

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 1997

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, today hearings began in the Government Reform and Oversight Committee on campaign finance reform. In the Senate an agreement has been worked out to allow a vote on campaign finance reform before March 6 of next year. On the floor of the House 168 Members, Democrats and Republicans, have signed a discharge petition to bring a vote forward. It looks like campaign finance reform is gaining momentum here in Washington.

I for one am not yet satisfied. There are only a few weeks left before the House adjourns for the year. Next year will be an election year. It will be too late to deal with this issue when we come back next year.

The House leadership needs to commit itself to allowing a vote before we leave this year. Those Members who care about this issue should join me and sign the discharge petition. The recent action on campaign reform is not enough. We must be given a chance to vote on this issue on the floor of the House of Representatives and we must do that in the next few weeks. I refuse to take "no" for an answer.

TRIBUTE TO THE BLACK ARCHIVES, HISTORY AND RESEARCH FOUNDATION OF SOUTH FLORIDA, INC. ON ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 1997

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Black Archives, History and Research Foundation of South Florida, which is celebrating its 20th anniversary on Saturday, November 15, 1997.

This is indeed a milestone in the history of this organization, given the countless struggles and challenges that ushered its humble beginnings. And as I join my community in recalling the role of Miami's Black Archives Foundation, I also would like to honor Dr. Dorothy Jenkins Fields who serves as the catalyst behind its emergence as a respected institution. Almost singlehandedly, Dr. Fields helped turn around a neglected part of Miami's cultural heritage into a living, breathing lesson about the black experience in south Florida for students, adults, and researchers alike.

In preparation for the celebration of our Nation's 200th birthday, she conceived and developed the concept that hastened the establishment of this cultural institution. Incorporated in November 17, 1977, as a private nonprofit organization, the Black Archives, History and Research of South Florida, Inc. is presently governed by a board of directors and supported by a board of trustees. Funded solely by its members, donations and grants, the foundation is dependent upon its volunteer help.

This institution serves as a manuscript/photographic repository of south Florida's Afri-

can-American communities. The materials in this repository are collected for educational purposes for users, which include students, teachers, scholars, researchers, the media, and the public-at-large. The memories of the pioneers, family albums, photographs, documents, souvenir programs from churches and organizations are preserved in its burgeoning files. Additionally, it identifies historic sites for nomination to local, state and national designation. As a result of the collected documentation, the historic Overtown Folklife Village and Dade County's Black Heritage Trail came to fruition.

It also works in conjunction with the Dade County public schools by providing content for the infusion of African-American history into existing curriculum utilizing source materials for schoolchildren of all races throughout the school year. It also initiated the restoration of several historic sites including the Dr. William A. Chapman, Sr., residence. Located on the campus of Booker T. Washington High School, the house was restored for reuse as the Ethnic Heritage Children's Educational Center.

One of the more recent joint ventures it worked out with the Dade County public schools is the creation of a districtwide, multi-cultural and multiethnic research and educational facility for students, teachers, and the community. The objective is to provide opportunities for students at all grade levels to celebrate the rich variety of cultures in Dade County. This program enables students to record the past in relation to the present, as well as ponder the possible events of the coming century.

The documented materials that now form the wealth of the Black Archives Foundation collectively represent a stirring graphic journey into the inner sanctum of some of the most vivid life-experiences of African-Americans in Dade County. The soul-searching representation captivated by its historic documents personify not so much the black destination, as much as the episodic journey of our pioneers to that destination. Together they evoke the truism of a revered African Ashanti proverb that " * * * until the lions get their own historian, the story of the hunt will always glorify the hunter."

Mr. Speaker, I am truly proud of the pioneering efforts and resilient spirit of Dr. Dorothy Fields that nurtured the spirit of the Black Archives Foundation in South Florida. The significance of the role of the foundation is premised on the paradigm in that when you stifle the remembrance of your people's past, you will have silenced the promise of their future. Conversely, however, I am exultant that under the aegis of this revered institution our community has truly become redemptive and knowledgeable of the struggles and sacrifices of our African-American forebears.

