

the acceptance rate of African Americans to UCLA Law School fell by 80 percent. After the *Hopwood* decision, admission of African-Americans to the University of Texas School of Law dropped by 88 percent. It is clear that with the passage of this amendment, there will be a re-segregation of colleges and universities.

In Mississippi the percent of the population 25 and older that have a college degree is 14.7 percent. Moreover, Mississippi ranks 47 out of 50 States in relation to the percent of the population having a college degree and 47 out of 50 in comparison to other African Americans in the 50 States.

The Riggs amendment is an unnecessary and dangerous bill that would dismantle the progress that has been achieved in the last 30 years. It will merely serve as a tool to increase the disparities in education and income between men and women, whites and blacks. Affirmative Action in higher education has clearly established significant advances in the area of equal opportunity for ethnic minorities and women in admissions to colleges and universities. I will continue to support and strengthen such programs of equal opportunity. If Higher Education Authorization Act (HR 6) contains the "Anti-Discrimination in College Admissions Act of 1998", I will vote against HR 6.

#### CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

##### HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 1998

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, over the past week many individuals, organizations and newspaper editorial boards have criticized the Bipartisan Campaign Integrity Act, H.R. 2183. They claim that the freshman crafted bill is not real reform. They argue that we must support a more comprehensive bill that has stronger provisions banning soft money, limiting independent expenditures and restricting candidate spending.

While I support comprehensive reform I believe that H.R. 2183 is the only campaign finance reform legislation that can pass the House of Representatives and become law. Our bill was drafted in the spirit of compromise. We recognized that there are many issues that could be put in legislation that will unfairly impact one political party over the other. As a group our Freshman Task Force agreed to eliminate all poison pills that would doom our bill to failure. The success of our effort is reflected in the Speaker's agreement to allow our bill to be the base bill for consideration when the House debates campaign finance reform.

Other reform advocates have argued that we need to challenge previous rulings by the Supreme Court on campaign finance reform. I disagree. Our bill will pass a Supreme Court challenge. Other bills directly contradict Supreme Court rulings. As a Supreme Court Justice recently said to me "our rulings may not always be right, but we are still Supreme." To pass legislation that is clearly unconstitutional will only kill campaign reform.

The Bipartisan Freshman Campaign Integrity Act will pass the House and will pass a constitutional challenge. It is time for the House of Representatives to pass H.R. 2183.

#### HIGHWAY BILL RESTORES TRUST WITH THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

##### HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 1998

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, the highway bill recently passed by the House takes an important step toward addressing our nation's enormous surface transportation needs. In addition to the obvious benefits of much higher revenues for better roads and bridges, this legislation recognizes that the money in the Highway Trust Fund belongs to the American people. Finally, we are returning to the principles that were established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower for the Highway Trust Funds. When Americans pay this tax at the gas pump, they have every right to expect that their money actually will be used for transportation and not diverted to other purposes. The balance held for the Highway Trust Fund has ballooned, and that money has been used for government programs and deficit reduction efforts which are not related to transportation. It is a violation of the trust of the American people when those highway trust funds are used for other purposes.

This Member encourages his colleagues to read the following opinion piece by David R. Kraemer, chairman of the American Road and Transportation Builders Association, which appeared in the Omaha World-Herald on April 27, 1998. It highlights the importance of using the money from the Highway Trust Fund in the way it was originally intended.

#### HIGHWAY BILL HELPS EVERYONE

(By David R. Kraemer)

(The writer is 1998 chairman of the American Road and Transportation Builders Association, the nation's largest organization of highway contractors.)

A lot of criticism has been flying around during the past few weeks about the federal highway bill, with the media, special interest groups and fiscal hawks all trying to paint the bill as a pork-laden "budget buster."

The finger-pointing obscures what the highway bill is really for: improving our transportation system. Critics of the highway bill are missing—or choosing to ignore—three critical realities.

One, America's transportation infrastructure is in desperate need of improvement. Two, the highway bill is paid for in advance through fees paid by people who use the system, and the revenues go straight into the Highway Trust Fund expressly for this purpose. Three, improving our highways will save thousands of lives. Plain and simple.

The first point is obvious to anyone who travels the nation's highways. Across the country, hundreds of thousands of miles of roads and thousands of bridges are in poor condition, posing a danger to drivers and undercutting economic growth. According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, 59 percent of the nation's major roads are in poor or mediocre condition, and 31 percent of our bridges are structurally deficient or functionally obsolete.

The Department of Transportation also says we must spend \$46.1 billion annually just to maintain our highways and bridges, let alone make improvements or upgrades. Clearly, funding road repair and improvement should be a top priority for the federal government.

Fortunately, the dollars Congress is committing to the program are available from a reliable source—highway users.

