

Mr. WHITE. Madam Speaker, in March we are going to vote on campaign finance reform in this House. It is a very important issue but also a very difficult issue, and it is made particularly difficult because most of the bills before us are big bills that deal with the whole comprehensive issue that we have to talk about.

I have got one of those bills, and I hope that we can pass one. But just in case we cannot, today I am introducing what we might call a small bill that will deal at least with some of the problems. This bill is called the Electronic Campaign Disclosure Act, and what it does is tell the Federal Elections Commission to get into the 21st century.

It directs the FEC to establish a database on-line to search over the Internet for all the information needed about campaign finances in our country. Every campaign would have to file within 10 days a report of every contribution that it receives and contributors, and PACs would also have to file.

Madam Speaker, sometimes we cannot do it all in one step. The longest journey begins with a single step, and I think if we cannot pass a big bill a small bill like the one I am introducing today would be a step in the right direction.

#### HOME HEALTH CARE BENEFITS MUST BE RESTORED FOR MEDICARE RECIPIENTS

(Mr. WISE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WISE. Madam Speaker, today is February 5, the day that up to 3,000 elderly and homebound West Virginians have dreaded. After today, Medicare will no longer pay for skilled nurses to perform venipuncture, that is drawing blood, as a sole reason for a home health visit.

For the 98-year-old woman living alone on a Randolph County mountain, no nurse will be visiting once a month. An 88-year-old woman who cannot get into the bathtub by herself loses both her monthly nurse's visit but also the home health aide who bathes her twice a week.

I do not believe this change was intended as part of the very large Medicare changes that were passed last year. But, in rural areas, many senior citizens who are homebound and bedbound cannot be expected to drive 25 miles to a doctor's office.

Think of the costs. People going without regular medical monitoring at home will go without the services until they are so sick that they show up at the emergency room and are hospitalized, the most expensive kind of care both for them and for society.

Madam Speaker, this Congress must act to help these people. I have cosponsored the bill offered by the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) to restore reimbursements. It is a frightening day for many homebound senior citizens today. Congress must act.

#### CONGRESS SHOULD MOVE CAUTIOUSLY ON RESOLUTION REGARDING IRAQ

(Mr. PAUL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, in 1964, a resolution passed this Congress which urged the President to take all necessary measures to repel any armed attack against the forces of the United States and to prevent further aggression, the Gulf of Tonkin resolution.

Today there is a resolution floating around this Congress that urges the President to take all necessary and appropriate actions to respond to the threat posed by Iraq. We should remember history. We lost 50,000 men after we passed that last resolution. We do not have a sensible policy with Iraq. We should move cautiously.

Madam Speaker, I would also urge other Members to be cautious when they talk about a surgical strike and assassination. Assassination of foreign leaders is still illegal under our law.

I urge my fellow colleagues, please, be cautious, be careful, and be wise when it comes to giving this President the right to wage war. Ironically, this President did not respond in the same manner with the Gulf of Tonkin resolution.

#### ACCESS TO THE WHITE HOUSE BY COMMUNIST CHINESE IS DANGEROUS

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Madam Speaker, while everybody in Washington is talking about a fly on our face, an elephant may be eating our assets.

Charlie Trie was indicted for illegal campaign contributions. The indictment reads: Charlie Trie helped to purchase access to high-level government officials with illegal contributions from foreign sources. Foreign sources. Chinese communists.

Think about it. Charlie Trie was not soliciting money from the Rotary. Charlie Trie was soliciting money from communist China.

Beam me up.

And while everybody may be talking about access to the White House by sexy interns and how sensational that is, access to the White House by communist China is dangerous.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of any nationality sovereignty we have left.

#### NATIONAL TESTING IS NOT IN THE BEST INTEREST OF AMERICA

(Mr. JONES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. JONES. Madam Speaker, last year, this Congress made great strides toward keeping the Federal bureauc-

racy out of our children's classrooms. Unfortunately, the administration is now trying to reverse our progress and to put Federal bureaucrats back in local classrooms by implementing a national testing program that Congress has already once clearly rejected.

I have said it before, and I will say it again: National testing is not in the best interest of this country.

The key to providing America's children with the best possible education is to put control in the hands of the parents, teachers and communities, not in the hands of Federal bureaucrats who are hundreds and even thousands of miles away.

For the sake of our children, I hope those of us who believe in parents and teachers, instead of bureaucrats, will pass H.R. 2846 to prohibit Federal testing, without the authorization of Congress.

#### CONGRESS MUST WORK TO PRESERVE AND STRENGTHEN AMERICA'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, in last week's State of the Union, President Clinton challenged this body to pass legislation to improve America's public schools. Democrats are eager to get to work, reducing class size, repairing crumbling schools, putting computers in every classroom.

But my Republican colleagues on the other side of the aisle are saying no. They bring unnecessary legislation today that would block national tests to ensure that every American child meets higher standards in math and in reading, that would make schools and teachers more accountable.

It is our public schools that have made this Nation strong and have put the American dream within the reach of all of our children. We should be working to ensure accountability, quality, and discipline in our schools, not passing legislation that would prevent teachers from using the tools that they need to teach our kids.

