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ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Florida). The Member is reminded not to address the television audience during 1-minute speeches.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM NOT
ADDRESSED

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

Mr. SNYDER. Mr. Speaker, we are going to recess today probably until the end of January, and unfortunately we did nothing in this session of Congress on campaign finance reform. So I can clarify the state of the law as we are leaving it when we go home today, this check from my friend, I am a big donor, for \$1 billion to the political party of her choice is still good and perfectly legal. So what does that mean to Americans out there? It means if you are a family of four making \$30,000 a year, it is still legal for you to give a check for \$1 billion to the political party of your choice. If you are a small business person or a farmer grossing \$100,000 a year, it is still perfectly legal for you to give \$1 billion in soft money donations to the political party of your choice. If you are a retiree on fixed income watching your pennies every month, it is still completely legal for you to give \$1 billion to the political party of your choice.

Why is it still legal? Because of inaction in this session of Congress by the Republican leadership in this House. It is wrong, Mr. Speaker. It needs to change. We need to do something about campaign finance reform next session.

OBEY EXISTING CAMPAIGN
FINANCE LAWS

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

Mr. HAYWORTH. I listened with great interest, Mr. Speaker, to my colleague and friend from Arkansas, and again I would simply say to my friend, so passionate today about reforming campaigns, that first things should come first, and it is to obey existing law. Because, you see, Mr. Speaker, it is already illegal for noncitizens to come into this country and try to buy influence in our political parties, and it is already illegal for Federal office holders to use their offices, including those at the White House, to solicit donations.

You see, friends, it is really simple: If people would obey existing law, much more would be done, much more would be achieved. So even as we join in this call for meaningful campaign finance reform, let it not be lost upon this House or upon the American people that the first act of business should be to obey existing law.

ALL TALK AND NO ACTION ON
CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, how strange that so many Republicans disagree with my friend from Arizona. They are convening a press conference right now to propose their campaign finance reforms. And is it not strange that they decided to propose them as this Congress adjourns? Because they reject the hopes of the American people that we might have reform in time for the next elections.

They do not want reform, they want the same sorry system that we have right now, the same sorry system that allowed them to dump in \$1 million of attack ads in a single election in Staten Island earlier this month; \$1 million, in addition to all the resources the Republican candidate had, the same Republican Party that was happy to accept \$1.8 million from a single family for various Republican front organizations last year.

It is outrageous that we have a campaign finance system that allows big money special interests to maintain a stranglehold on this Congress, and these Republicans will not do a thing about it. They promised to bring up campaign finance reform this fall, and they broke that promise to the American people. They are adjourning today, adjourning the hopes of the American people for reform.

TAXES STILL TOO HIGH

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, this Congress has worked hard to balance the budget, reduce taxes on American families, and we passed the first balanced budget since 1969. We gave American families their first tax cut in 16 years. But while we have made some progress, let us face it, taxes are still too high, and the Federal Government still spends too much.

This past weekend my legislative director Kevin Fitzpatrick and his wife Pam became the proud parents of a new baby girl, Elizabeth Ann Fitzpatrick. I have been honored to be asked to be the child's godfather. I am really proud of that. I know Elizabeth is very happy to be the newest member of the Fitzpatrick family, joining brother Spike and sister Katie. But when she learns over her lifetime she is going to have to pay almost \$200,000 in taxes just to pay the interest on our national debt, then she is going to be justifiably upset.

Mr. Speaker, children like Elizabeth should not be faced with this burdensome debt from the day they are born. Now that we are close to balancing the budget, this Congress should work to

reduce our national debt so little kids like Elizabeth are not going to have to pay these huge amounts in taxes over their lifetime. Let's reduce taxes on our people.

STAY AND FINISH WORK

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, Democrats have spent the past 11 months fighting for legislation that would help America's working families. Democrats have worked to improve America's public schools while Republicans tried to pass a voucher program, a proposal that would siphon off taxpayer dollars, hard-earned taxpayer dollars, to fund an experiment to take kids out of public education and fund private education in this country.

Democrats have fought to reform America's political system, while Republicans have refused to even debate campaign finance reform. They do not want to reform the system, they want to talk about it.

Democrats have demanded an end to the Dornan-Sanchez investigation, while Republicans have prolonged this taxpayer-funded political witch hunt.

Now the Republicans want to pack their bags, head home, but important work is left to be done in this Congress: education reform; IRS reform, which is stuck in the other body because the Republicans do not want to move it; campaign finance reform. We should not leave until our work is complete.

EXCUSES FOR BREAKING THE LAW

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, here is a big surprise: The wife of John Huang has joined the growing legions of people under investigation for campaign finance lawbreaking who have either fled the country, taken the fifth amendment, or otherwise come up with amnesia about raising money from foreign citizens.

This is not big news to most of the major media, of course. After all, it appears that most of the time all they do is read their nightly newscast straight off DNC press releases. In fact, I have a hard time telling the difference between liberal reporting on the campaign finance hearings and what the expert "spinmeisters" at the White House are saying.

We have heard some great excuses, from "everybody does it," to "we had to cheat. Otherwise, Republicans would have won." Maybe some of the best excuses are these two: "Sure, I broke the law, but it is the system's fault, and we need to reform it." Then there is this one: "I don't care if they broke the law. The Republicans are on a witch hunt."