As we honor them through the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Black Archives Foundation, we will have become once again their partners in exploring the journey they have begun. In the convergence of our spirits and memories with theirs, we will be enriched because through our understanding of the many and varied messages they left us through their life journeys, we will be inextricably linked closer to them.

On this occasion I want to congratulate the board of directors and the board of trustees for their steadfast efforts and genuine resil-

ience throughout the Black Archives Foundation's 20-year history. I would like to reiterate our community's utmost gratitude for giving us the privilege of maximizing our knowledge of the vast richness and nobility of our African-American heritage.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 1997

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from the Chamber today during rollcall Vote Nos. 546 and 547. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on each of these votes.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 2267, DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDICIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 29, 1997

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion to instruct conferees and in strong support of immigrants' rights. I believe family reunification should be one of the highest priorities of our immigration policy and that the process of naturalization of legal residents needs to be more efficient. Letting 245(i) sunset would be morally wrong and economically unwise. It would separate thousands of families and disrupt thousands of businesses. Furthermore letting 245(i) sunset is not fiscally sound. The receipts from the penalty fee help pay for important INS activities.

Mr. Speaker, 245(i) is not amnesty. It does not reward those who purposefully broke our laws. Instead, it is for people who are sponsored by close family members or by employers who cannot find eligible U.S. workers, and whose "priority date" is current under existing quotas. It does not change the order in which a person's claim is adjudicated. In short, section 245(i) allows business to keep valued employees and allows families to stay together.

It is just inhumane to force immigrants who have families in this country to leave the U.S. and to apply and wait for their visas in a foreign country. This instills fear and promotes division of immigrant families.

Mr. Speaker, this whole debate is not really about fighting illegal immigration. This is just another attempt by some members on the other side of the aisle to sharply restrict or even eliminate immigration to the United States. Republican members claim they uphold family values. But when it comes to poor families and immigrant families, Republicans have demonstrated time and again that they want to make it more difficult for immigrants who have been living, working, and paying taxes in this country to reunite with their loved ones.

A policy which divides thousands of families of U.S. citizens and legal residents seems preposterous at a time when family unification

and family values are a strong concern of the American people.

Immigrants have contributed to the wealth and success of this nation. They are an asset to our nation. I have in the past supported measures aimed at removing barriers to legal immigration and I will continue to do so. I voted for the Family Unity and Employment Opportunity Act of 1990 (P.L. 101-649), the first comprehensive revision of U.S. immigration policy since 1965, which was signed into law by President Bush on November 29, 1990, and which made long-overdue improvements with regard to the admission into the United States of family members of legal residents and highly skilled professionals.

Similarly, last year I voted against H.R. 2202, the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1996, because many of the provisions of the immigration "reform" of 1996 are simply wrong and, furthermore, we have little to fear from people immigrating. Immigrants come to our country to escape the hardships of war and political persecution or to work to improve their lives and those of their families.

We, in turn, benefit from the cultural diversity their inclusion brings to our society and the boost their working, spending, and paying taxes bring to our economy. New York City has been revitalized by newcomers to America.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to put politics aside and do justice for these hard working, tax paying, law-abiding people. Vote no on the motion to instruct.

IN SUPPORT OF OXI DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 1997

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I join people of Greek descent in Astoria, NY, the country, and the world in saluting the courageous acts of the Greeks against Mussolini and Hitler. October 28, 1997, marks the 57th anniversary of a very historic day in Greek history.

On October 28, 1940, the Italian Minister in Athens gave an ultimatum to the Prime Minister of Greece, demanding the unconditional surrender of Greece. His answer was "Oxi," which means "no" in Greek.

Military success for the Italians would have sealed off the Balkans from the south and helped Hitler's plan to invade Russia. In fact, the Italian army that was fully equipped, well supplied, and backed by superior air and naval power. They were expected to overrun Greece within a short time.

Fortunately, the Greek Army proved to be well trained and resourceful despite their lack of military equipment. In less than a week after the Italians first attacked, it was clear that their forces had suffered a serious setback in spite of having control of the air and fielding armored vehicles.

On November 14, the Greek Army launched a counteroffensive and quickly drove Italian forces far back into Albania. On December 6, the Greeks captured Porto Edda and continued their advance along the seacoast toward Valona. By February 1, 1941, the Italians had launched strong counterattacks, but the deter-

mination of the Greek Army coupled with the severity of the winter weather, nullified the Italians' efforts.

