

is far too great of a risk for our men and women in uniform to assume when the security of the American people is at stake.

Mr. Speaker, may God bless America.

DECENNIAL 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. Mr. Speaker, this week we will be debating the appropriation for the Year 2000 Decennial Census. The census is something that is required by our Constitution and is very fundamental to our entire democratic system of government, because most elected officials in America are dependent on an accurate census to be conducted.

Unfortunately, the 2000 Census has become politically involved, because President Clinton has decided to radically change the way the census is conducted, and for the first time in the history of this country, going back to Jefferson when he conducted the first census, we are not going to attempt to count everyone.

I think it would be helpful, as we begin this debate this week, to understand the Clinton budget plan and what is traditionally used where we count everybody in the census. Under the Clinton plan, as designed, and it is an interesting theory, questionnaires will be mailed out in the year April of 2000 and be mailed back in. The expectation is that we will get maybe 65 percent response rate, though that is in question because when the American people realize that we are not going to count everybody, that we are going to use polling and sampling, the response rate may be significantly affected. But let us hope they get a 65 percent response rate.

Then we do what is called a non-response follow-up. But what the Clinton plan is proposing is instead of trying to follow up on everybody in this country, they are going to automatically delete, not count, 10 percent of the population. So that means about 27 million people will not be included in the census. Let me repeat that. Mr. Speaker, 27 million people will not be included in the census under President Clinton's plan. He will only count up to 90 percent of the population and he will use cloning to create the mysterious 10 percent. He is going to clone 10 percent of the population, 10 percent of the population.

Now, the 10 percent that is not counted is not the hard-to-count people. Some people say, oh, those are the hard-to-count people. These are a randomly-selected 10 percent where maybe people are on vacation, they are not in town or something, and they do not complete their questionnaire. So they are going to be potentially not counted. That is just not the right way to do that.

So, Mr. Speaker, once they have cloned in that 10 percent of the population, they will then do what is called an ICM sample of 750,000 households. The 750,000-household count will then be used to adjust the clone numbers to get what they think would be the right number.

In 1990, they used something with only 150,000 households. This time they are going to take a sample five times larger, but they are going to do it in half the time. It is very unrealistic. In fact, the whole plan is extremely risky and is moving towards failure.

The General Accounting Office and the Inspector General have both warned this is a high-risk plan and the risk of failure is very high.

Now, let me go back to the way it has been done in the past where we make an effort to count everyone. In 1990, they sent out the questionnaire as they would propose this time in the year 2000, but this time the key is going to be the mailing lists. We realize that about 50 percent of the problem back in 1990 was the mailing list, and so the Census Bureau is putting new efforts and new ideas into doing that. In fact, there is \$100 million of extra money to let the Census Bureau go out and verify the addresses. So we are going to do a better job to help address that part of the problem.

There will be paid advertising this time around to help encourage the response rate and, hopefully, under full enumeration, we can do a second mailing of questionnaires and even get a higher response rate. Then, when we go to nonresponse follow-up, say we get a 65 percent rate or 70 percent, when we do the follow-up, we are going to try to count everybody, not try to delete 27 million and create them by cloning. We are going to go out and use whatever efforts we need and resources, and that means using administrative records.

If we have an undercount of children, which we did have, let us work with the WIC program and the Medicaid program. There are ways to go about doing this. This is hard work. Let us also make it easier to use people from the local communities to participate in the program.

Mr. Speaker, the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK) has a proposal, which we are working with her on, to help support and to help people who say they are receiving food stamps or welfare benefits to not lose those benefits when they work part-time for the Census Bureau. So in the Haitian community in Miami, we want Haitians to go out to help count Haitians, and this makes it possible.

So, there are a lot of things that can be done to improve upon the 1990 census, but the important thing is let us count everybody, because everyone counts. It is just plain wrong to not count 27 million people, and say we have all of these big fancy computers with all of these academic intellectuals up here who know how to clone people and create a virtual population of America. It is just not right.

We need to work this in a bipartisan fashion. We do not need a Democratic census. We do not need a Republican census. We need an American census. I hope when we debate the Mollohan amendment, we realize that the right way to do this is to work together to count all Americans.

OPPORTUNITY FOR MEANINGFUL CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

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

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, tonight this Chamber has the opportunity to vote for meaningful campaign finance reform. Tonight, Members of this House will cast one of the most important votes of their careers in this House: To help restore integrity to our democratic system of government. That is what this debate is about tonight, to help restore some integrity to our democratic process.

Mr. Speaker, the vote we will be casting tonight is on legislation that was introduced by Senator MCCAIN and Senator FEINGOLD in the Senate, and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MEEHAN) and myself in the House, along with a number of other sponsors.

The McCain-Feingold bill in the Senate had a majority of Members who sought to support this legislation, but were not able to break the filibuster because they felt that the House would never deal with this issue, so why should the Senate take it up. But tonight, this House has the opportunity to pass the McCain-Feingold legislation, the Meehan-Shays legislation as it is referred to in the House.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation bans soft money. It completely eliminates the soft money contributions, the unlimited sums from individuals, corporations, labor unions and other interest groups that go to the political parties. In recent years these contributions have been rerouted right back down to help the individual candidates. This makes a mockery of our campaign laws which, under our constitutional form of government, provide for limitation of campaign contributions. Those limits are ignored because of our failure to ban soft money to the political parties.

