

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, like the previous speaker, I too want to compliment the Speaker for giving us this opportunity to debate what I feel is the most important issue that we are going to bring up in this session of Congress, and that is the debate and the votes on meaningful campaign finance reform in order to return some credibility to our political process.

When I was first elected in 1996, the shortcomings of our current system became obvious to me. The tidal wave of money washing around during an election does not elevate political discord and contribute to the debate of ideas. It simply drowns out the voices of those who cannot afford to buy into the process. The big soft money contributions contribute to the perception that special interests have too much influence in the political process. And that perception is correct.

So here we are once again, attempting to right the wrongs of our current system. Drawing from the lessons from the previous session of Congress, the best chance we have for reform is represented by the Shays-Meehan bill. With a united front in the House, we can send a clear message to the Senate today that the time for reform is now.

The citizens of western Wisconsin have told me that our democracy belongs to the people, not to the large money special interests. They do not expect us to take no for an answer on this important issue of reforming the political process. I encourage my colleagues to support Shays-Meehan today and to oppose the "poison-pill" amendments and substitutes.

#### TIME FOR ACCOUNTABILITY FOR INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

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

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, in the last Congress, this body at the urging of the administration approved \$18 billion in new payments to the International Monetary Fund. At that time, some of us called for reforms to this flawed institution, reforms that would have required real transparency and would have provided greater accountability for the IMF. But at that time, the administration's position was that it was not the time to institute reforms, that it was critical to send the money first, they said, reform it later.

So that is what Congress did, not with my vote; but that is what Congress did. Congress sent a check for \$18 billion, only to find out last month that billions of dollars in IMF loans to Russia, the fund's largest borrower over the last 7 years, likely was diverted and laundered through U.S. and other Western banks.

The IMF states that they have no evidence that their money is involved

and that they are investigating. Well, it is time that this Congress conducts its own investigation and holds the IMF accountable. Its largest donors, the U.S. taxpayers, deserve no less.

□ 1030

#### EAST TIMOR CRISIS

(Ms. MCKINNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, it is Rwanda all over again. Thousands of people are being murdered in East Timor while the international community dawdles. I applaud the Australian government for volunteering its forces to peacekeeping efforts long before our own country recognized the need for action.

In a brutal takeover of East Timor over 20 years ago sanctioned by the United States, the people of East Timor have been subjected to an ethnic cleansing of one-third of the entire indigenous population. All the while the U.S. and Australian Armed Forces provided training to the very units that are on the rampage right now. Yet again, the U.S. Government has blood on its hands.

We apologize for Rwanda after letting 1 million innocents die. We apologize for Guatemala after condoning the brutal murders of even U.S. citizens. When will we apologize for East Timor, when it is too late?

Mr. Speaker, the time to act is now. The administration should stop dawdling and start packing to save the lives of the innocent East Timor people. What is taking this administration so long to get it right?

#### CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

(Ms. BERKLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of meaningful campaign finance reform and passage of the Shays-Meehan campaign finance reform bill. This Congress must act to restore public confidence and participation in our electoral system.

Today the House finally takes up this important debate. I urge my colleagues to support Shays-Meehan in its current form. The American public deserves a debate on meaningful reform, not a weak substitute disguised as reform. If we are to maintain public trust in our political process, we have a duty and an obligation to address this issue.

Let us ban soft money and stop the attack ads disguised as issue advocacy soft money pays for. Let us strengthen the Federal Election Commission and give it the teeth it needs to enforce campaign finance laws.

The American people are tired of politicians who talk about reform but do nothing to enact it. Let us show our constituents that this time we mean it. Let us pass this important piece of legislation.

#### AMENDMENTS AND SUBSTITUTES TO THE SHAYS-MEEHAN BILL WOULD WEAKEN CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

(Ms. SLAUGHTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, almost every year since I have been in the House we have struggled to try to pass meaningful campaign finance reform, and this year is no different.

Ten poison pill amendments and substitutes have been introduced that are designed to weaken the Shays-Meehan bill. This bill is necessary to cut off the flow of unlimited and often undisclosed money into the Federal election system.

Specifically, the bill closes two primary loopholes through which this money flows into Federal campaigns, soft money and sham issue ads. All of us have received letters and phone calls from constituents who care about this issue and want this system cleaned up.

One of my constituents stated that as long as the fox has full access to the henhouse, he has no plans to repair the hole. So it goes with politicians, he said. He believes the only way campaign finance reform would happen would be to take it out of our hands.

Let us prove him wrong. Congress needs to close these loopholes now to stop the corruption of elections into the 21st century and to restore Americans' faith in their government. Vote yes on Shays-Meehan and no on the poison pill amendments.

