

gentleman, I too appreciate and share his disappointment about our having not gotten back to this subject this week, and let me assure the gentleman that it is my intention that we will be able to spend time on that, and it is my intention to move forward as expeditiously as we can. We had such a broad-based expression of interest on the part of so many Members with so many different points of view on this matter that the Committee on Rules did in fact act as inclusively as possible, and that clearly, as said, as the gentleman has identified, is a job that is going to take a great deal of floor time, and if I may assure the gentleman it is my commitment to get that floor time, make it available and to have this debate on an orderly continuing basis until we complete the work.

Mr. BONIOR. I would say to my friend from Texas, having served on the Committee on Rules for 14 years, that the gentleman from Michigan is well aware of how not to bring a bill up, and how to bring a bill up and never get to a bill, and how to bring a bill up and never get to the bill, and try and get to the bill and talk it to death. And it appears in this case that all three techniques are in play. I am very concerned that we may not reach a conclusion on this bill, and I want to assure my friend from Texas and my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, those who are in fact not interested in this bill are getting and reaching a conclusion on this bill that we are going to do all that we can to make sure that the debate is orderly, timely, that we come to some closure on the bill, and we have been very disappointed so far this session in the progress or lack of on this legislation. It was not brought up, it was brought up under a procedure several months ago that I think most folks who follow this bill considered, and if my colleague will pardon the strong language, a sham, and now we are in a process of a very inclusive and open procedure, as my friend has mentioned, but one which will, in fact, if pursued to its ultimate, lead to no conclusion at all, and this again will not have happened.

So it is with great concern that I rise to express my concern and disapproval of how this has been handled so far, and I hope that we have an orderly, fair debate so all sides can be heard, that we can reach a conclusion and come to closure on the important questions surrounding the issue of campaign finance reform.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BONIOR. I yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. I rise really in support of Mr. BONIOR's statement and would like to add to it that it has been indeed a very long time since that historic handshake of the Speaker in New Hampshire, where there was a promise to bring campaign finance reform before this body. Again we were promised that it would be

brought before this body in May. We were told that it would be brought before this body in June. We are now in the second week of June, and it seems to be a continuing case of promises, promises, promises, yet never a reality.

And I would like to ask the gentleman, to underscore the question that Mr. Bonior asked, is this a new form of filibuster? Or are we going to have debate and a vote in this body, specifically where we have a vote before July 4th of this year so we can get it to the House, so it can get to the President's desk?

Mr. BONIOR. I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY).

Mr. ARMEY. I thank the gentleman from Michigan for continuing to yield, and I want to thank both the gentleman from Michigan and the gentleman from New York for this affirmation of commitment. It is not often I find myself with a shared sense of commitment with the gentleman from Michigan, the gentlewoman from New York.

Let me say it is my intense purpose to work with the legislative schedule in such a manner as to make all the time that I can find available for the purpose of carrying on this important debate, with ample notice for all parties at each point of resumption, to consistently and completely and comprehensively cover this subject, have all the votes and move it forward.

And I do not know how I can emphasize in more emphatic terms my conviction to get this done, and I appreciate so much the gentleman from Michigan and the gentlewoman from New York's willingness to work with me towards that end.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I yield to my friend from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT).

Mr. DOGGETT. I am greatly encouraged by the gentleman's comments in this regard and would just want to be sure I understood them correctly.

As you know, the Committee on Rules, in addition to any germane amendments that Members might have, has approved the consideration here on the floor by special rule of 259 nongermane or irrelevant amendments, which I think is more nongermane amendments than they have accrued on all of the bills that have been considered while the gentleman has been majority leader.

Is it the gentleman's intent then when we begin consideration of this bill next week to work through to the end rather than to start stop, start stop, start stop, as we have done today in an effort to kill the bill?

Mr. ARMEY. I appreciate the gentleman's observation of the sequencing of events. I am afraid I have to disagree with the gentleman's characterizations of the motive. Nevertheless, so many of those amendments that were offered, so many of the substitutes that were offered, come from the gentleman from Texas' side of the aisle, germane or nongermane. The Committee on Rules was very generous and accommodating

to all Members of the Congress. We have before us a very large task, and I will and do have a high priority of returning to that work as frequently and for as extended periods of time as I can manage in coordination with the other legislative business before this body. It is a priority of mine, and I will emphasize that in every planning session I have, and I certainly appreciate again the willingness of the gentleman from Texas to work with me on this, and I am looking forward to everybody feeling confident that they were treated fairly under the rule, they were included, and they do have their opportunity to present their ideas and enter this debate.