The Italians launched another offensive on March 12, 1941, but after 6 days of fighting, the Italians made only small gains and it became clear that German intervention was necessary if the Italians were going to win.

On March 26, Hitler shouted "I will make a clean sweep of the Balkans." It took him 5 weeks, until the end of April, to subdue Greece. It turned out to be an important 5 weeks, until the end of April, to subdue the Greeks. These 5 weeks delayed Hitler's invasion of Russia and contributed to the Germans failure in Russia.

The victory of the Greek Army against the Italians astonished the world. The heroic stance by the Greeks against insurmountable odds, was the first glimmer of hope for the Allies, and today we can take great pride in those who risked their lives to defend their country.

THANKS TO THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB FOR THEIR YEARS OF SERVICE TO HOUSTON

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 1997

Mr. GREEN. Mr. Speaker, we celebrate the opening of the Greater Houston Boys and Girls Club on October 14, 1997. When I was younger, I was a member of the Boys and Girls Club. This group gave me the opportunity to find myself and to grow into an adult.

The Houston Boys and Girls Club has been in service since 1952. With this new Shell Branch, we will have a total of five facilities in the Greater Houston area. There is an incredible variety of activities at these centers from basketball to baseball to soccer to arts and crafts. There is something for everyone.

I would personally like to applaud the efforts of the staff and volunteers at the Boys and Girls Club throughout Houston. They bring a strong commitment and dedication that we should all try to emulate.

The Boys and Girls Club strive to instill in our youth a sense of competence, usefulness, belonging and of power and influence.

Their mission takes our community's at-risk-youths off the street and provides them with a safe and positive environment that will lead them toward achieving a brighter future.

The Boys and Girls Clubs build character. It helps our children to realize what is right and what is wrong. It helps them to make better informed decisions. It also helps to build relationships with other people.

Programs such as Smart Moves and Smart Kids—which is an early prevention program has won national acclaim—keeps our young people off the street and away from drug, alcohol and tobacco. Additional Boys and Girls Club Programs provide young people with skills to develop into adults today. While one program—the Power Hour—is an extensive tutoring and education development program, another program—the Keystone Club—is dedicated to providing community and leadership skills to the young. These are just three of many programs offered by the Boys and Girls Club.

With the opening of this fifth facility, we can see the dedication of the staff, volunteers and the community. The Boys and Girls Club is dedicated to developing the youth of this city and making them the best that they can be.

I would ask that we return that same commitment to the Boys and Girls Clubs, and we make the extra effort to help them with whatever they need.

MOURNING THE PASSING OF RESPECTED COLLEAGUE, FORMER MEMBER JOEL PRITCHARD

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 1997

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, today in the House there was a Memorial Service for our former Member, Joel Pritchard, who passed away October 9, 1997. Congressman Pritchard was an outstanding legislator and, more importantly, a wonderful human being. He will be sorely missed by those of us who knew and worked with him.

Joel's legacy will be that of the dedicated work he did on the behalf of his constituents in the first district of the State of Washington. In his six terms on Capitol Hill, Congressman Pritchard was one of America's most valuable spokesmen for the environment. His district, which included the region around Puget Sound, is regarded as an environmental gem, even with the rising nearby metropolis of Seattle and its suburbs. Congressman Pritchard's advocacy for our Nation's natural treasures helped instill further an awareness among his fellow Congressmen on this important issue.

I knew Joel Pritchard from the time we spent together on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, where we both served on our Subcommittee for International Operations. His caution and keen eye were a valuable asset in evaluating the policies of the United States in a global setting.

The spirit of Congressman Joel Pritchard will live on in this body, joining the memory of respected leaders of past generations. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join with me in extending our condolences to Joel Pritchard's family as we salute this great American who selflessly devoted himself to his country and his community.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 2267, DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDICIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 1997

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my profound disapproval at the proposed agreement reached by Representatives LAMAR SMITH and LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART. This agreement unfairly distinguishes between Central Americans who entered the United States before December 1995 and