

Christmas with their fathers, yet this story has made little news and has sparked little protest.

Where is the sense of outrage in our country? Where is the sense of compassion?

Today on this anniversary, and throughout the year, let us remember these families and pray and work for their immediate release.

TIME TO CALL AN END TO SANCHEZ INVESTIGATION

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

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, simple equity would argue that we ought to end the Sanchez investigation and have Congress pay for the bills that we fostered upon the gentlewoman from California, hundreds of thousands of dollars in legal fees for a race she won by several hundred more votes than Speaker GINGRICH won his race by several years ago.

Mr. Speaker, if decency and honesty will not do it, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle should listen to their pollsters. The pollsters say they are driving Hispanic Americans out of the Republican party and away from Republican candidates in record numbers. Why? Because they see the oppression.

Mr. Speaker, we had charges on this floor during the debate of fraud and other criminal activities, all dismissed by local and State people in California. This woman has won this race. It is close to 14 months after the election. Decency would demand that we end this investigation, pay the legal bills, and stop the chicanery. Just because the gentlewoman is a woman Hispanic from California does not mean that my colleagues have the right to drag her through the mud for the entire two-year term. End this investigation.

THANKS TO COACH TOM OSBORNE OF THE NEBRASKA CORNHUSKERS ON HIS RETIREMENT

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

Mr. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, one of the great legends of college football retired this season. Dr. Tom Osborne has led the Nebraska Cornhuskers for the past 25 years, and everyone who has watched was saddened by his departure.

Tom Osborne is Cornhusker football. As a young man, I watched him on the sidelines. A man of honor and integrity, a true winner regardless of the outcome of the games.

I watched him coach through years of close games against Oklahoma, near misses for the National Championship, until finally in the past 5 years he has brought home three National Championship seasons, including this year.

More so than football, what Tom Osborne has provided our State of Nebraska and our Nation is a leader who has placed the character development of his young men ahead of their football skills. Tom Osborne never forgot the lessons he learned growing up in Hastings and St. Paul, Nebraska; lessons of faith, values, commitment, doing what you said you would do.

Mr. Speaker, we say to Coach Osborne: Coach, thanks for the memories. We are excited to see what is going to happen in the future. We know that even though you are retiring, you will continue to instill those lessons of faith, character, and development and doing what you said you would do into the young lives of Nebraskans and all America.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CONGRESSIONAL INTERN PROGRAM

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor to welcome Members home to Washington as we begin the 1998 session and to once again invite those who live in the city to call me if they need help from local government.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Members who took high school volunteer interns in September when the schools were closed for repair work. Many Members heaped praise on the performance of those D.C. high school interns. They were thrilled by the opportunity to work in Members' offices. The distance between official Washington and hometown Washington disappeared.

We were so impressed by the benefits to all concerned that we have now established a permanent D.C. Congressional Intern program. Interns will compete and be screened and oriented before being assigned to Members. The best and the brightest will be recommended to do such tasks as answering phones, sorting mail, filing, and computer searches.

Almost 100 Members of the House and Senate have already signed up to take interns. I ask Members whether they would like to help a kid from D.C. and get extra help for their office as well.

The program will go from February 3 to May 25. Please call my office and get a free D.C. high school intern.

□ 1330

THE IRS

(Mr. METCALF asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, the American people now know that the Internal Revenue Service has been breaking the law for over 10 years. Recently the IRS admitted the use of quotas. Charles Rossotti, the present IRS Commissioner, said, this demonstrates that the Agency has failed to strike the

proper balance. It shows the IRS has put too much emphasis on revenue and not enough emphasis on quality customer service and respect for taxpayers' rights.

Frankly, ever since the taxpayers' Bill of Rights 10 years ago, this out-of-control Agency has never struck a balance on anything. The only thing they have struck is fear and intimidation into the hearts of every taxpaying American. This Congress must roll back and curtail the power of the Internal Revenue disservice. We must force this Agency to respect the constitutional rights of the American citizens.

CALL FOR AN END TO INVESTIGATION OF VOTER FRAUD

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

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, the grand jury in Orange County, with all of the available facts and documents and information at their disposal, did not find probable cause to issue even a single criminal indictment concerning voter fraud in LORETTA SANCHEZ's victory. The Republican California Secretary of state, who well over a year ago certified LORETTA SANCHEZ the winner after a painstaking recount, concluded in December that no new evidence warranted changing that result.

