

and meet with the people whom I represent. Each weekend I have to inform them that we have not taken any action on campaign finance reform. Mr. Speaker, the people of my district are tired of hearing that another week has gone without campaign finance reform.

Over the past 6 weeks in Congress we have found the time to tackle some very difficult matters. Yet that action has done nothing to restore the public's faith in this institution. The reason for this lack of faith is our failure to clean our own house. The public is demanding that we eliminate the influence of big money in the political system before they will trust us to serve the interests of the people. Failure to even consider a bill on campaign finance reform is only feeding that cynicism.

Instead of banning soft money Congress gave huge tax breaks to tobacco companies. Instead of requiring special interests to disclose what they spend on campaign advertising Congress continues to allow those special interest groups to run unregulated political ads more than a year before an election. Instead of instituting more stringent campaign reporting requirements Congress conducts repetitive, partisan inquiries into past campaign abuses.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to restore the public's faith in our democratic system. It is time to show the voters that we have the ability to clean our own house. It is time we pass meaningful campaign finance reform.

FAMILY PLANNING FUNDING

HON. MARTIN OLAV SABO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 6, 1997

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, the Foreign Operations conference report soon will be considered by the House. As we consider that legislation, I want to call my colleague's attention to this editorial on family planning funding which appeared recently in the Minneapolis Star Tribune.

EDITORIAL: FAMILY PLANNING—SAVING THE WORLD'S CHILDREN, AND MOTHERS

Before they settle into office, perhaps new members of Congress should be required to visit a developing country. They'd see what it's like to scratch a livelihood out of the dirt, to strain to feed more mouths than the available food can fill. They'd see how overpopulation spawns a cycle of poverty, disease, illiteracy and environmental devastation. And these world travelers would likely return to the Capitol knowing something that many of today's lawmakers can't seem to grasp: If Americans want to save lives and improve health overseas, funding family planning is the surest bet.

There's really no disputing this; no credible group even tries. The World Bank—hardly a bastion of bleeding hearts—says investing in contraception is a remarkably cost-effective way to improve child and maternal health. Yet U.S. lawmakers have been mysteriously reluctant to take note of this wisdom. In recent years they've devoted only a pittance of foreign-aid funds to family planning, and then have bent over backwards to keep from spending it.

This year's backbend comes courtesy of the House of Representatives, which has pasted a "global gag rule" and other debilitating amendments to its version of the foreign operations appropriations bill. The bill

is being considered along with its cleaner Senate companion in a conference committee that convened Thursday.

The House's gag rule is a variation on an old theme, born of the hope that holding family planning programs hostage can somehow stop abortion. Though federal law has barred the use of U.S. funds for foreign abortions for two decades, the House plan goes one grand step further. It would bar family-planning groups overseas from receiving U.S. funds if—using their own, non-U.S. money—the groups provide abortions, openly support abortion or even speak to their governments about making abortion safer. The House bill would also cut off \$25 million to the U.N.'s Population Fund unless the agency pulls out of China, where forced abortions have been reported.

Whatever its intent, it's hard to imagine that this scheme will actually do much to curb abortion. Its chief effect will likely be to weaken the network of family-planning agencies on which millions of the globe's most destitute contraceptive-seekers depend. And since contraception is the best anti-abortion program around, making it hard to get is sure to spur fresh demand for abortion. Even now, unwanted pregnancies result in about 50 million abortions every year—many performed in dangerous, often deadly, conditions. What sensible soul would want to add to that number?

TRIBUTE TO DONALD J. BABB

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 6, 1997

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Donald J. Babb as this year's recipient of the American Hospital Association's Shirley Ann Monroe Leadership Development Award. Mr. Babb serves as chief executive officer of Citizens Memorial Hospital [CMH] and executive director of Citizens Memorial Health Care Foundation in Bolivar, MO. The Monroe Award is given annually to a chief executive officer of a small or rural hospital.

Don has been with CMH since it first opened its doors in the fall of 1982. In fact, Don was hired before construction even began, and was the hospital's first employee. He was hand-picked by the hospital's original board of directors to come to Bolivar to help build CMH from the ground up. And, build it from the ground up he did.

Because of Don's hard work and vision, CMH has grown from a 45,000 square foot facility with 90 employees to a 300,000 square foot facility with over 1,000 employees. But the hospital's phenomenal growth cannot be measured merely in terms of physical size. Under Don's leadership CMH has evolved into a fully-integrated health care delivery system to meet the growing needs of its service area, which has grown from 17,000 to nearly 80,000 people in only 15 years. Today, CMH includes a 74 bed acute care hospital, an intensive care unit, a full-service outpatient clinic, rehabilitation services, a home health agency, 12 physician clinics, an ambulance service, and a residential care facility. The hospital will also add a dialysis clinic this fall.

The health care industry has faced many changes in the past two decades, and Don has confronted those changes head-on. Because of the rising costs of health care Don

formed Missouri Advantage, the first Health Maintenance Organization [HMO] for a small, rural hospital in Missouri, and one of only six in the Nation at that time. In 1996, Don expanded Missouri Advantage to cover three additional rural hospitals in the State.

Don has consistently used his position to look for new and better ways to identify and address the health care needs in his community. In 1995, he formed Community Health Assessment Resource Teams [CHART] in five counties within the CMH service area. Don has used CHART to bring together professionals, lay people, and volunteers to address issues like teen pregnancy, infant mortality, and the acute shortage of health care professionals in rural communities.

In spite of Don's personal success, he has never lost touch with the community he serves or the people he works with. It is not uncommon for Don to take time out to visit personally with the employees of CMH and let them know that he appreciates their efforts. His is a great example. I would like to thank Don once again for having the courage to lead, and to congratulate him on receiving this well-deserved honor.

86TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON TAIWAN

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 6, 1997

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate President Lee Teng-hui and Vice President Lien Chan of the Republic of China on Taiwan as they celebrate the 86th anniversary of the founding of their nation. Their commitment to the sometimes-difficult task of forging a democratic nation is to be lauded.

Also, I would like to extend my best to Representative Jason Hu, who is returning to Taiwan to assume the duties of Foreign Minister. If his tenure here in the United States is any indication of the future, Dr. Hu will be a first-rate foreign minister for the Taiwanese Government. His efforts to forge ties between our countries are commendable and will surely serve him well.

Finally, I ask my colleagues to join me in offering encouragement to the Taiwanese Government in its continued efforts to build a democratic nation.

READING EXCELLENCE ACT

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 6, 1997

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, for many years I have led the battle to combat illiteracy in the United States, through the development of the Even Start Family Literacy Program and through the improvement of the Adult Education Act.

What has been missing has been a focus of preventing reading difficulties from developing in the first place. We have several major Federal education programs focused on assisting children who are experiencing difficulties learning to read, such as title 1 of the Elementary and Secondary Act and the Individuals