The most misunderstanding issue related to the highway bill is where the money—all \$200 billion plus—is coming from. It comes from all of us who use the roads, through taxes paid at the gas pump and through other road-related assessments. For every gallon of gas purchased, 18.3 cents is deposited into the Highway Trust Fund, which by law is supposed to be used for transportation improvements.

Unfortunately, billions of dollars have been allowed to accumulate in the trust fund and mask deficit spending elsewhere in the federal budget. More than \$25 billion is sitting in the trust fund now, unspent on road and bridge repair.

If people want to criticize Congress about the highway bill, the issue is not how much they want to spend but how little. By keeping dollars in the trust fund that were intended to go toward road and bridge improvement, Congress is short-changing America's highway users.

The fact is, improving highways will save lives. Research shows that for every \$1 billion spent since 1955 on improving the nation's highways, 1,400 traffic deaths and 50,000 injuries have been avoided. The Transportation Department estimates that every year 30 percent of all traffic fatalities—more than 12,000 American deaths—are related in some way to poor road conditions. Adding turning lanes, widening shoulders, constructing lane barriers, improving signage and safety markings and repairing dangerous bridges all are important safety upgrades proven to save lives.

When a bridge collapses and lives are lost, the story makes the evening news and a hue and cry is raised about how to prevent it from happening again. The answer lives in Washington and in the thousands of repair and improvement projects authorized in the federal highway bill that are now being so roundly criticized. Unfortunately, all the political squabbling diverts attention from these real issues.

So who benefits from the highway bill? Everyone. Communities grow, commercial and private transportation becomes easier and more efficient, and thousands of new jobs are created. Moreover, improving our transportation system will save billions of dollars from being lost each year in wasted productivity, vehicle maintenance, insurance fees and, tragically, health care expenses to care for people injured on our highways.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 1998

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, April 23, a personal matter resulted in my missing two roll call votes. These were #107 and #108. Had I been present I would have cast a ye vote in support of the Conyers amendment, and a no vote in opposition to the Aderholt amendment.

#### LAW DAY, 1998

##### HON. JAMES H. MALONEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 1998

Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, May 1, 1998 is Law Day in our nation, a day

set aside to remind all of us of the importance of the Constitutional rights and civic responsibilities associated with American citizenship. It is a day to reflect on the true meaning of our right to free speech, to worship in the way that best serves our conscience, to select our representatives in government and to even be critical of that government as needed. These and other basic rights are often taken for granted, but one only needs to view the nightly news to appreciate that our cherished rights and freedoms are not enjoyed everywhere. Law Day gives us occasion to celebrate those rights and freedoms.

When President Dwight Eisenhower established Law Day in 1958, he said, "It is fitting that the American people should remember with pride, and vigilantly guard, our great heritage of liberty, justice and equality under law." He further stated, "It is our moral and civic obligation as a free people to preserve and strengthen that great heritage." Law Day provides the forum for that celebration.

On Friday, in communities across this nation, ceremonies will be held in courthouses and town halls. Such will be the case in Superior Court in Meriden, Connecticut, located in our state's 5th Congressional District. That ceremony, hosted by the Meriden Bar Association, will focus on this year's general theme, "Celebrate Your Freedom." School children, as well as citizens from all walks of life, will be in attendance to hear speakers stress the importance of the freedoms and liberties guaranteed by our Constitution and Bill of Rights, and protected by our laws and courts.

I urge all Americans to pause on this very special day and consider the true significance of the rights and liberties we enjoy every day in this country. Such recognition is important to maintaining those rights. As Alfred H. Knight said in his American Bar Association Silver Gavel Award-winning book, *The Law of Life*, "we are more likely to lose the meaning of our freedoms through ignorance and carelessness than through intentional government evil."

Mr. Speaker, I call on you and each Member of the House of Representatives, to take this day to heart and help lead the effort to bring the importance of our freedoms, and the laws that protect them, to the attention of the American public on not just Friday, May 1st, but every day of the year. On behalf of Connecticut's 5th Congressional District, I want to commend the Meriden Bar Association for their contribution to this cause in the name of Freedom.

#### TOWN OF MAINE CELEBRATES SESQUICENTENNIAL

**HON. JAMES T. WALSH**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 30, 1998*

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, as a newborn nation grew two centuries ago, townships in America sprouted with the promise of freedom and despite great obstacles. Such as the founding experience of the Town of Maine, which this August celebrates its 150th Birthday.

Maine is an area rich in history. The Town is located in Broome County, New York, within the land tract originally known as the "Boston

Purchase" made back in 1787. Many of the original settlers in Maine were Revolutionary War soldiers. The Maine Township was officially formed on March 27, 1848.

