

message to the group. Gingrich spokeswoman Christina Martin said she could not comment on private conversations but made clear how displeased Republicans were with the association's choice of a Democrat.

"Any smart business executive will tell you it is always a good idea to have someone who can walk the walk, talk the talk," Martin said. "When dealing with a Republican-controlled Congress, that means hiring Republicans."

Rep. John Linder (R-Ga.), chairman of the National Republican Campaign Committee, who confirmed that the leadership was sending a message to EIA by postponing a vote implementing two 1996 World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) treaties, said Republicans want to expose the hypocrisy of former Democratic staff members and lawmakers now representing business groups.

"They whisper in the ear of the people who hire them that they're with them, then they go to a Democratic prayer group and meet and pray for a Democratic majority", Linder said.

The unusually public spat, which started Thursday when Gingrich, Majority Leader Richard K. Armey (R-Tex.) and Majority Whip Tom DeLay (D-Tex.) pulled the WIPO bill from the House calendar, marks the latest flar-up in the occasionally tense relationship between GOP leaders and business lobbyists. Every since they captured the majority in 1994, Republicans have complained that lobbyists have failed to give them either the campaign contributions or the respect they are due.

Even Republicans who made the transition from Congress to the private sector say that the lobbying community is still dominated by Democrats who thrived by virtue of their connections to Hill barons of the past.

"There is still a disconnect," said Ed Gillespie, Armey's former press secretary and now president of Policy Impact Communications. "That's a result of Democrats being in control for 40 years and Republicans being in control for four."

In the leadership meeting Friday, Republicans said, lawmakers mused about how powerful trade associations were savvy enough to hire Republicans as consultants but had failed to install GOP stalwarts at the helms of their groups. A slew of recent Democratic appointments has angered leaders, including those of Thomas M. Downs as the National Association of Home Builders' chief executive; John Hilley, who had been White House legislative liaison, as executive vice president for strategic planning at the National Association of Securities Dealers; and Tim Forde, who worked for Rep. Edward J. Markey (D-Mass), as the Investment Company Institute's vice president for strategic analysis.

By appointing Democrats to such prominent posts, argued Mark Rodgers, chief of staff to Sen. Rick Santorum (R-Pa.), trade groups undermine their ability to forge close ties with Republicans.

"At what point can you trust that what you're sharing on inside strategy or tactics aren't going directly back to the Democratic leadership?" Rodgers said.

The EIA says it was only trying to find a leader who combined business and political experience. While some member companies are considering challenging McCurdy's selection when the group's board meets today, outgoing president Peter McCloskey said he was confident McCurdy would win its backing.

"The job is to be a spokesperson for the industry, not so much a lobbyist for the industry," McCloskey said. "I'm not saying there's no political component to the job, but it's not the overriding component."

Some Democrats openly mocked the GOP leaders' strategy. Rep. Barney Frank (D-

Mass.) referred to the incident Monday before the WIPO bill finally passed by saying, "That was not one of the finest hours of this institution when this bill got derailed because of a dispute about a job."

Even some Republicans who believe the lobbying community has to change its approach were leery of this open feuding. Said Rep. Jim Greenwood (R-Pa.). "You can look a little power-hungry at times."

[From Rollcall, Oct. 12, 1998]

#### GOP FEUDING ABOUT LOBBYIST

BOEHNER, DELAY BLAST EACH OTHER ON MCCURDY JOB

(By Jim VandeHei and John Bresnahan)

House Republican Conference Chairman John Boehner (R-Ohio) and Majority Whip Tom DeLay (R-Texas) are locked in a bitter feud over the GOP leadership's decision to demand that the Electronic Industries Alliance (EIA) dump their incoming President, former Rep. David McCurdy (D-Okla.).

In their latest move to purge Democrats from leadership jobs at prominent trade association and lobbying firms—known internally as the "K Street Strategy"—Republican leaders are pressuring EIA to oust McCurdy, who hasn't formally been installed as EIA's president yet, and hire a Republican to run the group.

While virtually every Republican leader endorsed the hard-line approach, including Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.), Boehner is furious that DeLay's operation has worked behind his back to oust McCurdy in recent days, several sources confirmed. Boehner, the leadership's liaison to K Street and outside business coalitions, was quietly working out a deal to have EIA company CEOs remove McCurdy before DeLay stepped in and started busting heads.

At a raucous leadership meeting Friday afternoon, Boehner blasted DeLay for interfering in his business and striking such a bellicose tone with EIA and its members. DeLay defiantly demanded that Republican leaders, including Boehner, needed to twist arms and play hardball in order to get results, according to sources familiar with the meeting.

The confrontation between Boehner and DeLay, whose animosity toward each other is well known inside GOP leadership circles, followed a scathing e-mail on Thursday from Boehner's chief of staff Barry Jackson to Gingrich blasting the tactics of DeLay's operation, the sources said.