#### TIME TO PASS THE SHAYS-MEEHAN BILL

(Ms. LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in support of Shays-Meehan. This is one of the most important bills that this House will consider and I hope pass. The Nation is watching today. Individuals as well as the faith community, the League of Women Voters, Common Cause, and a host of others in my district and nationwide are committed to good, honest government, government where ordinary citizens could have a chance, through their participation in the political process, to have a voice and not be drowned out by the millions of dollars now available for only the rich.

We have had laws since 1907 and 1947 that forbid soft money from flowing

into campaigns. However, the loopholes have been great and we need to close them. The Shays-Meehan bill closes the loopholes by blocking the present flow of unlimited soft money and unregulated contributions to the political parties. Shays-Meehan, our bipartisan bill, also blocks last-minute campaign ads that masquerade as issue ads.

The Nation is watching. Our constituents are watching. It is time to pass the Shays-Meehan bill.

**AMERICA NEEDS TO INVEST IN ITS DEFENSE SYSTEMS**

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

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, our military cannot fight one MRC, that is regional conflict, today. General Ryan shut down the Air Force that put 1 year of life on every aircraft from Kosovo.

Last week the press reported that the services are being hit with a \$5 billion tax, due to a sudden loss of defense budget. We stood in the well on this floor and said that the President's budget was gimmicks.

He said that inflation would stay the same over the next 10 years, and so would fuel prices. They have gone up. Those prices cut \$5 billion out of our defense system. The President knew it when he did it and he still did it, and when the Joint Chiefs said they needed \$150 billion just to come up to fight two conflicts at the same time, the President said, I will give you a \$1 billion offset, which means a net zero.

We need to invest in our defense systems and provide for our men and women the training and assets when we ask them to go into conflict.

**NO RETURN TO ANNUAL DEFICITS**

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, just before Congress recessed for the August break, the majority Republicans passed the so-called Financial Freedom Act. I think a more appropriate name for the GOP tax plan should be "A Return to the Massive Annual Debt," or maybe "The Medicare Elimination Act."

I think the size of the GOP bill highlights the willingness to neglect the financial security of our Nation. Both Democrats and Republicans want tax cuts. The difference between the two parties is the Democrats want to make sure we save social security and modernize Medicare, including a prescription benefit for our senior citizens, at the same time trying to buy down our national debt, and, to follow my colleague, the gentleman from California,

to make sure we modernize our military without adding to the national debt.

The Republican plan is a financial irresponsible scheme which would lead to higher taxes in the future, slow down our economy, and force huge deficits and massive tax increases on our children and grandchildren.

The American people know that the failure to address these issues today will only make the problems greater for the future. Whether we are talking about Medicare, social security, defense, let us not add to our national debt.

**THE JOURNAL**

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Florida). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the pending business is the question of agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal of the last day's proceedings.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 360, nays 41, answered "present" 1, not voting 31, as follows:

[Roll No. 408]  
YEAS—360

Abercrombie  
Ackerman  
Allen  
Andrews  
Armey  
Bachus  
Baker  
Baldacci  
Baldwin  
Ballenger  
Barr  
Barrett (NE)  
Barrett (WI)  
Bartlett  
Barton  
Bass  
Bateman  
Becerra  
Bentsen  
Bereuter  
Berkley  
Berman  
Berry  
Biggert  
Bilirakis  
Bishop  
Blagojevich  
Bliley  
Blumenauer  
Blunt  
Boehlert  
Boehner  
Bonilla  
Bono  
Boswell  
Boucher  
Boyd

Brady (PA)  
Brady (TX)  
Brown (OH)  
Bryant  
Burr  
Buyer  
Callahan  
Calvert  
Camp  
Campbell  
Canady  
Cannon  
Capps  
Capuano  
Cardin  
Castle  
Chabot  
Chambliss  
Chenoweth  
Clayton  
Coble  
Coburn  
Collins  
Combest  
Condit  
Conyers  
Cook  
Cooksey  
Cox  
Coyne  
Cramer  
Crowley  
Cubin  
Cummings  
Cunningham  
Danner  
Davis (FL)

Davis (IL)  
Davis (VA)  
Deal  
DeGette  
DeLahunt  
DeLauro  
DeLay  
DeMint  
Deutsch  
Diaz-Balart  
Dickey  
Dicks  
Dingell  
Dooley  
Doolittle  
Doyle  
Duncan  
Dunn  
Edwards  
Ehlers  
Ehrlich  
Emerson  
Engel  
Eshoo  
Etheridge  
Evans  
Everett  
Ewing  
Farr  
Fletcher  
Foley  
Forbes  
Ford  
Fowler  
Frank (MA)  
Franks (NJ)  
Frelinghuysen

