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## House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. EMERSON).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
May 5, 1998.

I hereby designate the Honorable JO ANN EMERSON to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 21, 1997, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 30 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. SNOWBARGER) for 5 minutes.

### CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

Mr. SNOWBARGER. Madam Speaker, during the last year, many Members of Congress, independent organizations, and other political groups have been in touch with Congress to urge immediate action on reform of our Nation's campaign finance system. Because the Nation's attention has been piqued by ambitious claims that we are going to clean up politics, we face the very real danger of passing a bill, calling it reform, and, as a result, destroying any remaining credibility enjoyed by the Congress of the United States.

During the upcoming debate on campaign finance reform, we will undoubtedly see a great number of different competing plans for reform. Many will be dramatic changes, and some will be modest in scope. If this fair and open debate is to mean anything, we should at least agree on a set of principles with which to judge the various entries.

To my colleagues listening back in their offices, if your plan is to sit on the sidelines during the debate and try to judge this combination dance contest and beauty pageant, I would like to offer you a kind of score card for this event.

Madam Speaker, remember the dance contest and beauty pageants have standards that aid the judges in determining what an ideal candidate should look like. These principles should provide an excellent guide for scoring in the various proposals. The three cardinal principles that should be our guide are transparency, real accountability, and trusting the American people.

First is transparency. Any real reform should make our campaign system easier to understand for the average person. It is hard for voters to know what is going on, to get outraged, or to judge our conduct if we are always playing hide the ball.

Consider the recent Washington Post story about the Democratic National Committee's swapping hard dollars for soft money with their State affiliates. It is difficult for average citizens to be involved in the critique of that system if stunts like this are permitted.

Secondly, we should punish the offenders. The citizens are tired of all this talk about reform. They tar all of us with the same broad brush of accusations, and we need to get serious about granting enforcement authority to the FEC, Federal Election Commission, and the Justice Department.

If all we do is add five more new rules to the 10 that are already not enforced,

what have we gained? We will only have succeeded in proving what the public already suspects; namely, that we were never really serious about reform.

The only way for Congress to earn back the trust and the respect of the people is to impose real punishment for breaking the rules.

Lastly, Madam Speaker, we should trust the good judgment of the American people. If we have learned nothing else about political reform since the first go-around in 1974, it is that we should not make Federal bureaucrats the sole watchdog of our electoral system.

Our axiom should be absolutely open campaigns. New technology allows immediate disclosure. So why set arbitrary limits on donations? The public, if informed in a timely manner, will hold elected officials accountable.

The present limits force candidates to spend all their time chasing dollars and far less time serving constituents. We should trust the people. The electorate may decide that \$1 from tobacco companies and the Ku Klux Klan is unacceptable, while, at the same time, judging \$50,000 from the candidate's parents is perfectly appropriate.

Madam Speaker, I have never taken money from tobacco companies and never would, but my constituents may not believe that because our system hides the donations in this maze of regulations. Why should we continue to tell the people what to do when we so often get it wrong.

It is for this reason I have introduced H.R. 3315, the Fair Elections and Political Accountability Act of 1998. This bill would honor all of the above principles and make progress towards destroying the confidence of the American people.

I will not claim that my bill is the perfect answer to everyone's gripe about our political system. Many of you will find things about it that you

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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do not like. However, this bill represents a comprehensive and meaningful change away from the arcane and mystifying system that we have today. It holds politicians accountable, it eliminates soft money, and it empowers all American voters with the knowledge to discern for themselves who Members of Congress actually represent.

I am confident that the American people will reward candidates that play by the rules. If they do not play by the rules, Madam Speaker, my bill does what no one else has proposed, it sends the crooked politicians to jail.

#### TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL COLLINS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. BONIOR. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity today to honor a truly wonderful person with whom I was proud to join in a number of important battles, Mike Collins. Michael Collins died in February at the age of 55.

He was the General Secretary-Treasurer of the Pipefitters Union, and he was, indeed, a fighter for working men and women. He fought so strongly because he believed that the labor movement was the most effective way to help working families earn a better life.

At the 35th UA General Convention, Mike reflected on his first elected position in much the same way many of us in Congress have done. Let me quote from his remarks. He said, "My anxiety level was so high, my hands were shaking, and my heart was pounding. I was only 31 years old then, and I was awed by the thought that I had been elected to lead the fine men and women of my local union, and I prayed to God that I would be up to the task."

