

petition, and by introducing a hodgepodge of bills that the House already rejected and a constitutional amendment that they didn't even believe in. Now, they are attaching hundreds of poisonous amendments to a bill that would genuinely reform this system.

Why? Because the Republican leadership is trying to protect a broken system that works for them. The Republican leadership wants to keep the flow of big money coming from special interests and silence the voices of working men and women and their families. The Republican leadership wants to kill reform.

Representative RAY LAHOOD even admitted last week that the Republicans were "trying to talk it to death."

But talk is cheap. Today, I challenge my Republican colleagues to act. Prove that you are not in the pockets of the special interests. Restore America's faith in its elections. Support genuine campaign finance reform and bring a true victory home to the American people. Vote for Meehan-Shays.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore (Mr. DICKEY). Does any other Member seek recognition?

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Chairman, I wonder what the process is to encourage the Chair to ask for a vote on this issue, and then I think we will have a rollcall vote tomorrow.

What is that process?

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. Are there any other Members who would like to speak on the amendment?

If not, the question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS) to the amendment in the nature of a substitute offered by the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS).

The question was taken; and the Chairman pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 442, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS) to the amendment in the nature of a substitute offered by the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS) will be postponed.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. Chairman, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Am I correct to understand that once the Thomas amendment has been considered and now that we have to roll that vote that we could not consider another amendment tonight?

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. It is the Chair's understanding that there will be a motion to rise.

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Am I correct that there was an understanding that we would cease debate at 10 o'clock tonight or when we completed debate on the Thomas amendment? If that is correct, it would appear to me that we are slowing down the process of amendments that need to be considered. I think we could do another amendment

tonight within 30 minutes, as tired as everybody is.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. A motion to rise, if made, is preferential.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HAYWORTH) having assumed the chair, Mr. DICKEY, Chairman pro tempore of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2183) to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to reform the financing of campaigns for elections for Federal office, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

APPOINTMENT AS MEMBERS OF THE MEXICO-UNITED STATES INTERPARLIAMENTARY GROUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, and pursuant to the provisions of 22 U.S.C. 276h, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to the Mexico-United States interparliamentary group, in addition to Mr. KOLBE of Arizona, chairman, and Mr. GILMAN of New York, vice chairman, appointed on April 27, 1998:

Messrs. DREIER of California,
BARTON of Texas,
BALLENGER of North Carolina,
MANZULLO of Illinois,
BILBRAY of California,
SANFORD of South Carolina,
HAMILTON of Indiana,
FILNER of California,
DELAHUNT of Massachusetts; and
REYES of Texas.

There was no objection.

NASHVILLE'S HOUSE THAT CONGRESS BUILT

(Mr. CLEMENT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute, revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material.)

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to report on my experience with the House that Congress Built and to urge all my colleagues to participate in this project.

Last year Congress passed House Resolution 147, which encourages all Members to participate in and to support activities to provide homes for low income families. So far 361 Members of Congress have agreed to participate in the House that Congress Built to make the American dream of home ownership a reality for low income families.

On Friday, June 12, I teamed up with the Nashville Area Habitat for Humanity and the Homebuilders Association of Middle Tennessee to break the world's record for building a habitat home. We not only broke the record, we shattered it. With 250 builders and 50 supervisors. Working tirelessly, the 3 bedroom 1,000 square foot home was built in an amazing 4 hours 39 minutes

and 8 seconds. It was an unbelievable experience that I had the opportunity to participate in.

I also had opportunity to meet Millard Fuller, the founder of Habitat for Humanity International. It appears now we will be in the Guinness Book of World Records. I urge all my colleagues to join Habitat for Humanity in building homes in their districts. And let me mention it again—we built that home in an amazing 4 hours 39 minutes and 8 seconds.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to report on my experience with "The House That Congress Built" and to urge ALL my colleagues to participate in this project.

