

The current system is plagued by: rapidly rising costs, driven largely by the growing importance and cost of television in campaigns; major reliance on special interest money; less competitive elections because of the imbalance in resources between incumbents and challengers; and a host of loopholes through which individuals and groups seek influence. These include: "bundling", which involves the collection of checks for a specific candidate by an intermediate agent; "soft money", money that may indirectly influence federal elections but is raised and spent outside the purview of federal laws; and "independent expenditures" which allow unlimited spending by groups to communicate with voters for or against a candidate so long as there is no coordination with the candidate. To illustrate the extent of these loopholes, the amount of soft money raised by both parties in recent elections has tripled in four years from \$88 million in 1992 to \$263 million in 1996.

REFORMS

I believe that reform has to move forward step by step. That's why it is very important for the congressional inquiries into White House fundraising and congressional campaigns to proceed. I favor hearings with the broadest scope. Many Hoosiers tell me the real scandal is not how the law is broken but what's legal under the present system. Congressional hearings can illuminate the problems and help us enact legislation to solve them.

A principal aim of a campaign finance bill must be to create the conditions for more equal competition for more offices, and that could include easier access to television time for candidates. We should also close the loopholes in the current law on bundling, soft money, and independent expenditures. We should look at public financing for federal elections, which I personally support, and limit the role of political action committees. Certainly disclosure of spending in politics has to be broadened and speeded up, and penalties for overstepping the line should be made harsher and immediate. The Federal Election Commission must be more aggressive and vigilant in enforcing the election law.

CONCLUSION

Our failure to have effective campaign finance laws in this country represents a major failure in American public policy. We have a campaign finance system today that is gradually eroding the public's trust and confidence. It is a slow-motion crisis, but it is a crisis.

As we try to reform the system, we must not let the perfect be the enemy of good. It is not possible to enact a perfect, sweeping campaign finance reform bill today and perhaps not in the future. But the worst abuses can be dealt with one by one. We simply must keep at it and address the problems and plug the loopholes in the law as they become evident. A long journey begins with a single step.

CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT DIX
RETIREES FROM AIR FORCE
AFTER 24 YEARS; A DISTINGUISHED CAREER IN ACTIVE
DUTY, RECRUITING, AND RE-
SERVES

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 1997

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Chief M. Sgt. Ronald W. Dix

upon his retirement and to ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Chief Dix for his 24 years of service and for his symbolic representation of all that is good about our Armed Forces, and particularly those of the U.S. Air Force and Air National Guard.

Chief Dix was on active duty with the Air Force from September 5, 1961 to September 4, 1965, serving as protocol NCO at Wheelus AFB, Tripoli, Libya and at Lindsay Air Station, Weisbaden, Germany. During this time, Chief Dix was also a member of the 37th Air Defense Missile Squadron at Kinchloe AFB, Sault St. Marie, MI.

In January 1978, he joined the Air National Guard, accepting an assignment in the Base Preparedness Office. In 1981, he was reassigned to active duty as a recruiter. Chief Dix was instrumental in attracting and inspiring young men and women to join the Air Guard in serving to their country. In 1984, he was assigned as training NCO in the Civil Engineer Squadron of the 174th Fighter Wing and participated in many overseas deployments.

During his final time with the New York Air National Guard, Chief Dix served as the facilities manager for the entire Hancock Field Air National Guard Base. Some of his decorations for meritorious service include: the Air Force Good Conduct Medal, the Air Force Achievement Medal with four devices, the Air Reserves Meritorious Service Medal with five devices, the National Defense Service, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, the Air Force Overseas Long and Short Tour Ribbon, the Air Force Longevity Service Award, the Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon, the New York State Commendation Medal, and the New York State Conspicuous Service Cross.

Upon completion of such exemplary service to our Nation, I commend Chief Dix and wish him well in retirement.

A TRIBUTE HONORING LEO K.
FARRALL, III**HON. STENY H. HOYER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 1997

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute today to the life and legacy of one of Charles County's finest individuals, Mr. Leo K. Farrell, III who recently passed away on Feb. 13, 1997 after a bout with cancer.

Mr. Speaker, there are multiple ways to recognize the impact of an individual. Society often dictates one's worth by professional accomplishments, personal credentials, and how much wealth one has accumulated. Although, these are often the gauges by which we sometimes measure one another, these standards are often ephemeral compared to the commitment of family and community, and the regard peers cast on an individual. It has been noted that the true measure of an individual's success is in the number of people he or she calls "friend." In either category, L.K. Farrall was a success.

In 1979, Mr. Farrall opened the doors of the very first L.K. Farrall Realtors, Ltd. To date, his efforts and energy matured to four additional offices in the southern Maryland region, employing over 175 people. Mr. Farrall labored to build his company not only through

the avenues of sales but its service to the surrounding communities. According to his close friend Delegate Van Mitchell, Mr. Farrall had a saying "You can get everything in life you want . . . if you help enough people get what they want." His selfless emphasis on others and his love for his family and community are remembered in testimonials from friends and colleagues which appear in a tribute in the April newsletter for the Charles County Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Farrall served as a member of the Charles County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors; he was the former chairman of the Charles County Economic Development Commission, a member of the Naval Industrial Alliance, and a generous contributor to Special Olympics, Habitat for Humanity, and to the American Cancer Society.

Mr. Speaker, it was through his giving that he gained, and through his example and his leadership that others learned to love and respect him. Charles County Commissioner William Daniel Mayer noted: "as a friend you knew L.K. would always be there for you. he was unassuming. He shunned the limelight and took as much joy in your success as if it was his own. It is a privilege to have grown up with, to have worked with, and to have shared L.K. His wry wit, unflinching loyalty, love of family and a sincere dedication to his community will be missed. We must all be grateful that we had, even for a short time, L.K."

Mr. Farrall is survived by his wife, Judy and two beautiful daughters. Although, Mr. Farrall passed away at the very young age of 51, his life and legacy will continue to serve as an example to others in southern Maryland because of his leadership and compassion for others.

I ask the Speaker and all my colleagues to join me in saluting the life of Mr. Leo K. Farrall, III and extend with me condolences to the Farrall family and the employees of his company.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM EDWARD
GLOVER**HON. TERRY EVERETT**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 1997

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, I offer tribute today to a tireless public servant and advocate of the elderly in southeast Alabama, Mr. William Glover.

William Glover retires this year from his post as executive director of the Southern Alabama Regional Council on Aging in Dothan. This vital organization sponsors the Area Agency on Aging and the Medicaid Waiver Program in a seven county area of the Wiregrass. Mr. Glover has been the executive director since the Alabama Regional Council on Aging's founding in 1986.

William Glover's name has become synonymous with voluntarism and compassion for the elderly in south Alabama. Through his years of service, he has been instrumental in benchmark efforts like the acquisition of 52 vans, badly needed for elderly transportation programs, and the establishment of the Older Americans' Day celebration which is now in its eighth year with some 3,000 persons in annual attendance.

Mr. Glover's interest in the welfare of the aging shows no limit as he has worked closely