

\$583 million, or 35 percent more than they raised at this point two years ago.(6) The major new 527 organizations active in federal elections in the aftermath of BCRA (Joint Victory Committee 2004, Media Fund, Americans Coming Together, MoveOn.org, and America Votes) raised slightly more than \$47 million, while Club for Growth, a conservative group, generated more than \$5 million.(7)

To what extent this will change in the aftermath of the FEC's May 13 decision to defer immediate action on proposed regulations for 527 groups remains to be seen. But it now appears that the parties are benefiting from the deep partisan divide within the country and the high level of competition in the presidential race, which is spurring tens of thousands of individuals to contribute to their preferred party for the first time. This suggests that the funds spent by nonparty groups will supplement, rather than overshadow, the role of the parties in 2004.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO BETTY STRONG

• Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, earlier this month, Sioux City, IA, lost one of its most passionate and beloved community leaders, Betty Strong.

Betty was an adopted daughter of Iowa—she was born and raised in Missouri—but she became a true Iowan, through and through. She moved to Sioux City in 1953, and for the next half century she worked tirelessly for her community and as an activist in the Democratic Party. She was one of those people who always strove to make a positive difference in the lives of those around her, and Betty succeeded magnificently.

Betty's understanding and passion for politics made her an invaluable participant in countless State, local, and national campaigns. She was a delegate for Vice President Walter Mondale at the 1984 Democratic National Convention, and participated in Senator JOSEPH BIDEN's 1988 Presidential campaign in Iowa. In 2000, she coordinated Iowans for Gore.

I met Betty more than 20 years ago and she quickly became a very dear friend and trusted political counselor. She was my chief supporter and organizer in Sioux City during my first campaign for the Senate.

In 1976, Betty became the first woman to be elected chairperson of the Woodbury County Democratic Party, and she also served on a variety of other local Democratic and women's organizations.

Betty's tireless organizing and campaigning in the late 1980s helped to win the vote to build four new high schools and a juvenile detention center in Sioux City. From 1989 until her death, Betty served as the president of the Missouri River Historical Development Inc., a nonprofit group that built the \$4 million Sioux City Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center. Betty was very proud of that center, which, she said, "brings history alive for people of all ages."

The list of Betty's accomplishments runs long, and is a testament to all she has done to better the lives of the people around her. She was involved in politics for all the right reasons. She wasn't seeking fame. She simply wanted a government that worked for all people. Betty Strong embodied the qualities and spirit that people in my State cherish.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Betty's husband Darrell, their children Sharon, Jackie, and Marvin, and their spouses. Iowans are deeply indebted to Betty for her devotion to public service. We will miss her greatly.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

NOTIFICATION OF THE PRESIDENT'S INTENT TO ENTER INTO A FREE TRADE AGREEMENT WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF BAHRAIN—PM 86

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

To the Congress of the United States:

Consistent with section 2105(a)(1)(A) of the Trade Act of 2002, (Public Law 107-210; the "Trade Act"), I am pleased to notify the Congress of my intent to enter into a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the Government of Bahrain.

This agreement will create new opportunities for America's workers, farmers, businesses, and consumers by eliminating barriers in trade with Bahrain. Entering into an FTA with Bahrain will not only strengthen our bilateral ties with this important ally, it will also advance my goal of a U.S.-Middle East Free Trade Area (MEFTA) by 2013.

Consistent with the Trade Act, I am sending this notification at least 90 days in advance of signing the United States-Bahrain FTA. My Administration looks forward to working with the Congress in developing appropriate legislation to approve and implement this free trade agreement.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, June 15, 2004.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:58 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills and joint resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2010. An act to protect the voting rights of members of the Armed Services in elections for the Delegate representing American Samoa in the United States House of Representatives, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2055. An act to amend Public Law 89-366 to allow for an adjustment in the number of free roaming horses permitted in Cape Lookout National Seashore.

H.R. 3378. An act to assist in the conservation of marine turtles and the nesting habitats of marine turtles in foreign countries.

H.R. 3504. An act to amend the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to redesignate the American Indian Education Foundation as the National Fund for Excellence in American Indian Education.

H.R. 3658. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to strengthen education, prevention, and treatment programs relating to stroke, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4061. An act to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to provide assistance for orphans and other vulnerable children in developing countries.

H.R. 4103. An act to extend and modify the trade benefits under the African Growth and Opportunity Act.

H.R. 4278. An act to amend the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 to support programs of grants to States to address the assistive technology needs of individuals with disabilities, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4322. An act to provide for the transfer of the Nebraska Avenue Naval Complex in the District of Columbia to facilitate the establishment of the headquarters for the Department of Homeland Security, to provide for the acquisition by the Department of the Navy of suitable replacement facilities, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4323. An act to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide rapid acquisition authority to the Secretary of Defense to respond to combat emergencies.

H.R. 4417. An act to modify certain deadlines pertaining to machine-readable, tamper-resistant entry and exit documents.

H.J. Res. 97. Joint resolution approving the renewal of import restrictions contained in the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003.

The message also announced that the House had agreed to the following concurrent resolutions, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 62. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that Katherine Dunham should be recognized for her groundbreaking achievements in dance, theater, music, and education, as well as for her work as an activist striving for racial equality throughout the world.

H. Con. Res. 63. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that Lionel Hampton should be honored for his contributions to American music.

H. Con. Res. 260. Concurrent resolution recognizing and honoring the service of those who volunteer their time to participate in funeral honor guards at the interment or memorialization of deceased veterans of the uniformed services of the United States at national cemeteries across the country.

H. Con. Res. 439. Concurrent resolution honoring the members of the Army Motor Transport Brigade who during World War II