In fact, listen to what Secretary Jones had to say about the so-called evidence the Republicans sent to him, and I quote, "We don't know if they are illegal or not because we don't know the status of the individuals on the list or how the list was put together. I can't vouch for the list."

Let me repeat that, "I can't vouch for the list."

Mr. Speaker, that is what we Democrats have been saying all along. This so-called evidence is useless and worthless and nothing more than an attack on Hispanic voters in the Nation. It is time to end this investigation and the enormous amount of taxpayer dollars spent.

UNFAIRNESS IN THE TAX CODE: THE MARRIAGE TAX PENALTY

(Mr. WELLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, today I want to raise the issue of the marriage tax penalty. Let me just frame this issue by asking some very simple questions. Do Americans feel that it is fair that a married working couple with two incomes pays higher taxes than a similar couple living together outside a marriage? Do Americans feel that it is fair that the average married working couple, two incomes, pays \$1,400 more in higher taxes? Do Americans feel that it is fair that our Tax Code actually provides an incentive to get divorced? In fact, the only way a married

working couple that pays a marriage tax penalty can avoid it is to file for divorce. That is just wrong.

Think about it. Fourteen hundred dollars, that is a lot of money back in Illinois and throughout this country. Fourteen hundred dollars is 1 year's tuition in a local community college, 3 to 4 months of day care or child care at a local day care center.

We need to make a bipartisan priority this year the elimination of the marriage tax penalty. In fact we look to President Clinton to join with us to make it a bipartisan priority to eliminate the marriage tax penalty.

PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE—DISMISSAL OF CONTEST IN 46TH DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to a question of the privileges of the House, and I send to the desk a privileged resolution (H. Res. 341) pursuant to clause 2 of rule IX and ask for its immediate consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the resolution.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 341

Whereas, Loretta Sanchez was issued a certificate of election as the duly elected Member of Congress from the 46th District of California by the Secretary of State of California and was seated by the U.S. House of Representatives on January 7, 1997; and

Whereas, a notice of contest of election was filed with the Clerk of the House by Mr. Robert Dornan on December 26, 1996; and

Whereas, the task force on the contested election in the 46th District of California met on February 26, 1997 in Washington, DC, on April 18, 1997 in Orange County, California, and on October 24, 1997 in Washington, DC; and

Whereas, Mr. Robert Dornan made unsubstantiated charges of improper voting from a business, rather than a resident address; underage voting; double voting; and large numbers of individuals voting from the same address; and

Whereas, these charges are without merit, as it was found that those voting from the same address included United States Marines residing at a marine barracks and nuns residing at a domicile of nuns; that business addresses were legal residences for the individuals, including the zoo keeper of the Santa Ana Zoo; that duplicate voting was by different individuals and those accused of underage voting were of age; and

Whereas, the Committee on House Oversight has issued unprecedented subpoenas directing the Immigration and Naturalization Service to compare its records with Orange County voter registration records, the first time in any election in the history of the United States that the INS has been asked by Congress to verify the citizenship of voters; and

Whereas, the INS has complied with the committee's request and, at the committee's request, for over eight months, has engaged in a manual check of its paper files and has provided worksheets containing supplemental information on that manual check to the Committee on House Oversight; and

Whereas, the committee's investigation has extended far beyond a review of those who actually voted in this contested election and;

Whereas, the district attorney of Orange County has ended his investigation and an

Orange County grand jury has refused to return any indictments and allegations of a conspiracy to engage in voter fraud have been proven groundless; and

Whereas, the Committee on House Oversight has received a report from the secretary of State of California, in response to the committee's request, which yielded no new information; and

Whereas, the committee's requests have caused this contest to be needlessly extended for four additional months while the secretary of State of California provided no new information regarding the citizenship status of registrants or voters; and

Whereas, the task force on the contested election in the 46th district of California and the committee have been reviewing these materials and have all the information they need regarding who voted in the 46th district and all the information required to make judgments concerning those votes; and

Whereas, the Committee on House Oversight has after 13 months of review and investigation failed to present any credible evidence demonstrating that Congresswoman Sanchez did not win this election and continues to pursue never ending and groundless areas of investigation; and

Whereas, contestant Robert Dornan has not shown or provided credible evidence that the outcome of the election is other than Congresswoman Sanchez's election to the Congress; and

Whereas, the Committee on House Oversight should complete its review of this matter and bring this contest to an end; and now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the election contest concerning the 46th district of California is dismissed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NUSSLE). The resolution constitutes a question of the privileges of the House under rule IX.