On Friday, June 12, 1998, I teamed up with the Nashville Area Habitat for Humanity and the Homebuilders Association of Middle Tennessee to break the world record for building a Habitat home. We not only broke that record . . . we shattered it. The record had been 5 hours, 57 minutes and 13 seconds. With over 250 framers, builders, drywallers, electricians, plumbers and landscapers working tirelessly, the three bedroom, 1000-square-foot home was built in an amazing 4 hours, 39 minutes and 8 seconds.

I was very proud to be a part of this team. The hard work that Habitat for Humanity and the Homebuilders Association of Middle Tennessee devoted to this build is inspirational and heart warming. Witnessing the hard work of 250 builders and 50 supervisors who worked on the house was truly a sight to behold.

This project was a blessing to participate in because it gave me an opportunity to get to know the family who now owns the Habitat house. This personal contact is extremely important because it puts a face on poverty. When we give poverty a name and not merely a statistic, the problem reaches into our hearts and we feel compelled to do our part in helping to eliminate poverty housing in our country.

This home was built for Marilyn Winston and her 12-year-old son Ramonze. They had never owned a home and were living in a drug-infested and violence-filled neighborhood. Ramonze could not go outside to play. Marilyn, a registered medical assistant, is very devoted to the education and safety of her son and works very hard to provide for him. In their new home, Ramonze has his own room, a yard to play in and a safe neighborhood to live in.

At this building, I had the privilege to meet Millard Fuller, the founder and president of Habitat for Humanity International. Millard was a self-made millionaire at age 29, when he and his wife, Linda, sold all their possessions, gave their money to the poor and struck out on a search for a focus in their lives. Their experiences led Millard to create Habitat for Humanity International, dedicated to providing homes for low-income families.

Today, Habitat has over 1,400 affiliates in North America and partners in more than 50 nations. The 70,000th home will be built in September.

I think we can all agree with the principal benefits of home ownership. A home is not merely a shelter—it provides a family with an opportunity for growth, prosperity and security.

Home ownership promotes economic independence for our citizens and provides stability for our neighborhoods.

The United States is the first country in the world to make owning a home a reality for a vast majority of its families; however, more than one-third of the families in this country are not homeowners. A disproportionate percentage of non-homeowning families are low-income families. Owning a home is like owning a piece of the rock. If we all join together, we can help ensure that this nation becomes a nation of homeowners.

Last year, Congress passed House Resolution 147, which encourages all members to participate in and support activities to provide homes for low-income families. So far, 361 members of Congress have agreed to participate in the House that Congress Built, to make the American dream of homeownership a reality for low-income families. When we voted on this resolution last year, I thought it was a good idea. After participating in the world-record breaking build on Friday, I'm convinced that this is one of the greatest events I've ever had the privilege to be part of since becoming a member of Congress. I urge all of you to join Habitat for Humanity in building homes in your districts. I promise you that if you participate in a habitat for Humanity build, it will be one of the most rewarding experiences of your life.

I also urge my colleagues to ensure that this effort does not end with one symbolic house in each congressional district. Our goal is to eliminate poverty housing across the United States. This has to be the beginning of the fulfillment of the American dream for each and every American.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I yield back the balance of my time.

SUPPORT THE CHILD CUSTODY PROTECTION ACT

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

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I urge support for the legislation of the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN), the Child Custody Protection Act.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues may recall that when the partial-birth abortion ban became an issue, many pro-abortion organizations, including Planned Parenthood Federation of America and their research arm, the Guttmacher Institute wrote a letter saying there are 500 partial-birth abortions every year in the entire country. That statement, just like other statements that they made, turned out to be bogus, turned out to be a lie.

It was a New Jersey newspaper that broke the story that just one clinic in my State, the Metropolitan Medical Associates in Englewood, did about 1,500 partial-birth abortions each and every year, many of them on teenagers.