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Mr. DOGGETT. I thank the gentleman very much. Does the gentleman believe then, as the gentlewoman from New York asked, that we can see this work completed before July 4?

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman would yield further, I would hope so. I cannot guarantee. As the gentleman from Texas knows, it is very difficult to guarantee anything in terms of a date certain time-line and so forth. But let me just say to the gentleman, if I can say it in perhaps the most colorful way that is allowable within the rules of discourse under debate, it is my intent to have this done, completed, thoroughly giving everybody their opportunity, and out of my life by July 4, if at all possible.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I would ask one other question to my friend. Does the gentleman expect late nights next week, and, if he does, will there be accommodations for the White House event that is scheduled for Thursday evening?

Mr. ARMEY. Again, I thank the gentleman. If the gentleman would yield further, we would try to hold it to no more than moderately late evenings, but the White House event of which you speak, of course, is something that we will accommodate to the maximum of our ability in the schedule.

Mr. BONIOR. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. ARMEY. Since the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR) has the time, I wonder if the gentleman from Michigan would be willing to yield time to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STUMP) for an announcement that I think of great interest to this body.

Mr. BONIOR. I yield to my friend the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STUMP).

ANNOUNCEMENT OF DEATH OF BOB HOPE

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I have the sad responsibility to tell you this afternoon that Bob Hope has passed away. For those people in uniform, from the early days of World War II through the Gulf War, no man or woman in uniform ever had a better friend than Bob Hope.

Bob Hope always said he would never stop entertaining. He said that as long as he was able, "I am not retiring until

they carry me away," he said, "and I will have a few routines on the way to the Big Dipper."

We will all miss him very much. As you know, we honored him just recently. For the first time in the history of this country, we made an honorary veteran. That took place in the rotunda of the Capitol. We are all going to miss him.

Mr. BONIOR. I would add these comments to my friend from Arizona, that we are all saddened by his passing. He has provided so much joy and happiness to our planet, and to our servicemen and women in particular. He was a great American, a great world figure, and we thank him for the memories.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1766 AND H. CON. RES. 240

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor from H.R. 1766 and H. Con. Res. 240.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

TRIBUTE TO PAGE CLASS OF 1998

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

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as we do traditionally on the last day that our pages are with us, to recognize them, to talk about the program and the contributions that they make to the House of Representatives and to all of us individually.

The gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. FOWLER), the Chairman of the Page Board, wanted very much to have been here to do this herself, but she had to catch a plane from Baltimore and so has left us. But, Mr. Speaker, I will include at this point in the RECORD the remarks of the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. FOWLER) and the list of all the pages who have served us this year.

Mrs. FOWLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as Chairman of the House Page Board to give my heartfelt thank you to all of the wonderful and talented students who have been involved over the last year in the House's Page Program.

I know the hard work and, at times, late hours involved in being a page. But I can assure you that it is good practice as you embark college and eventually a career. This program is designed to give you a rich experience as to how our democratic government works. As you leave these marble buildings I hope that you will take with you a deeper understanding of what it means to be an American.

After spending so many hours here in this honored chamber, you must know that you have played a role in history. Your name may not be up on the voting display or your words may not be printed in the Congressional

Record, but you helped to make what this Congress accomplished this year possible. You should feel proud of your achievement and I hope that your service here will inspire you to further success in life. We wish you the best of luck and thank you for your service to our country.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I will include for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, the names of the pages that we salute today:

Joshua Allen, Dominic Alpuche, Chad Appel, Thom Backes, Sarah Beckett, Charlie Bond, Andrew Brehm, Brian Callanan, Keegan Callanan, Marianne Certain, Sarah Clark, Michael Conlon, Leia Cooper, Jason Dore, Richard Downe, Jamie Etherton, Robert Evans, Nathaniel Finn, Julie Fishman, Rebecca Fowler, Stephanie Ginebra, Brock Grunhurd, Lexi Harlow, Ashley Heher, Kristyn Hemingway, and Robin Hill.

