

will be introducing this legislation in the Senate.

For those of us who have been in Washington for a few years now, no matter how many times you think you've seen it all, you can rest assured you haven't. Washington wonders never cease. You can only scratch your head and ask yourself—Is this really happening? That is exactly why I am here—I have some unbelievable examples of what Federal bureaucrats are doing with our tax money.

Initially it was just a trickle—and then a flood of Members, who came to see me loaded down with examples of lobbying materials prepared by Federal agencies. Not just a single agency, but several agencies all across the Government. How can taxpayer money be used by Federal agencies to prepare materials expressly for the purpose of assisting outside groups in order to stir up grassroots support or opposition for legislative proposals pending before Congress? Often these materials are under the guise of being informational or educational fact sheets—but clearly they are not. In other cases, they are a lot more blatant such as invitations to briefings for lobbyists to educate them on the agency's view of a particular piece of legislation. They are clearly political materials created for the specific purpose of influencing Congress on the outcome of legislation.

As they say, the proof is in the pudding and there are numerous examples that have been brought to my attention. These include an employee check stub from the Department of Veterans Affairs opposing the House budget plan, Secretary Ron Brown's invitation to attend a briefing to oppose the Mica commerce legislation, and a letter from the National Spa and Pool Institute complaining about receiving lobbying materials from an agency that regulates their industry, EPA.

You might ask, as I did, isn't there already a law on the books that covers this activity. How can this be happening? The law on the books, the Anti-Lobbying Act, was passed in 1919 and is a criminal statute. The law itself is unclear, and has been the subject of numerous opinions, often conflicting, on what it means. During the last 75 years, no one has ever been prosecuted under the law. Having DOJ as the enforcing agency is like the fox guarding the chicken coop. Existing law needs to be clarified—and we need a civil statute. The most recent interpretation of the law is so narrow that unless there is an explicit request by an agency to contact Members of Congress, then there is no violation of the law.

This bill is modeled after a provision that has been included in the Interior Appropriations bill since 1978. The amendment covers only Federal agencies and provides that no funds would be used for any activity that is intended to promote public support or opposition to any legislative proposal including preparation of pamphlets, kits, booklets, etc. However, Federal officials can continue to communicate directly with Members of Congress, and provide information, and respond to requests from Members. In addition, the President, Vice President, Senate-confirmed appointees, and other White House officials would be able to continue to communicate positions to the public. The Comptroller General would enforce the provision if funds have been expended in violation; in addition, the GAO must report on the implementation of the legislation 1 year after enactment.

This is a balanced bill that would still allow the administration to effectively communicate its views. At the same time, this provision will eliminate and even protect the GS-12 career employee from lobbying or being forced to lobby grassroots organizations. Federal employees should be administering programs passed by Congress—not campaigning with taxpayer dollars.

This bill is endorsed by a number of national organizations including the National Taxpayers Union, NFIB, Chamber of Commerce, Competitive Enterprise Institute, National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors, Citizens Against Government Waste, Chamber of Commerce, and others.

The bottom line is that this is good Government reform. Taxpayer dollars should not be used for lobbying by Government bureaucrats. I urge support of this legislation by all my colleagues.

TRIBUTE TO STEVE COHEN,  
INTERNATIONAL BASEBALL  
COACH OF THE YEAR

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 13, 1996*

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise a man from the Third District of Minnesota who exemplifies the unconquerable spirit of America, a man who overcame tremendous personal pain and, through outstanding dedication, perseverance and leadership, coached the U.S.A. Junior Baseball team to the world title.

As a result, he has been recognized by his peers around the world as the best in his field for 1996.

Steve Cohen of Plymouth, MN, recently was named International Baseball Coach of the Year by the International Baseball Association.

Steve is the son of a longtime and close personal friend of mine, Phil Cohen. Many of you in this Chamber and the other know Phil Cohen, who for many years worked for Senator David Durenberger of Minnesota. His son, Steve, is the baseball coach at North Hennepin Community College in Brooklyn Park, MN, in Minnesota's Third Congressional District.

But I want to talk about more than what happened on the field of every ballplayer's dreams. For Steve Cohen was also living out any son's worst nightmare, all at the same time.

Steve Cohen's impressive accomplishments are made all the more inspiring by the personal courage and fortitude he showed last year as coach of Team USA. Steve led his players to a 10-0 victory over the Chinese Taipei squad in the final game of the World Junior Baseball Championship at historic Fenway Park in Boston on August 20. It was the first title for Team USA since 1989.

Fenway Park is known for its left field wall, the Green Monster, which rises high above the park. That wall is not far from home, but it is a difficult task, even for a player with the biggest heart, to hit the ball over the Monster with the swing of the bat.

Steve Cohen could have succumbed to the wall of pain and disappointment he was facing. He was far from home, too, far from his mother, Bev Cohen. Bev was suffering from

terminal cancer back in Minnesota. Steve did not know if he would make it home in time to see his mother before she passed away.

But Steve Cohen showed the heart of a champion, leading his Team USA to the world title.

Mr. Speaker, Steve Cohen put his personal trauma behind him and focused his remarkable baseball mind and superior teaching skills on his young players. And he successfully scaled that wall climbed only by champions with real heart.

Thankfully, Steve made it home in time to present his mother Bev the gold medal before she passed on. Wearing his Team USA uniform, Steve Cohen gave his mother a tremendous lift.

In her typical style, Bev Cohen told her son: "If you hadn't won that gold medal, I'd have booted you out of the house."

Bev Cohen died on Labor Day, 1995, shortly after Steve Cohen got back home. Steve Cohen called his mother "a real war horse" during that awful time when Bev was suffering so greatly.

Mr. Speaker, Steve Cohen is a war horse, too, with a heart the size of a stallion's. Combining his inspiring leadership, courage, teaching skills, and keen baseball eye, Steve Cohen brought Team USA the world championship.

And then Steve Cohen brought his mother back home one final, joyous gift, the gift only a child raised so lovingly and so well could give.

So, we will all rise together later this year when, on September 14, in Lausanne, Switzerland, the International Baseball Association presents Steve Cohen with his award as International Baseball Coach of the Year.

Steve Cohen scaled a wall that few are capable of climbing, putting aside personal pain of the worst kind to lead his team past such talented teams as those from Cuba, Australia, and Taipei.

Mr. Speaker, this honor is truly well deserved. And we all know Bev Cohen's smile will be shining like a lighthouse out in left when Steve receives his award.

The people of Minnesota are proud of Steve Cohen, the courageous, compassionate person and outstanding coach. Steve Cohen represents the spirit of Minnesota and is a real credit to our State and Nation.

Baseball fans everywhere thank you, Coach Cohen, and salute you on being named International Baseball Coach of the Year.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR H.R.  
1020

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 13, 1996*

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be the sponsor of H.R. 1020, the Integrated Spent Nuclear Fuel Management Act of 1995, a bill that will make the Federal Government live up to its promise of building and operating a high-level nuclear waste repository by January 31, 1998. While nearly 200 of my colleagues have cosponsored H.R. 1020, there are several that were unable to do so after the bill was put on the House calendar. I would like to acknowledge the following Members as