

question if he would care to. The ad I just read, "Neal Smith is a terrible Congressman because he opposes voluntary school prayer," would that fit within your supposed "voter guide" exception?

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CAMPBELL. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Chairman, I am not satisfied with the gentleman's response to me on the voter guide, why he thinks that is permitted by Shays-Meehan. Now the gentleman is asking me to comment upon his hypothetical.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. Chairman, reclaiming my time, it is my time. I yield to my friend to answer if he chooses. If he chooses not, I am also happy.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CAMPBELL. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Chairman, it is amazing to me that the gentleman would want to stop an American citizen from putting out anything that they wanted to have the opportunity to say, that Neal Smith is a terrible Congressman. I am not advocating defeat or anything.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. Chairman, reclaiming my time, if the Whip would stay in the well, I would like to engage him; it just has to be a colloquy, not just one way.

The CHAIRMAN. The time of the gentleman from California (Mr. CAMPBELL) has expired.

(On request of Mr. DELAY, and by unanimous consent, Mr. CAMPBELL was allowed to proceed for 2 additional minutes.)

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. Chairman, the provision here is not that an ad shall be prohibited. The question here is whether soft money shall be allowed to pay for it. And a loophole designed for a voter guide—

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Chairman, if the gentleman will yield further on that point right there, the gentleman interrupted me, let me interrupt the gentleman on a point, because the gentleman claims it is soft money. No, it is money raised by Americans who want to participate in the political process and express themselves about positions or votes taken by Members of Congress or people wanting to be Members of Congress that the gentleman is trying to prohibit.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. Chairman, reclaiming my time, I think the Whip puts it quite well. It is a debate on this issue. But let us call it that. Shall we have limits to how much money potentially can corrupt our campaign system or not?

A very legitimate different point of view from mine, but a very legitimate point of view, says no, let us not have any limits on campaign finance. That is actually the view I think espoused by the distinguished Whip.

But it is contrary to the whole idea of campaign finance reform. If we are

for limiting the potentially corrupting influence of money, as we have in the law now, by a \$1,000 maximum, then we should not create a loophole so huge as to permit the example that I gave to my friend from California, as I gave to my distinguished colleague and friend, the Whip from Texas. I yield back the balance of my time, unless my colleague wishes to answer my hypothetical.

Mr. BILBRAY. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CAMPBELL. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. BILBRAY. Mr. Chairman, I think the distinguished Whip has articulated his position quite clearly. I think that, Mr. Chairman, there is a disagreement about how this process should work. I do not think money may absolutely corrupt, but it does influence, and there are those of us that feel we should limit that influence and those who feel we should not.

This, obviously, is an issue of a huge loophole and just how much resources are able to be funneled into a campaign process. I understand the gentleman who is introducing this amendment's position, because he feels that there should not be any limits, and I respect that.

But if we are going to have limits, and if we are going to enforce those limits, then we cannot have a huge loophole that allows groups to come in and circumvent the entire premise that there should be a limit on money's ability to influence elections, and maybe this amendment's whole concept is to create such a loophole, that it destroys the entire enforceability of the limit concept.

I appreciate the gentleman from California's position and the fact that we do not want to create a loophole.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WICKER) having assumed the chair, Mr. SHIMKUS, Chairman pro tempore of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2183) to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to reform the financing of campaigns for elections for Federal office, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

REQUEST TO LIMIT FURTHER DEBATE AND AMENDMENTS ON THIS DAY TO SHAYS AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE DURING FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2183, BIPARTISAN CAMPAIGN INTEGRITY ACT OF 1997

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that during further consideration of H.R. 2183 on this day, pursuant to H. Res. 442 and H. Res. 485, the pending amendment which we have

been discussing by the gentleman from California (Mr. DOOLITTLE) to the amendment in the nature of a substitute by the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS) be debatable for 30 minutes, equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent. No other amendment to the amendment by the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS) shall be in order on this day, except the amendments that have been placed at the desk, which are as follows:

The amendment by the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER); the amendment by the gentleman from New York (Mr. FOSSELLA); the amendment by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS); the amendment by the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. PICKERING); and the amendment by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY).

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On this day, each amendment may be considered only in the order listed and may be offered only by the Member designated, or his designee, shall be considered as read, and shall be debatable for 30 minutes equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, and shall not be subject to a demand for a division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole.

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WICKER). Is there objection to dispensing with the reading of the amendments only?

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, we have been talking, at least before we left for the 2-week break, we were talking about a unanimous consent agreement on campaign finance reform. We had talked about a comprehensive agreement, an agreement that would result in us being able to complete campaign finance reform by the August recess on August 7; and, to that end, many of us met today and we had talked about agreeing to a unanimous consent agreement and making part of the unanimous consent agreement the fact that we would take up in August, the week of August 3 through 7, all of the substitutes that had been made in order, have an hour of debate for each of those, and then vote up or down on those substitutes.