But the internal GOP leadership fight will not derail the coordinated effort to once again send EIA and all of K Street a clear message: Republicans won't deal with trade associations and lobbying groups run by Democrats.

McCurdy, who would not comment, could be the latest victim.

National Republican Congressional Committee Chairman John Linder (R-Ga.) said he and other leaders are pressuring EIA board members and affiliated companies to reject McCurdy as their new president when the board meets this Wednesday in Phoenix.

"We think they ought to look back and see who won the last couple of elections," said Linder, who confirmed that Republican leaders held intellectual property legislation favored by many EIA members hostage to "send a message."

The legislation—which implements copyright changes required for the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) treaties—was scheduled for floor action on Thursday, but Gingrich, Majority Leader Richard Armey (R-Texas), and DeLay decided to block the bill and spread the word on K Street.

Meanwhile, members of the leadership were instructed to call EIA member compa-

nies and demand that McCurdy be removed and a Republican be hired. Rep. Bill Paxon (R-N.Y.), who said he interviewed for the job but was told the companies were not interested in talking to incumbent Members of Congress, has been mentioned as a possibility.

"I will be contacting companies and recommending they do more interviewing before making this decision," GOP Conference Vice Chair Jennifer Dunn (R-Wash.) said.

Linder also has set up what one source called a "phone bank" to help lean on EIA members. Several EIA member companies bowed to the pressure and plan to call for McCurdy's head at the board meeting.

John Palafoutas, director of federal relations at AMP Inc., an EIA company, is unhappy about the selection of McCurdy to lead the organization.

"I'm concerned about the kind of reaction this is getting over on Capitol Hill," said Palafoutas. "Republicans are sensitive to the fact that the high-tech industry has supported President Clinton and the Democrats."

A Republican lobbyist with strong ties to EIA said that some companies want the EIA board to abrogate the contract with McCurdy.

"They have a lot of money," said the lobbyist. "They can do something."

For their part, EIA officials claim that they haven't been contacted by GOP leaders about the issue and argue that they plan to hire an assistant for McCurdy with strong GOP credentials.

"No one has called us," said Mark Rosenker, EIA's vice president of public affairs. "We did not get a single phone call here. I respect Mr. DeLay. But we did not get a single official contact. No official call came . . . to anyone in our leadership from a Member of Congress. That's why I find this so intriguing and puzzling. This man has been out of politics for four years. I just found it incredible."

In a related matter, Linder said he also told the National Association of Home Builders that GOP leaders have less interest in working with their group because they hired a Democrat as CEO. "They came to see me yesterday," Linder said. "I told them I am not going to get to know [new NAHB CEO Tom Down]. So save your time."

"They would be making a terrible mistake to [shut us out]," said current NAHB CEO Kent Colton. "But they are not going to make a big deal about that because it would be too big of a mistake."

Colton said NAHB, which will hand out \$2.4 million total this election cycle, gives a majority of its contributions to Republicans and that he expects the association will continue to have a close working relationship with Republican leaders.

□ 1730

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GUTKNECHT). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

#### THE KURDISH CEASE-FIRE: AN OPPORTUNITY THAT SHOULD NOT BE SQUANDERED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for what many in this country do not know has occurred, but is exceedingly important. That is the unilateral cease-fire that was declared on August 28, 1998, by the Kurdish rebel leader, Abdullah Ocalan.

Taking part in a live broadcast on Med-TV from his base in the Middle East, Mr. Ocalan noted that, effective September 1, 1998, he has ordered his guerrillas to cease their operations and silence their guns until further notice. This is a momentous opportunity, Mr. Speaker, for the advocates of peace, the defenders of human rights, and the champions of trade with the oil-rich countries that surround this explosive region called Kurdistan.

For several years now, Mr. Speaker, I have risen on this floor to draw the attention of my colleagues to the enduring struggle of the Kurds for peace, democracy, and human rights. I have strongly supported their inalienable right to self-determination. Who among us has not heard of the brutality exercised against the Kurds by Saddam Hussein?

The theocracy in Iran has targeted the top leadership of the Kurdish resistance, and murdered many of its ablest leaders. Turkey, a country that we supported as a bulwark against the Soviet expansion during the Cold War, has left its own trail of desolation in the land of the Kurds.

We cannot afford to call a country a friend, ally, and partner, Mr. Speaker, if it refuses to practice the most basic dictates of democracy, such as the freedom of expression and assembly. Kurds, who constitute one-third of the population of Turkey and number some 20 million, are denied their basic human rights, such as the expression of their identity, the use of their own language, the practice and perpetuation of their culture, as a distinct and indigenous people that has its roots in the dawn of history.