MOTION TO TABLE OFFERED BY MR. SOLOMON

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I move to table the resolution.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state it.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, am I correct from a parliamentary standpoint under the rules this resolution would be debatable for 1 hour, if not tabled?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. That is correct.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the Chair. We would like to do that.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to table offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON).

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 214, nays 189, not voting 27, as follows:

[Roll No. 2]

YEAS—214

Aderholt	Gilchrest	Parker
Archer	Gillmor	Paul
Armey	Gilman	Paxon
Bachus	Goodlatte	Pease
Baker	Goodling	Peterson (PA)
Ballenger	Goss	Petri
Barr	Graham	Pickering
Barrett (NE)	Granger	Pitts
Bartlett	Greenwood	Pombo
Barton	Gutknecht	Porter
Bass	Hansen	Portman
Bateman	Hastert	Pryce (OH)
Bereuter	Hastings (WA)	Quinn
Bilbray	Hayworth	Radanovich
Bilirakis	Hefley	Ramstad
Bliley	Herger	Redmond
Blunt	Hill	Regula
Boehlert	Hilleary	Riggs
Boehner	Hobson	Riley
Bonilla	Hoekstra	Rogan
Brady	Horn	Rogers
Bryant	Hostettler	Rohrabacher
Bunning	Houghton	Roukema
Burr	Hulshof	Royce
Burton	Hunter	Ryun
Buyer	Hyde	Salmon
Callahan	Inglis	Sanford
Calvert	Istook	Saxton
Camp	Jenkins	Schaefer, Dan
Campbell	Johnson, Sam	Schaffer, Bob
Canady	Jones	Sensenbrenner
Cannon	Kasich	Sessions
Castle	Kelly	Shadegg
Chabot	Kim	Shaw
Chambliss	King (NY)	Shays
Chenoweth	Kingston	Shimkus
Christensen	Klug	Shuster
Coble	Knollenberg	Skeen
Coburn	Kolbe	Smith (MI)
Collins	LaHood	Smith (NJ)
Combest	Largent	Smith (TX)
Cook	Latham	Smith, Linda
Cooksey	LaTourette	Snowbarger
Cox	Lazio	Solomon
Crane	Leach	Souder
Crapo	Lewis (CA)	Spence
Cubin	Lewis (KY)	Stearns
Cunningham	Linder	Stump
Davis (VA)	Livingston	Sununu
DeLay	LoBiondo	Talent
Diaz-Balart	Lucas	Tauzin
Dickey	Manzullo	Taylor (NC)
Doolittle	McCollum	Thomas
Dreier	McCrery	Thornberry
Duncan	McHugh	Thune
Dunn	McInnis	Tiahrt
Ehlers	McIntosh	Traficant
Ehrlich	McKeon	Upton
Emerson	Metcalf	Walsh
English	Mica	Wamp
Ensign	Miller (FL)	Watkins
Everett	Moran (KS)	Watts (OK)
Fawell	Myrick	Weldon (FL)
Foley	Nethercutt	Weldon (PA)
Fossella	Neumann	Weller
Fowler	Ney	White
Fox	Northup	Whitfield
Franks (NJ)	Norwood	Wicker
Frelinghuysen	Nussle	Wolf
Ganske	Oxley	Young (FL)
Gekas	Packard	
Gibbons	Pappas	

NAYS—189

Abercrombie	Clay	Doyle
Ackerman	Clayton	Edwards
Allen	Clement	Engel
Andrews	Clyburn	Eshoo
Baessler	Condit	Etheridge
Baldacci	Conyers	Evans
Barcia	Costello	Farr
Barrett (WI)	Coyne	Fattah
Bentsen	Cramer	Fazio
Berry	Cummings	Filner
Bishop	Danner	Forbes
Blagojevich	Davis (FL)	Ford
Blumenauer	Davis (IL)	Frank (MA)
Bonior	DeFazio	Frost
Boswell	Delahunt	Furse
Boucher	DeLauro	Gejdenson
Boyd	Dellums	Gephardt
Brown (CA)	Deutsch	Goode
Brown (FL)	Dicks	Gordon
Brown (OH)	Dingell	Green
Cardin	Dixon	Gutierrez
Carson	Doggett	Hall (OH)