knows that we have failed to reauthorize, that we have squelched the Independent Counsel statute. Much of the country does not know that the Independent Counsel's Office of Ken Starr continues to operate and is allowed to continue to operate as long as it wishes to or until we in this Congress by statute pull the plug, padlock the office, and send the files to the Justice Department.

Now we have a particular reason to do so. The Justice Department, on January 21, will be in Republican hands; and if there is anything in those files which even a Republican administration using reasonable discretion determines to prosecute, they are free to do so. But we allowed the Independent Counsel statute to expire because we know that it does not operate with discretion, that an office that exists only to prosecute one individual and it is terminated if it fails to prosecute will find some reason to prosecute, at least find some reason to continue to investigate.

And if you think that partisan tensions are now as high in Washington as they could ever be, imagine how this country will react if a Republican Congress allows to continue the Ken Starr investigation.

Will we just be viewed as another Pakistan, another troubled democracy or an occasional democracy if we begin the process of indicting our former Presidents?

I suggest that the continued failure of this Congress to act, the continued allowance of this Congress to fund Robert Ray's operation has the seeds for raising partisanship to one unnecessary level.

We have heard as much as we need to about Monica Lewinsky, and Federal dollars should no longer be spent to finance an office that has nothing to do, that loses its power, that loses its payment as soon as they decide that the Lewinsky matter is no longer worthy of investigation.

Mr. Speaker, I have brought up bipartisanship quite a number of times in this presentation. Let me just take a minute to talk about what I think bipartisanship means.

Bipartisanship, when it comes to legislation, means working together to obtain bills that have substantial support on both sides of the aisle, working with the leadership and the mainstream Members on both sides of the aisle to put together bills that solve problems for America.

Alternatively, it could mean working through the committee process, and should mean working through the committee process, on bills that obtain the support of the ranking member and the chairperson of the subcommittee that is relevant and/or the committee that is relevant or obtain substantial support from Democrats and Republicans on the relevant committee.

My fear is that we will deal with bipartisanship by finding a bill that is purely partisan and then reaching out to one or two Members of the other party and saying a bill that is 99 and three-quarters percent Republican and one-tenth of one percent Democrat is a bipartisan bill. That would be a betrayal of the consents of bipartisanship.

I commend President-elect Bush for reaching out to Democrats to appoint to his administration, just as President Clinton has appointed a Republican who now serves as Secretary of Defense. But it would be a bitter form of bipartisanship if the appointment process was used cynically to appoint a sitting U.S. Senator that is a Democrat not to bring bipartisanship to the administration but to change the partisan makeup of the United States Senate.

There are many retired Democratic U.S. Senators and House Members that would make excellent members of President-elect Bush's cabinet. He should not use bipartisanship as a tool for partisanship as a device cynically used to appoint and thereby alter the effects of the congressional election.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for your indulgence. I thank you for the hours that we have spent together in this hall from time to time. I thank you for your indulgence. And I thank the House for giving me the opportunity to be the last to address the 106th Congress. I know that when we return we will reach across the aisle to begin solving the problems of America, and I hope that that process is aided by focusing on those problems as to which there is no Democratic or Republican view.

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 1795. An act to amend the public Health Service Act to establish the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a concurrent resolution of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. Con. Res. 162. Concurrent Resolution to direct the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 4577.

The message also announced that the Senate agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 4577) ''An Act making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.''

CORRECTING ENROLLMENT OF H.R. 4577, DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

Mr. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the Senate concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 162) to the end that the concurrent resolution be hereby adopted; and a motion to reconsider be hereby laid on the table.

The Clerk read the Senate concurrent resolution, as follows:

S. CON. RES. 162

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That the Clerk of the House of Representatives, in the enrollment of the bill (H.R. 4577), making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 2001, and for other purposes, shall make the following correction:

In section 1(a)(4), before the period at the end, insert the following: '', except that the text of H.R. 5666, as so enacted, shall not include section 123 (relating to the enactment of H.R. 4904)''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

The Senate concurrent resolution was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. LOFGREN (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today and the balance of the week on account of family business.

Ms. MCKINNEY (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of illness.

Mr. SNYDER (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today and the balance of the week on account of official business.

Ms. WATERS (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of official business in the district.

Mr. BOEHLERT (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today on account of attending a funeral.

Mr. MICA (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today and the balance of the week on account of official business.

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today on account of inclement weather.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to: