

I look forward to the day that all of these cases are closed and every single commando receives his justice.

JAPAN'S ROLE IN THE ASIAN FINANCIAL CRISIS

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

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, the world is closely watching Japan to determine if that country's leaders can steer the world's second largest economy clear of recession. The implications of their action or inaction is enormous for Japan itself, for the regional and global economy, and for the United States. Today at 1:30, in 2172 Rayburn, the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, and the Subcommittee on International Economic Policy and Trade hear testimony on this subject, and on the legislation offered by this Member, the gentleman from California, Representative BERMAN and others, from four experts on Japan's role in the Asian financial crisis.

This Member urges interested Members to send their staff and to read the summary in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on this important and timely hearing so that we can all learn more about Japan's enormous role in our own future, and to review the suggestions of what Japan must do to ensure that the future is bright for all of us.

REAL CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate my Democratic colleagues and the Democratic leadership for a successful effort to push Speaker GINGRICH and the Republicans, and force them to bring up real campaign finance reform.

Speaker GINGRICH tried to get around his promise to bring up campaign finance reform by posting a phony bill with a sham procedure just before the April Congressional recess. Democrats responded by signing a discharge petition, and forcing the Republican leadership's hand.

Our Democratic leader, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT), was right when he said yesterday this was not a conversion, but a retreat by Speaker GINGRICH. He now promises to bring up campaign finance reform again in May.

Mr. Speaker, Democrats have to be vigilant and hold Speaker GINGRICH to his promise. Campaign finance reform needs to be brought up with an open rule so that Members have an opportunity to vote on proposals that will limit the amount of money in political campaigns, and not allow more money from wealthy special interests, and that is, of course, the position favored

by Speaker GINGRICH and the Republican leadership.

TIME TO REIGN IN THE IRS

(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, although the Liberals just hate to bash the IRS, ordinary Americans who pay taxes have no other choice.

Consider this: In Fortune Magazine recently it says that there were 119 million returns filed in the tax year 1996. Those returns triggered 28 million error notices. It turns out that one in 11 of those error notices was itself in error. So the IRS is routinely wrong about your being wrong.

Now, I did not learn arithmetic using "whole math" like our lucky kids today, but I come up with about 2.5 million IRS errors, 2.5 million times when the IRS is accusing you of being a tax cheat, when, in fact, you are just one more falsely accused taxpayer by the IRS.

The IRS is a place that does not operate under the same rules as society does. The IRS can accuse, make demands, confiscate, shut down, and make you prove that the IRS is wrong. And when the IRS is wrong, well, tough luck.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to rein in the IRS.

COMMON SENSE LACKING IN POLITICIANS IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

(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, in America, Communists can work in our defense plants, illegal immigrants who jump the fence can get citizenship, there are law libraries for mass murderers; some want free condoms for school children, and some now want free needles for drug addicts. Think about it. Free condoms, free needles, but in America, no school prayer. Is it any wonder the streets of America are full of narcotics and blood?

The founders believed that a Nation without prayer would be a Nation without God. I agree. The Congress should pass school prayer.

I yield back the balance of any common sense left in any of the politicians in Washington, D.C.

OUTRAGE OVER WHITE HOUSE HIRING OF PRIVATE INVESTIGATORS

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, on February 22, 1998, White House Press Secretary Mike McCurry denied that any

of President Clinton's private attorneys have hired or authorized any private investigator to look into the background of prosecutors or reporters.

Now, let us listen to that quote again, and let us think about whether we should keep on doing our business and ignore the White House deception and deceit, because, hey, the stock market is doing just great.

The President's press secretary denied any of President Clinton's private attorneys have hired or authorized any private investigators to look into the backgrounds of prosecutors or reporters. But it turns out that the private investigator himself, Terry Lenzner, admitted that he had, indeed, been hired by the White House to look into the private lives of journalists, Federal investigators and anyone else the White House wants to smear.

Finally, someone in the employ of the White House has the integrity to tell the truth. I guess the 900 FBI files illegally obtained were not enough dirt for them to dig up.

Mr. Speaker, we have a President hiring private investigators and then having his spokesman misrepresent the truth about it. I think when the American people understand this, both Republicans and Democrats alike will be outraged.

ENSURE CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM OCCURS

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, I believe that the millions of Americans who want some real change in the way our campaign finance system works and want to reduce the corrupting influence of money on our political system can be encouraged by the sudden reversal yesterday of Speaker GINGRICH and his announcement that we would, within the next 3 weeks, act on this floor in a fair, bipartisan way to address the problems that are so critical in this system.

However, I think all of us have to wonder whether this represents only another New Hampshire handshake. Americans will remember that it was back in 1995 in New Hampshire that Speaker GINGRICH promised President Clinton there would be action then on campaign finance reform.

We have had one broken promise, one bit of double talk, doublecrossing after another on this issue since then. So we must remain vigilant and involved to ensure that real reform occurs here, and not more talk and doubletalk.

EL PASO QUADRICENTENNIAL FESTIVAL

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

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, beginning tomorrow, April 24 through April 26,

the city of El Paso, Texas, will host the El Paso Quadricentennial Festival. This festival is an international celebration, bringing together representatives from Spain, Mexico and other nations around the world to join in celebrating the 400th anniversary of the expedition of the Spanish explorer, Don Juan de Onate, through the Southwest.

His exploration began in January of 1598, when he and 400 other men and women traveled from Mexico through the present day El Paso, Texas. After numerous hardships during their journey, the expedition arrived along the banks of the Rio Grande River in April of 1598.

In gratitude for surviving their difficult travel and finding water along the Rio Grande, they observed a feast and celebrated with local Indians. This historical event is considered the first Thanksgiving, which occurred 22 years before the pilgrims landed at Plymouth, Massachusetts.

Mr. Speaker, it is important for our Nation to recognize this 400th anniversary. I am proud that El Paso is hosting this International Commemoration, as it enhances our country's understanding of the extensive influence of the Spanish language and culture on our heritage and origins of this Nation.

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CONGRESS NEEDS TO STAND FIRM AGAINST THE WHITE HOUSE ON FREE NEEDLE PROGRAM

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

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, many people remember the President's Surgeon General claiming that the answer to youth violence was safer guns and safer bullets; that the answer to sexual promiscuity among America's youth is condoms in schools. Now we have the answer to the escalating drug problem in America coming out of the White House, free needles to heroin addicts. Imagine that, Mr. Speaker, government-subsidized free needles to heroin addicts.

I submit the following: Any President who supports and would promote the subsidization of free needles to heroin addicts is just as guilty as any drug pusher or any drug user who causes death and destruction among America's communities today.

This level of social decay is unacceptable. This Congress needs to stand firm against the White House. The partnership for a Drug-Free America has met its match. The White House and the heroin industry formed the partnership for free drugs in America. Common sense needs to rule the day. We need to stand firm.

In a minute another member of the President's party is going to step to the microphone, and I want to ask directly, is he going to stand with Americans against this free needle exchange

program, or is he going to talk about something else today?

THE PEOPLE STILL WANT COMPREHENSIVE CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

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

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, law enforcement in my district supports needle exchange.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to point out that the majority party controls this House. This is the people's House. This is where people's voices can be heard, because everybody here has to be elected. We cannot run away from that responsibility.

When the Democrats controlled this House, we passed out several times, three times, in fact, campaign finance reform, comprehensive campaign finance reform. The last of those bills to reach the President's desk was vetoed by President Bush. The people still want comprehensive campaign finance reform. Their pressure now gives this House a second chance, after the leadership orchestrated a defeat by a two-thirds vote and by scheduling it on a day when one of the Members, a former Member, had a funeral.

So, Mr. Speaker, I ask Members to keep watching. Will we get a comprehensive campaign reform or will we see another orchestrated defeat?

PAY-GO MUST GO

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about another ridiculous Washington budget rule called pay-go. This rule promotes big government spending while Americans pay taxes, higher taxes, as a matter of fact. Under pay-go, if we eliminated every welfare big government program, we could not give any of those savings back to the American people in the form of tax relief because of our own rules. It means we have to raise taxes to lower taxes. We have to change our rules.

Yesterday the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. J.D. HAYWORTH) and I introduced a bill just to do that. We must be able to cut big government spending, get Washington out of Americans' lives, and give the money back to the American people. After all, it is your dollars.

It is wrong that we cannot, for example, cut a \$3 million TV documentary on infrastructure awareness and use that same money to eliminate the marriage penalty tax. Do Members not think families are more important than welfare government programs?

Pay-go is a stumbling block to good government. It must go.

COMMEMORATING FROSTBURG STATE UNIVERSITY'S CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend an extraordinary community and its school. Frostburg State University in Frostburg, Maryland, celebrates its 100th anniversary this Sunday.

Frostburg State University began as a community dream. Actually, it was the community coal miners' dream. It was a dream that all parents dream for their children: a better life than theirs. They knew the key to this dream was education.

These concerned parents made a deal with the State legislature. The deal? If the coal miners could raise the money to buy the land for a State normal school, the General Assembly would appropriate funds for the buildings. These parents literally went door-to-door collecting money from their neighbors to keep their end of the deal. In April of 1898, the General Assembly of Maryland appropriated the funds for Maryland Normal School No. 2, which was built and opened its doors to 57 students.

Today, Frostburg State University enrolls more than 5,000 undergraduate and graduate students and helps tens of thousands of dreams come true. Congratulations, Frostburg State University.

WE CAN TRUST AMERICANS TO DECIDE ON CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

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

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would like to respond to the disingenuous statements made by liberal colleagues on the other side of the aisle. The other side talks as if one side of the aisle is on the side of the angels and supports campaign finance reform and the other side is against campaign finance reform. How ironic that the side that made a mockery of campaign finance reform laws in the 1996 elections now feels qualified to adopt a holier-than-thou attitude on this issue.

The truth is that the reforms that they are seeking are not even constitutional, which I guess is not surprising, given that post-sixties liberals are no longer champions of free speech. The liberals want to limit political speech. We do not. I think the American people are well qualified to decide this issue, once they know the facts.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT LEADS TO A BETTER AMERICA

(Mr. NEUMANN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1