The Turkish constitution, the solemn document binding the peoples of Turkey together, makes no reference to the existence of the Kurds. Its Article 3 expressly forbids the use of the Kurdish language in print and in official settings. The Kurds, thus, can write books in English, French, or German, but not in their native Kurdish. Those who do end up with a prison sentence that can run into a century. The noted Turkish sociologist, Ismail Besikci, who has merely written about the Kurds, has accumulated prison sentences of more than 100 years.

Many of us are well aware, Mr. Speaker, of the historical abuse of the Armenians. In 1915, the Armenians were systematically exterminated in the Ottoman Empire. A similar strategy is now being carried out against the Kurds.

Mr. Speaker, the time has come for a bold departure from the old policy of entrusting a blank check to Turkey to do whatever it wishes with its Kurdish minority. The government in Ankara

has abdicated its responsibility, and entrusted the entire Kurdish region to the rule of uncompromising Turkish generals for the last 18 years. They have killed more than 40,000 people, and have driven 3 million from their homes. More than 3,000 Kurdish villages have been destroyed. Duly-elected Kurdish parliamentarians are now rotting in jails. The voices of compromise and reconciliation have been silenced. We are witnessing an historical tragedy.

Now the offer of the cease-fire by the Kurdish rebel leader has the potential to bring peace to this troubled region, and open the way for the coexistence of the Kurds with the Turks. Mr. Ocalan has stated that he is ready to disband his forces if Turkey takes steps to constitutionally recognize its 20 million Kurdish population.

Some courageous leaders in Turkey now recognize the crisis must be solved. On September 11, 1998, Husamettin Cindoruk, leader of the Democratic Turkey Party, a member of the ruling coalition in the Turkish government, actually admitted that negotiations must begin. As he said, Turkey will get nowhere by masking this problem and delaying a solution.

He suggested that the talks that produced the good Friday agreement between Ireland and Britain can be the model for his own country. Members of the largest Turkish party, the Virtue Party, Recai Kutan and Hasim Hasimi, have also expressed similar sentiments. These deputies ought to be commended for their courage. Their words carry the real promise of peace.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot help but bring to the attention of this body the plight of a group of Turkish and Kurdish women who have gathered in front of Galatasaray High School to protest the disappearance of their loved ones over the last 3 years. Known as the Saturday Mothers, they were visited this past January by our colleagues, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. JOHN PORTER) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. STENY HOYER), and the President of the Human Rights Alliance, Kathryn Porter.

Under the U.N. Declaration of Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the authorities are obliged to carry out prompt, thorough, and impartial investigations into every report of disappearance. According to Amnesty International, no investigations satisfying these criteria have been carried out. This sad state of affairs was compounded on August 29 when police detained 150 people.

With the declaration of this Kurdish cease-fire, we now have an opportunity. We helped to make possible the Good Friday Agreement, the Dayton talks, and the Israeli-Palestinian accords. We must do no less for the Kurds.

#### --- HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the

House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 1 p.m. tomorrow.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

#### --- IN SUPPORT OF REFORMS OF THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, in the next day or so we will be voting on the spending plan, the rest of the spending plan, for fiscal year 1999. An important part of that is a matter involving the International Monetary Fund, and there were many of us who said that we would only vote for that provision with proper reforms.

Mr. Speaker, I am now able to rise in support of reforming the International Monetary Fund and the provisions claimed in the bill ahead of us. The reforms to be included in the appropriations bill, and particularly the enforcement provisions, are not nearly as extensive as I would have liked. Nonetheless, if these reforms are permitted to take place and to be in effect, they will be steps in the right direction toward longer-term reform for the IMF.

The implementation of IMF reforms in this bill will be an important test of the good faith and credibility of the Treasury Department and IMF officials. With regard to the reforms themselves, our review of their development from earlier legislation is critical to understand the intent of Congress.

The structure of the reforms pertaining to transparency and market rates is clearly based on the IMF Transparency and Efficiency Act that was introduced earlier this year by myself and some others known as H.R. 3331, which was introduced, I might add, in conjunction with the majority leader.

The reform proposals in the budget bill are essentially narrower versions of the policy changes mandated in the IMF Transparency and Efficiency Act. The biggest change is in the enforcement mechanism in this act, in the coming act, which has been replaced by a much weaker enforcement provision in the appropriations bill we will vote on in the next day or so.

Obviously, I am disappointed with this change. But with respect to the IMF transparency reforms in the appropriations bill, suffice it to say they reflect a strong congressional consensus that IMF documents be publicly released, and that the minutes of the IMF board meetings should be publicly released in some form. Any abuse of the flexibility provided in this language would clearly not be acceptable.

Second, with regard to the interest rate provisions, the higher interest rates are required any time the definition of conditions of a balance of payments problem emerge, regardless of other problems that may also exist.