I think, Mr. Speaker, if we look at how long it has taken us to get to this point in time and if we consider the fact that, under the rule, we could literally have 250 to 260 amendments, that it makes sense for us to try to come to an agreement on a comprehensive unanimous consent agreement that would result in not only discussing those amendments that we need to discuss but also a definite, definitive time and date, that is August 3 through 7, where we would vote on each of the substitutes.

So that is the unanimous consent agreement that I was hoping that we could get.

I know that the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS) had proposed limiting to 34 different amendments before we left. Now that we have a unanimous consent agreement for just one evening, I would point out that they are all Republican amendments, and two of the amendments, the Stearns and the Fossella amendment, are nearly identical or are at least pretty similar.

So it does not seem to make any sense to agree to a unanimous consent agreement for one day when, in fact, what we need here is some kind of a commitment and some kind of an agreement in writing that we can have a vote on the substitutes that have been offered here and have that vote before the August recess. I do not think I have to tell my colleagues how long this process has been ongoing over a period of the last several years.

Mr. DELAY. Regular order, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Regular order would be the reading of the amendments.

Does the gentleman from Massachusetts object to the reading of the amendments?

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I object to the reading of the amendments. I object to the original request.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is recognized.

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I objected.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Does the gentleman from Massachusetts object to the original unanimous consent request also?

Mr. MEEHAN. Yes, Mr. Speaker, I do.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Objection is heard.

DESIGNATION OF HON. GEORGE R. NETHERCUTT, JR., TO ACT AS SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE TO SIGN ENROLLED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS ON THIS DAY

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 14, 1998.

I hereby designate the Honorable GEORGE R. NETHERCUTT, Jr. to act as Speaker pro tempore to sign enrolled bills and joint resolutions on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the designation is agreed to. There was no objection.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4104, TREASURY, POSTAL SERVICE, AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a

privileged report (Rept. No. 105-622) on the resolution (H. Res. 498) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4104) making appropriations for the Treasury Department, the United States Postal Service, the Executive Office of the President, and certain Independent Agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3682, CHILD CUSTODY PROTECTION ACT

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 105-623) on the resolution (H. Res. 499) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3682) to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit taking minors across State lines to avoid laws requiring the involvement of parents in abortion decisions, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3267, SONNY BONO MEMORIAL SALTON SEA RECLAMATION ACT

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 105-624) on the resolution (H. Res. 500) providing for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 3267) to direct the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation, to conduct a feasibility study and construct a project to reclaim the Salton Sea, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

BIPARTISAN CAMPAIGN INTEGRITY ACT OF 1997

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WICKER). Pursuant to House Resolution 442 and rule XXIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 2183.

□ 1836

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 2183) to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to reform the financing of campaigns for elections for Federal office, and for other purposes, with Mr. SHIMKUS (Chairman pro tempore) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, pending was Amendment No. 82 by the gentleman from California (Mr. DOOLITTLE) to Amendment No.

13 by the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS).

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

Mr. Chairman, I asked to rise into the House so that I could propound a unanimous consent request. However, a point of order was reserved and a speech was then made and then objection was heard. Unfortunately, I was not able during that monologue to explain why I offered the unanimous consent, so I am doing so now.

The majority leader has committed that the campaign finance debate will end prior to the August recess. That coincides with the gentleman from Massachusetts' specified dates of somewhere between August 3 and August 7. His complaint was that we do not have a complete agreement in which they have structured it and they have signed off on it.

What I am trying to do as the manager of a bill, if I cannot meet the entire structural agreement, I thought that it would be appropriate to move us along, to at least begin to structure it day by day. What I offered was a structure for today.

Contained within that unanimous consent was a desire to continue to debate this particular amendment by the gentleman from California (Mr. DOOLITTLE) to the substitute by the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS) for 30 minutes. We have consumed far more than 30 minutes prior to my unanimous consent being propounded. I am quite sure we are going to consume far more than an additional 30 minutes.

So I have some difficulty in understanding the argument from the other side in which they continue to make a point without listening.

The majority leader has said, we will finish this debate prior to the August recess. It would seem to me that it would behoove all of us who want to have an orderly process, give a fair opportunity for as many people who wish to enter into the debate as possible, to structure it. What we got was an objection from the other side because we could not structure from today until August. What I was offering was a structure for today. But, clearly, that was objected to.

So if we cannot do it day by day, we must propound something that is going to extend over a long period of time. It just baffles me that the debate that goes on is that we want to move through this in an orderly fashion, but then they object to an orderly fashion being offered for today. If the complaint is it is not everything, why would they object to today? If we can get order for today, maybe we can get order for tomorrow. If we can get order for tomorrow, maybe, working together, we can get order for the entire period.

But they seem to want to make the argument that they want to move forward; and when we try to propose an opportunity to agree to move forward,