one of the most outstanding facilities in our area of Montgomery County, PA.

The Director of the Center is Dr. Steven Brown. The individuals who brought it together, frankly that really did quite a job to make sure that the facility did in fact come to fruition, included such individuals as Paul Silberberg and his wife, who are dedication cochair, along with Alan Casnoff and his wife Debbie.

This has been a long time coming as part of the Solomon Schechter Affiliate and part of the New Stern Center. The facility is one where they are going to give people, these young students, the opportunity to not only participate in important class work and religious instruction, but also in community involvement with visits to local governmental offices to get students involved, at the earliest ages involved in their community service, which we think is so important to the rounding out of every young person in their exciting work with the schools as part of the entire campus, one that is involved greatly in the community with the Kaiserman Center right next door.

This is a sister school, the Ray and Ruth Perelman School, sister school to the Forman School, which is in Elkins Park, PA, and together they represent two of the most outstanding schools in the country.

So on the opening of the school with 600 students and over 100 faculty and staff, we congratulate all those who helped make this possible. The board of directors, board of trustees, the faculty, the principal, all them should take great pride in knowing they are going to bring about, with young students who may go on to be President, may go on to be great leaders in medicine, the arts, science, make great contributions to this country.

Joseph Finkelstein is the president of this day school and Jay Leberman is the head of the school and Sybil Levine is the principal, and together they represent the leadership within the school facility; and we expect that this will be one that we will hear about for many years to come, and I wanted to take this opportunity to congratulate them on their opening and wish them everything good for the future.

RECLAIMING OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to reclaim my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PAPPAS). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Montana?

There was no objection.

JOIN IN SUPPORT OF CAMPAIGN INTEGRITY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Montana [Mr. HILL] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, recent campaign finance revelations only make me more convinced than ever that now is the time to bring accountability back to the political system, and I want to urge my colleagues tonight to make campaign finance reform changes now and make it a reality now by joining with those who are cosponsoring the bipartisan Campaign Integrity Act.

I have heard a lot of Members take the floor, urging Congress and the leadership to bring campaign finance reform to the floor this fall; and I am one of those that join in asking our leadership to do that. But I would say to those that have taken the floor urging campaign finance reform that they ought to show the sincerity of their commitment by joining with those of us who worked to build the bipartisan Campaign Integrity Act.

This is an effort that resulted from a task force of freshmen, Republican freshmen and Democrat freshmen, who met together over a period of time and held hearings and developed a bipartisan effort; and I would like tonight to just address briefly for the House what those reforms would do.

First of all, and I think most important, it would ban soft money. I want to remind my colleagues what soft money is. Soft money is corporate contributions, it is labor union contributions, and it is large contributions that arise from individuals that are given to the national parties.

What is particularly insidious about soft money is, first of all, there is no limit on where it can come from or in what amount that it can be raised. But probably even more concern arises out of how soft money gets used, or at least was used in the last political cycle.

Many of us, I think, can recall the last series of campaigns in which there was probably more than ever negative political campaign advertising. And one of the reasons for that was that soft money can only be used for issue advocacy, and more often than not, it is used under the term "issue advocacy" to attack an incumbent. That led to more negative campaigning in the last cycle than perhaps we have ever seen.

This bipartisan effort would ban soft money going to the national political parties. It would ban soft money from corporations, it would ban soft money coming from labor unions and it would ban soft money coming from individuals.

That is not all that it does. It also requires greater disclosure, greater disclosure from those people who in the last campaign cycle, for example, did independent advertising, advocating issues that really were targeted at either unseating an incumbent or defeating someone, but under the name "issue advocacy" ran negative political campaigns.

It would require those organizations that buy broadcast advertising, radio