Republicans do not believe that our country and our Federal Government should have a role in education. They are wrong. I call on my colleagues to work with us to preserve and to strengthen America's public schools.

#### CONGRESS CONTROLS NATIONAL PURSE STRINGS

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, as Congress considers budget legislation this year, it might be helpful to recall a few things about our constitutional system.

Congress controls the purse strings, not the President. And for the taxpayers, it is a good thing the Republicans control Congress, because we all

know what happened to spending and to the deficit over the past 40 years, the 40 years when liberal Democrats controlled the Congress.

Consider the 1980s when President Reagan was President. The Democrats controlled Congress and spent more than Reagan asked for 7 out of 8 of those years, and then turned around and blamed President Reagan for the deficits.

Think of it. Democrats in Congress refused to control spending, adding more and more big government programs each and every year, and then blamed President Reagan for the deficits.

Well, now Republicans control Congress by a slim margin and the "big spender" is down in the White House. We must reject his proposals to spend any projected surpluses and instead let us pay down the national debt and let us cut taxes.

#### SCHOOL VOUCHERS ARE A DROP IN THE OCEAN OF EDUCATIONAL NEED

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

Mr. GREEN. Madam Speaker, America has a commitment to public education, an education which is a requirement for our country to be competitive in this world. Public education needs to be available to all Americans. It is not designed to educate just a few Americans. We want to educate everyone.

We should not take scarce public education funds and use it to support private institutions that only educate a few. Vouchers are the solution of my Republican colleagues to help education, but it is but a drop in the ocean of need.

Education opportunity, smaller class sizes, more qualified teachers are what America's youth need. Safer schools. We debate national tests today and vouchers. We are not seeing the forest for the trees.

Let us deal with public education with more qualified teachers, safer schools, and make sure we educate everyone and not just a few.

#### PROHIBITION ON FEDERALLY SPONSORED NATIONAL TESTING

Mr. LINDER. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 348 and ask for its immediate consideration.

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The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 348

*Resolved*, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 1(b) of rule XXIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2846) to pro-

hibit spending Federal education funds on national testing without explicit and specific legislation. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Education and the Workforce now printed in the bill. The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 6 of rule XXIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read. The Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may: (1) postpone until a time during further consideration in the Committee of the Whole a request for a recorded vote on any amendment; and (2) reduce to five minutes the minimum time for electronic voting on any postponed question that follows another electronic vote without intervening business, provided that the minimum time for electronic voting on the first in any series of questions shall be fifteen minutes. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. EMERSON). The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LINDER) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. LINDER. Madam Speaker, for the purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FROST), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Madam Speaker, House Resolution 348 is a completely open rule providing for consideration of H.R. 2846, a bill that will prohibit Federal testing unless specific and explicit statutory authority is given. H. Res. 348 provides for 1 hour of general debate divided equally between the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce. The rule makes in order the Committee on Education and the Workforce amendment in the nature of a substitute as an original bill for the purpose of amendment which shall be considered as read. This rule also accords priority in recognition to Members who have preprinted their amendments in the Congressional RECORD and allows the chairman to postpone re-

corded votes and reduce to 5 minutes the voting time on any postponed question. These provisions will facilitate consideration of amendments. House Resolution 348 also provides for one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

Madam Speaker, this is a straightforward open rule for a straightforward bill that ensures that there will be no Federal education testing in the future without specific and explicit statutory authority. This is not the end of the debate on national testing. But simply a reassertion of the fact that any Federal testing measure must go through the proper committee process of the United States Congress first.

I have been asked a number of times, what is so wrong about national testing for America's children? This is a legitimate question. I want to explain why we are so concerned about this nationalized planning concept. First, according to the chairman of the committee and Senator ASHCROFT, the Federal Government's record in Federalized testing is substandard to be generous. In addition I am most fearful that a national testing standard would lead us down a slippery slope toward a national curriculum most certainly designed by some bureaucrat here in Washington. I dread the one-size-fits-all education approach contrived by someone who does not know the first thing about the citizens of Georgia.

This idea also gets to the heart of what we believe. We are committed to providing more freedom and less government for the American people. Education decisions belong with local school districts and families and teachers in their communities. We cannot support additional multimillion-dollar testing mechanisms that waste money and strip local control of education.

As Republicans prepare an education agenda which returns decisionmaking to parents and teachers, gives school districts more flexibility, gives children more opportunity, I grow increasingly frustrated as the President moves in the opposite direction toward a more bloated Washington education bureaucracy. We passed legislation forcing 90 percent of education spending to be spent in the classroom. Now in the President's budget, he has decided to increase the Education Department's bloated administrative budget and add \$143 million in programs that would never send a dime to the classroom.

Madam Speaker, we heard arguments in the Committee on Rules that consideration of this legislation is premature and unnecessary. On the contrary, with only about 86 legislative days in this session of Congress, Chairman Goodling deserves praise for moving this important legislation through the normal authorizing process ahead of the appropriations process. This bill deals very specifically with the issue of Federal testing, and there is no better time for this House to begin consideration of this matter than today.

H.R. 2846 was favorably reported out of the Committee on Education and the