On behalf of our forefathers and the generations who will follow as well, I would like to thank the entire Maine Sesquicentennial Planning Committee for their important and historic work in putting together this important official recognition of the Town of Maine Sesquicentennial. It is the dedication of these individuals as well as the Nanticoke Valley Historical Society that preserves an accurate record of history for many generations to come.

I am pleased to mark this solemn occasion for all Town of Maine families in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, forever preserving this memorable time.

Congratulations to the citizens of the Town of Maine. All the best to you as you embark on your Sesquicentennial Celebration, which will culminate this summer.

#### TRIBUTE TO RUSSELL HUSE

**HON. BRAD SHERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 30, 1998*

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Russell Huse, a native of Los Angeles, California, for his dedicated service to the community, his passion for the environment, and his inspiring courage and physical fortitude. I also would like to extend to Mr. Huse my warmest birthday wishes as he prepares to celebrate his 90th birthday on April 30th.

One could say that Mr. Huse and his family were among my district's original homesteaders. Russell was born on April 30, 1908 in Los Angeles. As a young boy, he spent countless summers and holidays at his grandfather's 6,000 acre ranch which encompassed an area that today is known as Westlake Village. Living on the ranch, Russell developed a work ethic, an unconquerable spirit and determination that has remained his trademark to this day.

Russell went on to study fine arts at UCLA and later settled into a career as a Supervisory Technical Writer and Artist at the United States Naval Weapons Center in China Lake, California. But at UCLA, he put his fighting spirit to good use on the football field for three years under Coach Bill Spaulding. Even now, Russell remains one of the team's most avid fans, often traveling hundred of miles to root the Bruins on to victory.

After UCLA, Russell served as a Park Ranger in Yosemite National Park. It was here, in one of our nation's most beautiful spots, that Russell developed his love for nature which has subsequently led him to devote a large portion of his life to conservation. And it was this love of nature that gave birth to Russell's true passion—mountain climbing.

Despite the fact that Russell did not begin climbing until his late 40's, he has some 160 peaks to his credit. He has scaled Chincney in South America, Mont Blanc and the Matterhorn in the Swiss Alps, all after turning 65 years old. While climbing in Switzerland, Russell completed the solo rescue of a climber, stranded on the mountain with a broken leg. This experience, while earning him a Procla-

mation for heroism from the townspeople at the base of Mont Blanc, led Russell to found the China Lake Mountain Rescue Group. This organization saves peoples lives in California and Mexico, allowing climbers to enjoy nature in comfort and security.

Today, Russell remains actively involved in organizations within his community. He and his wife Edith live in a beautiful hilltop home in Westlake Village, overlooking the land he used to play on as a young boy so many years ago. Again, I wish to extend my warmest wishes to Russell Huse as he celebrates his 90th birthday and I would like to wish him good luck as he steams on toward the century mark.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, please join me in honoring Russell Huse for his decades of service to others. Throughout all of his 90 years, he has remained young at heart and he continues to live a life that inspires us all to be our best.

#### KEY PRINCIPLES OF FREEDOM

**HON. NEWT GINGRICH**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 30, 1998*

Mr. GINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, I believe that there are two key principles at the root of our freedoms. The first is the right of America's people to know the truth if a crime was committed, and the second is the principle that under the United States Constitution, no one is above the law.

When 19 Democrats voted to deny immunity for four witnesses on illegal campaign contributions, they blocked the people's right to know. Michael Kelly's column explains the dangers facing Democrats if they decide that cover-up is a party principle. I commend this article to my colleagues.

[From the Washington Post, Apr. 29, 1998]

THE CASE AGAINST THE CLINTONS

(By Michael Kelly)

As we head into what is either going to be a summer dog days or the summer when the last dog dies, the party line among those who man President Clinton's high stone wall against impeachment is that there is not any there here. Tellingly, no one seriously makes the public argument that Clinton is not guilty of at least some of the offenses of which he has been accused—say, at least, perjury in the Lewinsky matter.

Instead, the liberals' defense goes like this: Okay, our boy did a few things he maybe shouldna. But who amongst us is perfect? And, anyway, these things weren't crimes, or they shouldn't be. And, also anyway, the president's persecutors are the real danger to the republic; their partisan, out-of-control witch hunt is far worse than any of the allegations they are investigating. And so on, fortissimo, con allegro, ad infinitum.

There is one truffle of truth buried in all this: Clinton certainly has enemies who seek to ruin his presidency. No fair-minded person can impute fair-mindedness to Richard Mellon Scaife, who has bankrolled years of anti-Clinton scandal-mongering on several fronts, or to Congressman Dan Burton, the chairman of the House Government Reform and Oversight Committee investigation into Clinton's conduct whose mask of magisterial impartiality slipped a wee bit recently when he called the president a "scumbag."

But it is always the case with politicians who are accused of scandalous behavior that