Now we find that the Metropolitan Medical Associates and other abortion mills in the State of New Jersey advertise and market their business in Pennsylvania and elsewhere and use the fact that New Jersey does not have a paren-

tal consent or parental notice statute as a way of luring young girls to that clinic and to other clinics. If we look at this ad, it stresses that pregnancies are terminated up to 24 weeks without parental knowledge or consent.

These ads are telling teens "Hey, we can end your pregnancy and your baby's life and your parents don't have to know." But if a teenager's secret abortion leads to complications, what happens then? Where is it written that the person driving the frightened and vulnerable 13 or 14-year-old to an abortion mill is responsible? No, her parents will be responsible for and involved in her care after the abortion—when the disaster hit. They should have had the chance to be involved at the beginning—and they would have if the state law had not been evaded.

We need to say that the law does matter. We need to say that parents matter. And we need to help those vulnerable children who are being carried across state lines and pushed into abortion clinics by relative strangers who, in most cases, have their own reasons for making sure that these girls get abortions.

Support the Child Custody Protection Act.

SPECIAL ORDERS

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

(Mr. CONYERS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

CALLING FOR REAL REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I think, as we were engaged in this very important and maybe life-changing debate on the question of campaign finance reform, returning the government back to the people, it might have been some confusion on a group that I wish to pay tribute tonight and that is, of course, the lawyers' committee for civil rights under law. That is not a political advocacy group, nor is it a PAC that secures and solicits money to fund candidates for any kind of election. This is a 35th year, an anniversary of this great and historic body. Its theme is answering the call for equal justice.

On June 21, 1963, President John F. Kennedy summoned 250 of America's most prominent lawyers to the White House to enlist their leadership in helping to resolve the civil rights crisis which gripped the Nation. In the preceding weeks Americans had witnessed the bombing of black churches, the number of civil rights, the murder of

civil rights activist Medgar Evers and the defiance of Alabama governor George Wallace who sought to block the admission of black students to the State university. Establishment of the lawyers' committee sought to fulfill the expectation of America's leaders that the private bar become an active force in the continuing struggle for equal opportunity and racial equality.

In saying that, Mr. Speaker, let me also acknowledge that we are not talking about taking the opportunities away from various advocacy groups to participate in the political process, and to raise money, and to speak and to utilize the first amendment. My colleagues know on the other side of the aisle in debate of this issue that you can organize a PAC and be actively involved in both fund-raising and speaking your views. So I would not want the great work of the lawyers' committee on civil rights to be associated with a PAC or an advocacy group. They are a justice group.

In keeping that in mind, Mr. Speaker, let me also say that we can see in our campaign process the influence of big money. Just this week the other body, of course, has not spoken to the issue that the American people want them to speak to, and that is the issue of reforming and changing the laws as it relates to the sale of tobacco. Four thousand youngsters every day start smoking, and 1,000 of them will die. Now that is why the Congressional Children's Caucus on Wednesday, June 24 will convene a hearing so that the world can hear our children speak out against the violence of tobacco use, how they are besieged with advertisement and encouragement to use it. We will listen to their voices. We will listen to physicians tell us how cigarette smoke, secondhand smoke, impacts children every day.

It is important that we relieve ourselves of the whole influence of negative influences on this concept of government and democracy. I certainly think that actions this week speak of negative influences. For most of the American public, when told the truth, want a reform of the way tobacco is utilized in this country and how it is projected toward our youth.

We could have had a strong tobacco reform bill. We could have had a bill that provides for the health care of Americans at the same time that we are protecting our children against advertisement that would encourage them to smoke. But yet influence has brought that bill to a halt.

I am here to call on this House to move forward and to bring about real reform as it relates to tobacco. I am here to ask this House to listen to these children as they come to the United States capital to present their case. And lastly, Mr. Speaker, I am here to make sure that we give attention and respect to an organization that deserves such; that is, the lawyers' committee for civil rights under the law, and maybe in its 35th year, as