"The people wanted to know what kind of man they had elected, whether I would have the right stuff or whether I would fumble the ball. I learned a very important lesson that night. I learned that the hard job is not just getting elected, it is what comes later, when the tough decisions have to be made and the inevitable disappointments have to be endured."

It is this sense of dedication and determination and humility that made Mike so special. He never lost his perspective of the broader goals, to help working men and women have a decent quality of life.

Over the next 25 years that followed Mike's first election, not only did he not fumble, he picked up the ball, and he seemingly never stopped running.

After leading Local 5 for a number of years, he was appointed by the international to serve as Legislative Director in the legislative department. That is when I first met him.

We fought many a battle together in these Halls, in this building, and across

the streets in the offices where we worked, battles for a decent wage for people, battles for decent health care, battles to make sure that people had pensions, that those pensions were not taken from them, battles for worker safety.

It was not that long ago, Mike remembered this well, that we lost 35,000 people a year to industrial accidents in this country, 35,000 a year; 500,000 maimed. He cared deeply about workers and about their safety and their families.

He eventually rose to the rank of General Secretary-Treasurer where his leadership positioned the UA to continue to grow in the next century.

Mike's public life was devoted to the labor movement, yet the same characteristics that made him successful, his leadership, his loyalty, his moral strength, and his force of character made him truly special to his family and friends.

His twin brother Terry paid Mike the ultimate testimonial at his funeral service when he stated, and I quote, "Kathleen, Brian, Mickey, Kevin, Maggie, and Karen, my heart aches. Kathleen, you were the center point of support on which Mike's life turned. As I mourn him, I celebrate the 34 years of his marriage. He truly had a special partner. He loved you dearly.

"To his children, I'm not sure what to say because I cannot think of anything you do not already know. He was a giant of a man whose imprint has been passed and will be passed on for generations to come. You, along with your mom, were his most precious treasures."

I certainly do not think it could have been said better. I know that Mike cared deeply about his family and his faith, and he had true passion for helping people. He fought many battles. We fought many battles together.

I was honored and proud to join such a tireless fighter who never gave up. Yet, Mike was one of those rare individuals who could fight with dogged tenacity while still being able to laugh and smile, and laugh at himself and not take himself too seriously.

He was such a pleasure to have on your team. He could always make you feel good just by being around him. He truly enjoyed life. Those of us who shared his friendship and his ideals will truly miss him.

To his family, many of whom are here with us today, thank you for all the support you gave Mike throughout the years. Few had his resolve and strength to fight for the working men and women of this country and with the tenacity that Mike Collins brought to that task.

Those who knew him know that his strength came from his family, and for that, we all owe a great deal of thanks to each and every one of you.

So, Mike, if you are listening up there, and I am sure you are, rest assured that you have many loyal fans and people who love you and who will

continue to do the good work that you performed in this body and throughout the Halls of this Congress. Your values are the values that we will continue to sustain and maintain and fight for as long as we are in public service. To your family, we wish you all the best. You gave us a real champion in Mike Collins.

#### YEAR 2000 CENSUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, this afternoon, the Subcommittee on the Census of the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight will be meeting for the second time and addressing the issue of a potential failed census in year 2000.

Many people believe that the census in the year 2000 is moving towards failure. This comes from reports from the General Accounting Office, who has said actually in every report, including the most recent one in March, that the risk of a failure has increased.

The Inspector General has talked about the potential of a failed census. This is because this Clinton administration has proposed the largest statistical experiment in history to take place in year 2000.

This is a very dangerous situation, because the census, which is required by our Constitution and by law to be done every 10 years, is the basis, is fundamental to our democratic process of elected government here in the United States.

All Members of Congress, most elected officials in America are elected based upon census information. If we have a census that the people do not trust, we are threatening the entire elective process in America.

So it is absolutely essential that we save the census, that we have a successful census, that we have the most accurate census possible. That is what we need to strive for and work together, Democrats and Republicans.

The hearing today will be focused on what happened in 1990 so we can learn from the experience of 1990 and not repeat the mistakes, but also do what needs to be done to improve the census. There were some problems in the 1990 census. But in 1990, we counted 98.4 percent of the American people; 98.4 percent of the people were counted. That was not a bad census actually. That is a pretty good census, the second most accurate census in history, and some people think it was the most accurate census in history. So it was successful in counting 98.4 percent of the people.

But the way the census took place in 1990 was, after you did the full census, the full enumeration, and counted that 98.4 percent, then a sample was conducted of about 150,000 households. The thought was let us take that sample and adjust the full enumeration.