

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

and television advertising, to disclose that to the House of Representatives so the citizens would be fully informed about where that money came from and where that money would go.

But banning soft money to the national parties is not all that we should do. I believe that we also have to look at where the source of soft money comes from, independent of the parties; and that is why I am also a cosponsor of the Paycheck Protection Act.

The Paycheck Protection Act, Mr. Speaker, would prohibit employee wages or dues from being withheld or used for political purposes without the written consent of the wage earner.

Why is that important? Today, literally millions of wage earners are having their paychecks reduced, with the money going to political purposes over which they exercise no control. And what the Paycheck Protection Act would say is that that money cannot be taken from their paycheck without first getting their written consent to use it for political purposes. It can be used for other purposes, collective-bargaining purposes, for information purposes, but, Mr. Speaker, it could not be used for political purposes.

This is one of the largest areas of soft money abuse that is occurring today.

So, Mr. Speaker, for those who have taken the floor and have said, let us take up campaign finance reform, I would say to them join with the bipartisan group that are sponsoring the Campaign Integrity Act and who is sponsoring the Paycheck Protection Act.

RECLAIMING OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

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

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

There was no objection.

BOTH PARTIES SHOULD WORK TOGETHER TO MOVE AHEAD ON CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM LEGISLATION

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

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize my friend, the gentleman from Montana [Mr. HILL], for his leadership on this very important issue. He has worked very diligently and hard on the campaign finance reform task force that has produced the bipartisan Campaign Integrity Act of 1997, and I want to congratulate him and thank him for his comments and associate myself with those comments on this key area of reform.

I also want to compliment my colleagues on the other side of the aisle who have joined together in a bipartisan fashion to formulate this very im-

portant step forward in an incremental fashion to accomplishing significant campaign finance reform legislation. I hope that as a result of all of our efforts we can do something good for the American people.

As I sit here in Congress now and think about some of the objections that are raised and also some of the urgings to bring this legislation to the floor, I cannot help but think that as we fight this battle together, there are supporters and detractors of campaign finance reform legislation on both sides of the aisle. We have got good friends on the other side that support this, we have opponents on the other side; and the same thing on the Republican side of the aisle.

We have to forget pointing fingers at each other and move toward working together to accomplish this. I think that we can do that.

There are other people who say, well, let us just have campaign finance reform legislation, but let us do not ban soft money. I do not believe that we can have legitimate campaign finance reform legislation that will be accepted by the American public unless there is a ban on soft money.

Now, there are certain objections that are raised, people who say, well, in our system, and I hear this particularly from our side of the aisle, that if we close the loophole in this area, the money will continue to flow in campaigns. And I will acknowledge that whenever we have campaigns and we have politics that center around power we will have money flow to those centers of power. That is the nature of it.

But there are two ways we can address campaigns in America. We can take all the limits off. We can take all the rules off and just let the money flow. I personally believe that that is a step in the wrong direction. We should have campaign limits, spending, contribution limits. I think that is appropriate as long as it is within the first amendment. So we have to have some rules.

And any time we have a system of rules, from time to time, we will have to adjust those rules. We are in that phase right now.

The last time we had significant reform was after Watergate. The freshmen rose up and accomplished reform during that time. I believe the freshmen can do that same thing today and move this bill forward and accomplish this, and it has to start with banning soft money.

Yes; there will be other loopholes down the road, but we have to address the most significant problem now, and that is soft money and we can do that.

□ 1830

There are some people who raise an objection to banning soft money by saying, "Well, you're going to give an advantage to the other side." I believe that that is incorrect. We look at the statistics and this comes from the Center for Responsive Politics, based on

the Federal Election Commission reports. It found in the 1996 election cycle that the Democrats raised \$122 million in soft money, the Republicans raised \$141 million. Yes, the Republican side is a little bit more, but we were in the majority at that point. So it is roughly equivalent what each party raised in soft money, whether it is labor money or corporate money.

So if you ban soft money, you keep the playing field level. As a former State party chairman, I think that is the first criteria of election reform, of campaign finance reform, that you keep a level playing field so everyone can compete fairly and honestly within the system. The Bipartisan Campaign Integrity Act of 1997 does this. It meets those objectives. It restores confidence in the system. It increases disclosure, increases information to the American voter. It empowers them by making their contributions once again more meaningful.

That is why this is good legislation. I have urged my Republican leaders to move this legislation forward. I congratulate the gentleman from California [Mr. THOMAS], the chairman, who has taken a strong position. He is going to conduct a hearing on this legislation. I hope it will come this fall. I think the time is right right now for this legislation to move forward in the U.S. Congress.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM, SECRETARY ALBRIGHT'S REMARKS, AND NAFTA

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

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, let me first and foremost commend the gentleman from Arkansas for his good words on campaign finance reform. I join him in that pledge to ban soft money. We did a lot of campaign finance reform in the State of Florida. We reduced the size of the donation from PAC's and individuals. We cleaned up the process, and we made a difference. The American public needs to see real campaign finance reform.

I am particularly impressed the gentleman from Arkansas [Mr. HUTCHINSON] has been so aggressive in this pursuit as a freshman in this Congress looking to change the way we do business, and I think it is vital. I think the American public distrusts politics, they do not like the way the system operates and clearly revelations that have been going on in the news media have embarrassed us further. I join him in the pursuit of that reform, soft money bans and other things that will lend some credibility to the U.S. Congress and what we do here.

I also want to commend Secretary Madeleine Albright for her diligent pursuit of peace in the Middle East for the concerns that we all share in this country for peace and stability in the