Frost  
Gallegly  
Ganske  
Gejdenson  
Gekas  
Gilchrest  
Gillmor  
Gilman  
Gonzalez  
Goode  
Goodlatte  
Goodling  
Gordon  
Goss  
Graham  
Granger  
Green (TX)  
Green (WI)  
Greenwood  
Hall (OH)  
Hall (TX)  
Hansen  
Hastings (WA)  
Hayes  
Hayworth  
Herger  
Hill (IN)  
Hilleary  
Hinojosa  
Hobson  
Hoeffel  
Hoekstra  
Holden  
Holt  
Hooley  
Horn  
Hostettler  
Houghton  
Hoyer  
Hulshof  
Hyde  
Inslee  
Isakson  
Istook  
Jackson (IL)  
Jackson-Lee  
(TX)  
Jenkins  
John  
Johnson (CT)  
Johnson, E. B.  
Johnson, Sam  
Jones (NC)  
Kanjorski  
Kasich  
Kelly  
Kennedy  
Kildee  
Kilpatrick  
Kind (WI)  
King (NY)  
Klecicka  
Klink  
Knollenberg  
Kolbe  
Kuykendall  
LaFalce  
LaHood  
Lampson  
Lantos  
Larson  
Latham  
LaTourette  
Lazio  
Lee  
Levin  
Lewis (CA)  
Lewis (GA)  
Lewis (KY)  
Linder  
Lipinski  
Lofgren  
Lowey  
Lucas (KY)

Lucas (OK)  
Luther  
Maloney (CT)  
Maloney (NY)  
Manzullo  
Martinez  
Mascara  
Matsui  
McCarthy (MO)  
McCarthy (NY)  
McCollum  
McCrery  
McHugh  
McInnis  
McIntyre  
McKeon  
McKinney  
McNulty  
Meek (FL)  
Meeks (NY)  
Menendez  
Metcalf  
Mica  
Millender-McDonald  
Miller (FL)  
Miller, Gary  
Miller, George  
Minge  
Mink  
Moakley  
Mollohan  
Moore  
Moran (VA)  
Morella  
Murtha  
Myrick  
Nadler  
Napolitano  
Neal  
Nethercutt  
Ney  
Northup  
Norwood  
Nussle  
Oliver  
Ortiz  
Ose  
Owens  
Oxley  
Packard  
Pallone  
Pascrell  
Pastor  
Paul  
Payne  
Pease  
Pelosi  
Peterson (MN)  
Peterson (PA)  
Petri  
Phelps  
Pickering  
Pitts  
Pombo  
Pomeroy  
Portman  
Price (NC)  
Quinn  
Radanovich  
Rahall  
Regula  
Reyes  
Reynolds  
Rivers  
Rodriguez  
Roemer  
Rogers  
Rohrabacher  
Rothman  
Roukema  
Roybal-Allard  
Royce  
Rush

Ryan (WI)  
Ryun (KS)  
Salmon  
Sanchez  
Sanders  
Sandlin  
Sanford  
Sawyer  
Saxton  
Scarborough  
Schakowsky  
Scott  
Sensenbrenner  
Sessions  
Shadegg  
Shays  
Sherman  
Sherwood  
Shimkus  
Shows  
Shuster  
Simpson  
Sisisky  
Skeen  
Skelton  
Slaughter  
Smith (MI)  
Smith (NJ)  
Smith (TX)  
Smith (WA)  
Snyder  
Souder  
Spratt  
Stabenow  
Stark  
Stearns  
Stenholm  
Strickland  
Stump  
Sununu  
Sweeney  
Talent  
Tancredo  
Tanner  
Tauscher  
Tauzin  
Terry  
Thomas  
Thornberry  
Thune  
Thurman  
Tiahrt  
Tierney  
Toomey  
Towns  
Traficant  
Turner  
Udall (CO)  
Upton  
Velazquez  
Vento  
Vitter  
Walden  
Walsh  
Wamp  
Watkins  
Watt (NC)  
Watts (OK)  
Waxman  
Weiner  
Weldon (FL)  
Weldon (PA)  
Wexler  
Weygand  
Whitfield  
Wicker  
Wilson  
Wise  
Wolf  
Woolsey  
Wu  
Wynn  
Young (FL)

**NAYS—41**

Doggett  
Filner  
Gephardt  
Gibbons  
Gutierrez  
Gutknecht  
Moran (KS)  
Hefley  
Hill (MT)  
Hilliard

Hutchinson  
Kucinich  
LoBiondo  
Markey  
McDermott  
McGovern  
Oberstar  
Pickett