

H. Res. 355

In the House of Representatives, U.S.,

February 12, 1998.

Whereas credible allegations by contestant Robert Dornan of election fraud in the 46th Congressional District of California were received by the House of Representatives and an investigation has been conducted under the authority of the Federal Contested Election Act;

Whereas that investigation was repeatedly hindered and delayed by the lack of cooperation by the Department of Justice, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, and key witnesses;

Whereas the delay and lack of cooperation included the following:

(1) the refusal of the Immigration and Naturalization Service to provide any information to the Committee on House Oversight until the Service was subpoenaed and the failure 8 months after the subpoenas to provide the accurate information needed by the Committee;

(2) the refusal of key witnesses to provide evidence under the provisions of the Federal Contested Election Act; and

(3) the refusal of the Department of Justice, in complete disregard of a resolution passed by the House of Representatives, to enforce the Federal Contested Election Act by prosecuting any of the 11 witnesses who refused to comply with the provisions of such Act which require production of evidence on a timely basis;

Whereas despite the lack of full cooperation from witnesses and Government agencies, the investigation of the election contest in the 46th Congressional District of California has resulted in evidence that over 700 illegal votes were cast in that election, including votes cast by persons who were not citizens of the United States;

Whereas the evidence of illegal voting comes from the following sources:

(1) the Registrar of Voters of Orange County has indicated that 124 absentee ballots were cast illegally in the November 1996 General Election; and

(2) the Committee on House Oversight's comparison of Immigration and Naturalization Service records and Orange County voter registration records provides evidence that more than 600 additional votes were illegally cast in that election;

Whereas the number of votes shown to be illegal by clear and convincing evidence is less than the post-recount 979 vote margin by which the election was decided;

Whereas it is critical that the incidence of illegal voting be reduced and eliminated in future elections and that the ability of investigators in future election contests to detect and punish voter fraud be enhanced;

Whereas the Committee on House Oversight should continue its investigation of illegal voting practices and recommend to the House of Representatives legislative measures to reduce voter fraud and improve the integrity of the voting process; and

Whereas the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Appropriations should closely examine the operations of the Department of Justice and the Immigration and Naturalization Service to ensure that proper steps are being taken to enforce the laws of the United States and accurately provide information on the citizenship status of individuals, as required by Federal law: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the election contest of Robert Dornan, contestant, against Loretta Sanchez, contestee, relating to the office of Representative from the 46th Congressional District of California, is dismissed.

Attest:

Clerk.