

Shays-Meehan campaign finance reform proposal.

That is not right. Those of us who favor reform, unfortunately, will have to oppose this rule so that we can, in fact, have an honest debate and vote up or down campaign finance reform.

IMPLEMENT PRESIDENT'S ENERGY PLAN

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, in the last few weeks we have seen gas prices go up and down, and I think we all hope they keep coming down. Energy prices are still too high, supply is not meeting demand, and we are still expecting rolling blackouts in California, and we could still see gas prices as high as \$2 a gallon.

This is the time for leadership. We need real solutions. The President has taken the initiative and is working hard to implement his 105-point plan to increase supply and correct the market, but some politicians just cannot resist the temptation to politicize this for personal gain. They are telling people that there is a quick fix and pointing fingers at anyone who says there is not.

But we cannot just put price caps on energy. If anything, that will make the problem worse, by removing any incentive to increase production. We need to remove impediments to production so supply can go up and prices can come down.

The last two economic recessions were preceded by similar energy crunches. Hopefully we can still avert a recession, but only if we stop playing games and implement the President's energy plan.

RETURN GOVERNMENT BACK TO THE PEOPLE

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

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, it is most unfortunate that the Committee on Rules of this House is thwarting the will of the Members of this House and of the American people to clean up our campaign finance system in this country.

For all too long we have seen the flow of special interest money into the coffers of politicians on both sides of the aisle, in the House and the Senate and the White House, and we have seen the effect of this flow of money. It is now corroding the very pillars of our democracy. It is undermining the foundations of our deliberations in the House and the Senate and at the White House. It means that the people's business does not get done on a fair and

level playing field. It means that there is special access for those who can give huge amounts of money, but there is very little access for those who simply have their voice.

This is not about the first amendment; this is about whether or not this House, this Congress, this Presidency, will return the Government of the United States back to the people and take it away from those who have no end to the amount of money that they can contribute to Members of Congress or the President, those who have so often distorted the debate about the real needs of the American people at this time in our history.

INFLUENCE PEDDLING OF SO-CALLED REFORMERS

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

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I listened with great interest to the words of my friend from California, and I just find it ironic; he hails from a State that once championed the free speech movement at Berkeley, and today on this floor, with a rule that will allow to come to the floor amendments that doctor the so-called campaign reform bill, we will have a chance to see just how corrupting a process can be.

Talk about dirty money, Mr. Speaker. Take a look at the influence-peddling of the so-called reformers.

The simplest way to handle this would be to heed the words of Mr. Justice Brandeis who said that sunlight is the best disinfectant. Yes, it is going to be very enlightening, and I find it fascinating that my friends on the left suddenly now find it unfair to completely debate this important issue. Curiouser and curiouser, said Alice. Today the American people will find out just how corrupt and curious the process has become.

SUCKER FISH DESTROYING LIVELIHOOD OF OREGON FARMERS

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, the endangered sucker fish is living up to its reputation, sucking the livelihood from 1,400 farmers in Oregon. That is right. This protected bottom feeder now has more rights than farmers out there. If that is not enough to fry your mackerel, this region has now been without irrigated water since April, turning 200,000 acres of farmland into near desert.

Beam me up. Stop this sucker fish crusade. Free these farmers.

I yield back the fact that this sucker fish sucks.

THE PROMISE OF STEM CELLS

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

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the NIH guidelines for stem cell research. We must look to the promise of stem cell research. The NIH guidelines will enable scientists to proceed with this revolutionary medical breakthrough.

Pluripotent stem cells have the ability to develop into nearly any cell in the human body. This research initiative gives hopes to millions of Americans. Stem cells offer hope to patients suffering from diabetes, Parkinson's disease, cancer and AIDS.

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In addition, the research offers hope to those suffering from spinal cord injuries, neurological disorders, sickle cell anemia and muscular dystrophy. Stem cells could also help determine the cause of many birth defects.

Mr. Speaker, millions of Americans are depending on stem cell research to help rid them of painful diseases. Millions of Americans continue to wait as our Government delays in considering this critical form of research. We have a genuine bipartisan opportunity to apply innovative research to take real steps in treating and eliminating a wide range of diseases. The NIH guidelines will help us do that.

MOMENT OF TRUTH FOR CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

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

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise as a very proud cosponsor of the Bipartisan Campaign Finance Reform Act. It was one of the first bills that I cosponsored in this House because it puts people first.

Earlier this week, I had the privilege of standing with our colleagues, Senators McCain and Feingold and the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. Shays) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. Meehan), at the birthplace of one of America's truly great reformers, President Teddy Roosevelt. We stood together in a bipartisan call for campaign finance reform, united in an urgency to restore faith in our democracy.

In his day, President Roosevelt said this: "One of the fundamental necessities in a representative government such as ours is to make certain that the men to whom they delegate their power shall serve the people by whom they are elected and not the special interests."

Mr. Speaker, today is literally the moment of truth in this House on campaign finance reform. We can keep our