

First, the importance of political action committees (PACs) should be reduced. We should cap total PAC contributions to a candidate and reduce the limit on contributions from a single PAC.

Second, Members of Congress should be prohibited from running "leadership PACs," which a few Members, including leaders in both parties, use to gain power and influence over other Members for their own personal agenda.

Third, Congress should limit the flow of "soft money" and "independent" spending into political campaigns. Such spending, which is made by or on behalf of corporations, wealthy individuals, and other organizations, falls outside normal federal campaign finance restrictions, and has been abused by both parties in recent years.

Fourth, reforms should emphasize the importance of grassroots political fundraising over big-ticket donors. The number of large contributions should be capped.

Fifth, Congress should examine ways to encourage voluntary campaign spending limits, such as providing reduced-cost television and radio time to candidates who abide by the limits.

Sixth, Congress must give more authority and support to the Federal Election Commission to crack down on election law violations.

FREEZING CONGRESSIONAL SALARIES

I have consistently voted against congressional pay raises during my time in Congress, including the most recent increase in 1989; and for the last several years, have supported the freeze on Members' salaries.

CUTTING CONGRESSIONAL PENSIONS

The House will likely consider proposals this summer to reduce congressional pension benefits, and ban pensions to Members convicted of crimes. Possible reforms include increasing Members' personal contributions and capping total pension benefits. I voted last year to reduce congressional pensions.

LIMITING THE CONGRESSIONAL FRANK

Since 1992, with my support, the House has cut its mailing budget by more than 70%, banned mass mailings within 90 days of an election, and required all mass mailings to be approved by a bipartisan franking commission to ensure they are substantive and non-partisan.

REFORMING ETHICS PROCESS

I have introduced a bill to create an outside panel to investigate charges of misconduct against Members. The Ethics Committee has increasingly been unable to fully and fairly investigate, prosecute and judge ethics complaints against fellow Members.

REGULARIZING REFORM

In early 1995 the House, with my support, approved several internal House reforms, including proposals to eliminate three committees and cut committee staff by one-third. I have introduced a bill to regularize this type of reform effort by having Congress take up reform proposals every two years, rather than do one-shot, omnibus packages every twenty or thirty years.

CONCLUSION

No issue is more important than the restoration of the confidence of Americans in their government. Americans will forgive government's honest failings if they believe that it cares about their needs and is trying to do a better job. Members of Congress have an obligation to earn the public's respect and trust. Congress has taken some important steps, but other, broader reforms are necessary if Congress is to be the truly representative body the people deserve and the nation's founders intended.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 1996

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3540) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes:

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the amendment, which would prohibit IMET—foreign assistance for military education and training—to the Government of Indonesia.

For over 20 years, international human rights advocates have been calling attention to abuses by the Indonesian Government in its occupation of East Timor. There is evidence that United States military assistance has helped to further the atrocities in East Timor.

Indonesia's armed forces invaded East Timor in 1975, only weeks after East Timor had attained independence from Portugal. Since then, the Indonesian army has carried out a campaign of what amounts to ethnic cleansing against the Timorese through a program of forced migration. Persecution has been particularly harsh against the Christian majority.

More than 200,000 Timorese—out of a total population of 700,000—have been killed directly or by starvation in forced migrations from their villages since the Indonesian invasion.

There are recent reports of a renewed campaign of repression of Catholics in East Timor. These reports include atrocities such as the smashing of statues of the Virgin Mary. The campaign has also been directed personally against the Catholic Bishop of Dili, Bishop Belo. His phones are tapped, his fax machine is monitored, his visitors are watched, and his freedom of movement is restricted. But Bishop Belo persists in his courageous efforts to defend justice, peace, and the preservation of the dignity of his people. Recently, he has set up a church commission to monitor human rights abuses, and a radio station to disseminate information and news.

Mr. Speaker, the people of East Timor comprise a sovereign nation. They differ from most Indonesians in language, religion, ethnicity, history, and culture. They are entitled to independence and freedom. And in the meantime, they are entitled to fundamental human rights including the freedom of religion.

Supporters of expanded IMET for Indonesia argue that since one of the purposes of such aid is to educate the military about human rights, we should provide such aid no matter what they do. But this presumes a willingness on the part of the government to change its dismal record. In the absence of such willingness, the only real effect of expanded IMET is to send a signal to the world that our disapproval of the Indonesian military—which we expressed after the 1991 massacre by cutting off all IMET—has softened. This is the wrong signal at the wrong time. We must not put our

stamp of approval on a regime that massacres children in churchyards and then remains defiant.

I urge a "yes" vote on the amendment.

TRIBUTE TO MAJ. SCOTT BURAN

HON. JACK REED

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 1996

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an exceptional officer of the U.S. Marines in Maj. Scott Buran. This week, Major Buran completes a highly successful tour as the Marine Corps' assistant liaison officer to this body over the past 4 years. It is truly a pleasure for me to recognize a few of his many outstanding achievements.

A native of Vestal, NY, Major Buran became dedicated to the service of this country by following the fine example of his father, Lt. Col. Frank Buran. A retired Marine officer with his own impressive achievements, the elder Buran led marines during the amphibious assault on Iwo Jima during World War II and later during the Korean war. Following in his father's footsteps, Major Buran was commissioned in the Marine Corps on May 15, 1982, upon his graduation from the State University of New York via the Platoon Leaders Course Program.

Upon completion of The Basic School in Quantico, VA, Second Lieutenant Buran attended the Artillery Officer Basic Course at Fort Sill, OK, before reporting for duty with the First Battalion, Eleventh Marines at Camp Pendleton, CA, in August 1983. With 1/11, he served successively as a forward observer, adjutant, and battery executive officer.

In July 1985, First Lieutenant Buran joined Marine Barracks Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines, for duty as a platoon commander and guard officer. Completing a successful 14 months in the Philippines, he returned stateside in the winter of 1986 for his new assignment at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, CA. Here, newly promoted Captain Buran contributed immeasurably to the process of making marines while serving successively as a platoon, series, and company commander, and finally as the S-3 training officer.

After a 6-month return to school at Fort Sill for the artillery officers advanced course, Captain Buran returned to the Fleet Marine Force in November 1989. Just 4 months later, he deployed with 3rd Battalion, 10th Marines as an artillery battery commander for duty in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Serving with distinction, Captain Buran participated in the liberation of Kuwait City.

Captain Buran arrived at the Capitol in August 1992 for duty as the Marine Corps assistant congressional liaison officer. Soon thereafter, he was advanced to the grade of major. In this capacity he has been instrumental in providing Congress with a working knowledge of the Marine Corps. Most importantly, Mr. Speaker, Maj. Scott Buran has come to epitomize those qualities that we as a nation have come to expect from our marines—impeccable integrity, moral character, and absolute professionalism.

I had the privilege of traveling with Major Buran to Somalia and to the former Yugoslavia. His superb professionalism, mature