

the city of El Paso, Texas, will host the El Paso Quadricentennial Festival. This festival is an international celebration, bringing together representatives from Spain, Mexico and other nations around the world to join in celebrating the 400th anniversary of the expedition of the Spanish explorer, Don Juan de Onate, through the Southwest.

His exploration began in January of 1598, when he and 400 other men and women traveled from Mexico through the present day El Paso, Texas. After numerous hardships during their journey, the expedition arrived along the banks of the Rio Grande River in April of 1598.

In gratitude for surviving their difficult travel and finding water along the Rio Grande, they observed a feast and celebrated with local Indians. This historical event is considered the first Thanksgiving, which occurred 22 years before the pilgrims landed at Plymouth, Massachusetts.

Mr. Speaker, it is important for our Nation to recognize this 400th anniversary. I am proud that El Paso is hosting this International Commemoration, as it enhances our country's understanding of the extensive influence of the Spanish language and culture on our heritage and origins of this Nation.

□ 1015

#### CONGRESS NEEDS TO STAND FIRM AGAINST THE WHITE HOUSE ON FREE NEEDLE PROGRAM

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

Mr. Speaker, many people remember the President's Surgeon General claiming that the answer to youth violence was safer guns and safer bullets; that the answer to sexual promiscuity among America's youth is condoms in schools. Now we have the answer to the escalating drug problem in America coming out of the White House, free needles to heroin addicts. Imagine that, Mr. Speaker, government-subsidized free needles to heroin addicts.

I submit the following: Any President who supports and would promote the subsidization of free needles to heroin addicts is just as guilty as any drug pusher or any drug user who causes death and destruction among America's communities today.

This level of social decay is unacceptable. This Congress needs to stand firm against the White House. The partnership for a Drug-Free America has met its match. The White House and the heroin industry formed the partnership for free drugs in America. Common sense needs to rule the day. We need to stand firm.

In a minute another member of the President's party is going to step to the microphone, and I want to ask directly, is he going to stand with Americans against this free needle exchange

program, or is he going to talk about something else today?

#### THE PEOPLE STILL WANT COMPREHENSIVE CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

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

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, law enforcement in my district supports needle exchange.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to point out that the majority party controls this House. This is the people's House. This is where people's voices can be heard, because everybody here has to be elected. We cannot run away from that responsibility.

When the Democrats controlled this House, we passed out several times, three times, in fact, campaign finance reform, comprehensive campaign finance reform. The last of those bills to reach the President's desk was vetoed by President Bush. The people still want comprehensive campaign finance reform. Their pressure now gives this House a second chance, after the leadership orchestrated a defeat by a two-thirds vote and by scheduling it on a day when one of the Members, a former Member, had a funeral.

So, Mr. Speaker, I ask Members to keep watching. Will we get a comprehensive campaign reform or will we see another orchestrated defeat?

#### PAY-GO MUST GO

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about another ridiculous Washington budget rule called pay-go. This rule promotes big government spending while Americans pay taxes, higher taxes, as a matter of fact. Under pay-go, if we eliminated every welfare big government program, we could not give any of those savings back to the American people in the form of tax relief because of our own rules. It means we have to raise taxes to lower taxes. We have to change our rules.

Yesterday the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. J.D. HAYWORTH) and I introduced a bill just to do that. We must be able to cut big government spending, get Washington out of Americans' lives, and give the money back to the American people. After all, it is your dollars.

It is wrong that we cannot, for example, cut a \$3 million TV documentary on infrastructure awareness and use that same money to eliminate the marriage penalty tax. Do Members not think families are more important than welfare government programs?

Pay-go is a stumbling block to good government. It must go.

#### COMMEMORATING FROSTBURG STATE UNIVERSITY'S CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend an extraordinary community and its school. Frostburg State University in Frostburg, Maryland, celebrates its 100th anniversary this Sunday.

Frostburg State University began as a community dream. Actually, it was the community coal miners' dream. It was a dream that all parents dream for their children: a better life than theirs. They knew the key to this dream was education.

These concerned parents made a deal with the State legislature. The deal? If the coal miners could raise the money to buy the land for a State normal school, the General Assembly would appropriate funds for the buildings. These parents literally went door-to-door collecting money from their neighbors to keep their end of the deal. In April of 1898, the General Assembly of Maryland appropriated the funds for Maryland Normal School No. 2, which was built and opened its doors to 57 students.

Today, Frostburg State University enrolls more than 5,000 undergraduate and graduate students and helps tens of thousands of dreams come true. Congratulations, Frostburg State University.

#### WE CAN TRUST AMERICANS TO DECIDE ON CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

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

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would like to respond to the disingenuous statements made by liberal colleagues on the other side of the aisle. The other side talks as if one side of the aisle is on the side of the angels and supports campaign finance reform and the other side is against campaign finance reform. How ironic that the side that made a mockery of campaign finance reform laws in the 1996 elections now feels qualified to adopt a holier-than-thou attitude on this issue.