The second thing this legislation does is it recognizes the sham issue ads for what they truly are: campaign ads. They are not sham campaign ads; they are truly campaign ads. They are sham issue ads. In other words, issue ads are able to circumvent the campaign law, because they do not say "vote for" or "vote against." Yet they are clearly campaign ads.

Under our bill any ad run 60 days to an election that names or pictures a federal candidate is a campaign ad and is called such. In addition, any ad that expresses "unambiguous and unmistakable support for" or "opposition to" a

clearly identified Federal candidate, is a campaign ad and would come under campaign finance laws not just 60 days to an election, but 365.

Mr. Speaker, the bottom line is we seek to call these sham issue ads what they are: Campaign ads. One of the significant side effects of that is that by doing so, we prevent both corporate and union money being utilized in these advertisements. Right now, it is the law that corporate money and union dues money cannot be used in campaign ads.

The third thing we seek to do is to improve the Federal Elections Commission's disclosure and enforcement. We provide for disclosure on the Internet electronically, and that within 20 days to an election, contributions and expenditures of \$1,000 or more must be disclosed every 24 hours.

We have other miscellaneous aspects to the bill. We ban unsolicited franked mass mail 6 months to an election, and we make sure that foreign money is illegal, and that fund-raising on government property is illegal. The reason why it has not been illegal today is that soft money is not viewed as campaign money and, therefore, it does not come under the campaign law.

The bottom line is: we ban soft money, the unlimited sums from individuals, corporations, labor unions and other interest groups; we recognize the sham issue ads for what they truly are, campaign ads; and, we improve FEC disclosure and enforcement.

We have debated this bill for a long time. This is not a new piece of legislation that is coming to the floor of the House. We were promised a vote last year, but did not receive it, in February or March. We were then finally promised a vote, and under what is clearly a very open and frankly fair process, we were allowed 60 amendments to our bill. Some of those were gutting amendments, and some of those were "siren call" amendments that one would want to vote for, but then it broke apart a coalition.

Fortunately, we have repelled every one of these amendments. Now the question is will we pass Meehan-Shays legislation; will it become Queen of the Hill in competition of the other substitutes that will follow this week? Will, at the end, when it becomes and if it becomes the Queen of the Hill legislation, will it be sent to the Senate?

Mr. Speaker, I hope and pray we will do our job and send this bill to the Senate. We can begin that process by voting for it tonight.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 12 p.m.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 35 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until 12 p.m.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska) at 12 noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Reverend James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

We are thankful, O God, for all Your blessings so freely given to us and to all people. We know that these gifts are as high and as deep and as wide as Your mercy and as abundant as Your grace. You have blessed us in ways that are more than our deserving and greater than our ability to grasp. And so we pray, O gracious God, that as we are thankful for what You have done for us in the past, we will continue to appreciate Your goodness to us in all the days to come.

In Your name, we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PALLONE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

PRESIDENT VETOES BILL ALLOWING TAX-FREE EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, H.G. Wells once said, "Human history becomes more and more a race between education and catastrophe."

Well, two weeks ago special interests, liberals, and the President gave in to catastrophe, putting our children's education, their future, and this Nation at risk.

On July 21 of this year, the President dashed the hopes of millions of Americans, the parents of millions of children, by vetoing a bill that would have allowed parents to set up tax-free education savings accounts.

It is truly a shame that giving parents more of an opportunity to save for their children's education is now a partisan issue.

This unfortunate veto reminds me of a saying from one of my high school Latin classes: "Via ovicipitum dura

est." For you rocket scientists out there who never took Latin, "the way of the egghead is hard."

The President is now on record as thinking that parents who save for their children's education are doing a disservice to them. This is truly a ridiculous notion.

Let us support our children. Let us support their future. I urge all my colleagues not to let catastrophe win but to override the President's veto on education savings.

SUPPORT DEMOCRATS' PATIENTS BILL OF RIGHTS

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, the Republican leadership has succeeded in steam rolling its HMO bill through the House, and patients should beware.

The Republican bill is far worse than current law and riddled with loopholes. When you compare it to the Democrats' Patients Bill of Rights, you find there is no comparison at all.

I just want to mention one negative aspect, just one negative aspect, of the Republican bill. It does not guarantee them access to a specialist. Under the Democratic bill, if they had cancer they could go directly to an oncologist. Under the Republican plan, they would still have to go see their primary care physician for a referral and there is no guarantee that they would get to see a specialist if they need one.

Under the Republican bill, if they need to see a specialist outside of their HMO network and their HMO says no, they are out of luck.

The Democrats' Patients Bill of Rights ensures that they will be able to go outside of their network at no cost to them if they need to see a specialist that their HMO does not have.

Mr. Speaker, the President has said that he will veto the Republican bill if they send it to him in its current form, and the do-nothing 105th Congress is running out of time.

Let us send the President a bill he will sign, one that is written for patients, not insurance companies. Support the Democrats' Patients Bill of Rights.

JUDGE STARR DOING A GOOD JOB

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, Judge Starr was appointed by a 3-judge panel to investigate allegations of criminal conduct by the White House. Mr. Speaker, he has compiled a remarkable record.

Although we would never know it if we were watching TV today, Judge Starr has been perhaps the most single independent successful counsel in history. Fifteen guilty pleas or convictions thus far. Fifteen. And yet, the untruth gets repeated over and over again