

I know that our new Congress does not care much about these old ideas. But I guess we Democrats are sort of old-fashioned, so we will keep right on fighting for them.

MORATORIUM ON ESA

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleague, Mr. CONDIT, in offering a bipartisan amendment that will extend the Regulatory Transition Act to cover listings and designations of critical habitat under the Endangered Species Act.

This amendment is necessary to protect the most endangered species of all, the American landowner. It is time that Congress gave hard-working, tax-paying American families the same rights as blind cave spiders, golden-cheeked warblers, and fairy shrimp.

Burdensome regulations imposed under the Endangered Species Act are reducing our landowners, farmers, and small business owners to a rare breed.

This year, Congress has the opportunity to amend the Endangered Species Act to balance the rights of landowners.

Until Congress reauthorizes the Endangered Species Act, we must put a stop to the out-of-control regulators and protect American property owners. Later today, we will offer a bipartisan amendment to extend the regulatory moratorium on Endangered Species Act listings and critical habitat designations. I urge my colleagues to support the bipartisan Condit amendment.

ONE LAW FOR EVERYONE

(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, in 50 days this Congress has passed only one bill that has been signed into law by the President. That measure quite rightfully demands that the Members of this Congress observe the same laws that apply to everyone else. The American people rightfully expect that Members will shoulder the same responsibilities as ordinary citizens and meet the same standards of behavior as ordinary citizens.

But what a difference a few weeks can make. I am deeply concerned to learn that a Member of this House who stands accused of serious ethical transgressions, indeed a cloud of alleged improprieties that threaten public confidence in this House, that Member has actually threatened to shield himself by introducing legislation to require his accuser to pay both his legal fees and the expenses of the Ethics Committee that is investigating him.

Mr. Speaker, does obtaining special legislation to immunize one's self

sound like what an ordinary citizen does? No, it does not. But that is indeed what the Speaker of the House has threatened to do.

I suggest that not intimidation, but more speech is the way to deal with this problem.

□ 1045

IN SUPPORT OF THE REGULATORY TRANSITION ACT

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

Mr. HOSTETTLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Regulatory Transition Act.

Mr. Speaker, there is a frantic effort underway on the part of the administration to frighten the American public and this body about what those of us who would protect private property rights are trying to do. For years, Big Government has disseminated the message that the public needs of Washington, DC, to take care of it—that without Washington, DC, no one will look out for its health and well-being; that without Washington, DC, no one will protect its clean air and clean water; that without Washington, DC, no one will know what to do because only Washington, DC, knows what's good. Something may sound ridiculous but, as the message goes, it's coming from Washington, DC, so it must be a smart idea, because after all, doesn't Washington, DC, know best?

There was a different message sent in the last election. Washington, DC, doesn't know best. Regulation after regulation comes down the pike—micromanaging every facet of the daily lives of individuals and the daily operations of businesses. The people said, "Enough." The administration responded by preparing some 4,300 new regulations to get through under the closing door.

If we are truly representing the American people, we must keep this from happening. The administration is trying to send a message that life as we know it will fall apart if these regulations don't get through. That is an unfortunate scare tactic. But let's show everybody concerned that the regulatory monster isn't vital to our existence, but it actually threatens our way of life as we know it. Let's cast a vote for smaller, smarter Government and defy those who are trying to scare the American public and this body into continuing with business as usual.

A COURSE IN ETHICS

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

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, this is the people's House. This is what democracy is all about.

According to Timothy Mescon, dean of Kennesaw State College, political and academic resources were commingled in the preparation of the course he cotaught with Speaker GINGRICH. This led Dean Mescon to admit to the Los Angeles Times this week that "In hindsight, we would never do this again. There's no question about that * * * I feel horrendous about this thing, and it's embarrassing."

Lois Kubal, a graduate student involved in the design of Speaker GINGRICH. This led Dean Mescon to admit to the Los Angeles Times this week that "In hindsight, we would never do this again. There's no question about that * * * I feel horrendous about this thing, and it's embarrassing."

Lois Kubal, a graduate student involved in the design of Speaker GINGRICH's so-called course, says that "the class at KSC was intended to be partisan and very political."

Even more disturbing, course content was sold to corporate sponsors. According to a request for funding, potential donors were promised they could participate or work directly with the leadership of the project in the course development process in exchange for their \$25,000 or \$50,000 check. This is how the course is taught, the game is played, at Newt University.

Mr. Speaker, the charges keep piling up. We need an outside, independent, counsel to investigate the serious ethical charges hanging over the head of the Speaker of the House, and we need one now.

MORE ON THE REGULATORY TRANSITION ACT

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

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to talk today about the Regulatory Transition Act. This is a critical act for us and it is only a starting point, because over the past years we might as well clear out the floor of this Congress and let unelected bureaucrats come sit, take our places. They have been running the Government, lock, stock, and barrel. They have made laws. And the United States EPA, Mr. Speaker, might as well have come into the Ohio Valley and Youngstown, OH and Cleveland, OH and taken the food off the tables of people. They have over extended their arm.

It is time to make normal, common-sense, rational ideas to protect people but not to have the mismatch that we have had that has strangled the ability of blue-collar working people to literally just survive in the Ohio Valley and industrial parts of the State of Ohio.

So we want to protect people, but we have now the opportunity to correct the faults that have occurred of an overstretched bureaucratic arm.