The truth is that the reforms that they are seeking are not even constitutional, which I guess is not surprising, given that post-sixties liberals are no longer champions of free speech. The liberals want to limit political speech. We do not. I think the American people are well qualified to decide this issue, once they know the facts.

#### PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT LEADS TO A BETTER AMERICA

(Mr. NEUMANN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NEUMANN. Mr. Speaker, it is a very special day here in Washington, D.C. I rise to extend a special welcome to a group of students that are out here, about 100 students from the Juneau School. It is a school where parents are actively involved. There are students here from Juneau, Hustisford, and Dodgeland, and we would like to express a special welcome to them this morning.

I think it provides an opportunity to talk about the fact that where parents are involved in the school and where parents are actively involved in their kids' lives, America benefits.

When we look at a school with students like what we have here this morning, where the parents are actively involved in the lives of these kids, we find that there is a dramatic drop in the probability of these students being involved in crime. We find a drop in the drug use rate. We find a drop in teen pregnancies in their future. We find less teen smoking. All the problems do not go away, but we sure recognize and understand that when the parents are actively involved in their kids' lives, like what happens at the school that is out here today, that certainly leads to a better America for all citizens.

#### JUDICIAL REFORM ACT OF 1998

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 408 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

#### H. RES. 408

*Resolved*, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 1(b) of rule XXIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1252) to modify the procedures of the Federal courts in certain matters, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. Points of order against consideration of the bill for failure to comply with section 303(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary now printed in the bill, modified by striking section 9 (and redesignating succeeding sections accordingly). Each section of that amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. Points of order against that amendment in the nature of a substitute for failure to comply with clause 7 of rule XVI or section 303(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 are waived. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the

Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 6 of rule XXIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read. The chairman of the Committee of the Whole may: (1) postpone until a time during further consideration in the Committee of the Whole a request for a recorded vote on any amendment; and (2) reduce to five minutes the minimum time for electronic voting on any postponed question that follows another electronic vote without intervening business, provided that the minimum time for electronic voting on the first in any series of questions shall be 15 minutes. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the amendment in the nature of a substitute made in order as original text. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. EWING). The gentleman from Florida (Mr. GOSS) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to my friend, the distinguished gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for purpose of debate on this subject only.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 408 is an open rule providing for the consideration of H.R. 1252, the Judicial Reform Act of 1998. The rule provides the customary 1 hour of general debate, equally divided between the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary.

The rule waives points of order against the consideration of the bill for failure to comply with section 303(a) of the Congressional Budget Act, which prohibits consideration of legislation providing new budget authority, changes in revenues, or changes in the public debt for a fiscal year until the budget resolution for that year has been agreed to.

The purpose of that section of the Budget Act is a sound one that we generally try to adhere to, keeping the budget process moving forward in a commonsense direction, with the budget resolution coming first and then allowing for subsequent consideration of the legislation that implements the provisions of the budget resolution.

In this case, however, we are technically required to provide this waiver, but our Committee on Rules has also provided a fix for the Budget Act problem. We have done that by making in order under this rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary, modified by striking section 9 of that amendment which caused the 303(a) problem and redesignating succeeding sections accordingly.

Section 9 of the amendment specifically deals with the process by which

cost of living adjustments for Federal judges are implemented. The effect of that section would have been to create a new mandatory spending category in the budget, something that we tried not to do outside the normal congressional budget process.

Apart from the substance of that issue relating to pay for judges, the Committee on Rules has attempted in this rule to preserve the integrity of the budget process.

Mr. Speaker, the rule further provides that each section of the amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read, and it waives points of order against that amendment for failure to comply with clause 7 of rule XVI prohibiting nongermane amendments, or section 303(a) of the Congressional Budget Act, for the reasons I just explained.

The rule accords priority in recognition to Members who have caused their amendments to be preprinted in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, assuming those amendments are in accordance with the standing rules of the House.

It further provides that the chairman of the Committee of the Whole may postpone votes during consideration of the bill and reduce the voting time to 5 minutes on a postponed question if the vote follows a 15-minute vote; and, finally, as is the custom, the rule provides for one motion to recommit, with or without instructions. That explains the rule.

Now, Mr. Speaker, with the exception of the technical Budget Act fix, this is a very straightforward rule. It is fair, and it is wide open. It allows all Members the chance to offer germane amendments and conduct thoughtful discussion about a very important subject.

I strongly support the premise behind this bill, that it is time to control judicial activism, the so-called runaway judges on the Federal bench. This statement alone is usually enough to generate controversy in many circles, and this debate is by no means a simple one, as it involves many of the most basic tenets of our democratic system and the separation of powers.

□ 1030

I think we could all come up with anecdotal evidence that there have been problems within the Federal judiciary with judges exceeding their charter and authority. The Committee on the Judiciary has, in my view, put forth a responsible product that deals with these problems by focusing on specific practices within the Federal courts that together constitute a real threat to the rights of citizens and the prerogatives of this Congress.

In my view, this legislation constitutes a measured and carefully justified response to legitimate problems. It is not simply throwing down the gauntlet. It is coming up with responsible solutions, which we will have ample opportunity to debate under an open rule.

I applaud the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), and the subcommittee