Jill Hogue, Shyanne Hughes, Monique Jackson, Michelle Jenkins, Amanda King, Emilie Klein, Jacob Kosoff, Rodney Lake, Ryan Lane, Jennifer Lewis-Pike, Abigail Look, Matthew McClellan, Danae McElroy, Jeremy Milne, Adam Morehouse, Anna Nichols, Jerry Paradise III, Janet Patton, Beth Pezik, Amy Phillips, Kevin Powell, Kristin Quinlan, Elizabeth Quinn, Abigail Racster, and Tracy Raeder.

Ambar Renova, Leslie Robertson, Glenn Schatz, Gina Schilmoeller, Erica Schmitt, Mike Shapiro, Kathleen Sherwin, Timothy Skidmore, Lauren Stafford, Brigit Swanson, Erin Vanderveldt, Meaghann Weniger, Adam Wiggins, Brian Woody, and Erik Yassenoff.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, there are a number of Members who wish to speak on this, and I want to accommodate them all. I would like to begin with the other member of the Page Board who is with me today, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE).

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, about 15 years ago Tip O'Neill appointed me to the Page Board, and that appointment has been one of the most rewarding responsibilities I have had in the Congress of the United States.

We have had great pages in those years, in my 22 years in the Congress, very great pages, and this year's page group is among the very, very best I have known.

There is a program in this country called Close-Up, which is a very, very good program, but no one has seen the Congress as close up as have our pages. They have seen us at our best and at our worst; they have seen democracy in action; they have seen our national leaders; they have seen world leaders. They have enriched us, and I hope that they have been enriched by their experience here.

About a month ago they had an auction to raise some money, and among the things auctioned off was to have lunch with myself. I was the winner of that auction, because I had lunch today with Andy Brehm, Brian Callanan and Keegan Callanan, and I look at people like them, who are representative of all of the pages, and I really have hope for our future.

About sixty years ago Franklin Roosevelt spoke these words, which I think are as true today as they were then. He said, "There is a strange cycle in

human events. To some generations, much is given; of other generations, much is expected."

This generation of Americans has a rendezvous with destiny, and, knowing you, I know that you will meet the challenges of that rendezvous. Thank you and God bless you.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague and friend and fellow member of the Page Board for his remarks. He has been one of the stalwart individuals who has helped to make this page program work so well, and we thank him for his kind remarks.

There are few Members of this body that are better friends of the pages, few Members that take more time to stop by and say hello and thank them and do things for them and even take them on to his boat on the Potomac, than my good friend and colleague from California, DUKE CUNNINGHAM. I would like to yield to him at this time.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. You know, a critter is something that is usually cuddly. They know what a critter is. It is something that is underfoot all the time. Sometimes you wish it away, sometimes you pat it on the head for doing a good job, and critters do whatever critters do. So I aptly named this class "the critters."

We were fortunate enough to have a sunny day and we took 70 of these critters out on the Potomac. I want to tell you, I bought 20 pizzas, 12 bags of chips, 12 bags of pretzels, 15 cases of soda pop, two Price Club bags of nuts, and they were gone before we got to Mount Vernon. They are also hungry critters, as most kids are.

But we do not thank these kids enough. Sometimes they go about, they do their work. And if you have children and you want to talk about responsibility, when they left the boat, I said to a guy when I was up above driving the boat, I said, "Is it clean down below?" One of the critters looked at me and said, "Duke, we are pages," like that is expected.

That is the way that they carry on their daily basis. They do not do it because they have to or that it is expected. It is because they are professionals, they are loving critters, and God bless every one of you. If any of us can ever be the wind in your sails, please give us a call. Thank you.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California for his remarks. It is because of individuals like him that the program for the pages is more than just a job, it becomes a real life experience, where they get to know real people that work here in our Congress and our government, and I thank DUKE CUNNINGHAM for making that very possible for us.

I would like to yield to the gentleman from Virginia, who also is, like myself, a former page, and knows something about this program, though from a slightly earlier day.

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, it was many years ago. I remember my