

Department studies, publications, and grant administration.

I believe Americans would rather see their dollars at work—providing more teachers and teacher aides, purchasing updated software and state-of-the-art microscopes, and even seeing that every American classroom is connected to the Internet and brought into our new Information Age.

The classroom is where the action is. The classroom is where knowledge grows and the learning takes place. Not in some stuffy Washington office—where miles upon miles of paperwork and publications are produced—and even teachers must pay if they want to benefit.

The Dollars to the Classroom resolution calls on the Department of Education to see that 90 percent of Department of Education elementary and secondary education funds get into the classrooms of this Nation—directly.

If this actually happened roughly \$1,800 would be added to each classroom budget across the United States. Even President Clinton has said, “We cannot ask the American people to spend more on education until we do a better job with the money we’ve got now.” As he and Vice President GORE have said, the reinventing of public education begins not in the halls or offices of Washington, but in communities across the country. We must ask the fundamental questions about how dollars which are to go to the public school systems are spent.

Education dollars in the classroom can make a tremendous difference and can enhance a child’s learning experience. I would like to share some comments from school children about the Dollars to the Classroom resolution. They have said that, “I support this bill because . . .

Our books are falling apart, so it is kind of hard to learn with them.

My Social Studies book was new in 1988. Hey, it’s 1997, we need to get new books!

I think more of the taxes for education should go to the schools. We really need more money in our classroom because our teacher always has to buy things for our classroom with her own money.

We need to get more teachers so the children can get more education.

We need more money in the schools for things such as books, paper, posters and items (our teacher) needs to teach.

Many chairs are wobbly, the books are torn, in the winter, the classrooms are practically freezing. All of this makes it very difficult to learn. This bill will hopefully improve our learning.

I hope this bill is supported and becomes official. The classrooms in the U.S. need more things and equipment to help the kids.

Yes, let’s help the kids. We have a moral responsibility to drastically improve our current education system for our children.

Mr. Speaker, for the sake of our Nation’s kids—I call upon all of us to choose to put children first. I urge Members of the House to support the Dollars to the Classroom resolution. I thank the Speaker, and look forward to working with him during the 105th Congress on this important issue.

TRIBUTE TO THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 1997

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Fresno Chapter of the American Institute of Parliamentarians. The American Institute of Parliamentarians has requested that California Governor Pete Wilson declare the month of April, “Parliamentary Emphasis Month.”

Parliamentary procedure provides an accurate, impartial and timely means of arriving at the opinion of those present. The mission statement of the American Institute of Parliamentarians is: to foster, promote, and teach the highest standards of parliamentary procedure in keeping with both the principles of parliamentary law and the adopted parliamentary authority, and in accordance with the accepted system of rules for conducting business in an organizational body.

Among others, America was founded upon the principles of individuals rights, majority rule, and the promotion of a deliberative process for governing and decisionmaking procedures. Our third President, Thomas Jefferson, wrote the first manual on parliamentary practice in this country. Published in 1801, that manual has left an indelible mark on our history. The Rules of Order are an integral part of any properly functioning organization. Whether in the private sector, or at every level of government, the Rules of Order is a guide that continues to be utilized on a daily basis.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the American Institute of Parliamentarians for their adherence to and respect for parliamentary law. I congratulate the American Institute of Parliamentarians as they celebrate Parliamentary Emphasis Month, and ask my colleagues to join me in tribute to Fresno Chapter president James

Wilburn, committee co-chair’s Paula Garner and Barbara Barstow, and the entire Fresno chapter, as they observe this milestone in their organization. I wish them continued success in this worthy endeavor.

CITIZENSHIP USA

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 1997

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, the Immigration and Naturalization Service [INS] has tested me time and again. Today, my patience has run out. My district in southern California has one of the largest concentrations of illegal aliens. INS claims to be working to remedy this problem. They are failing miserably.

This morning, I learned that the Citizenship USA Program, which is run by the INS, has failed to properly screen nearly 180,000 aliens. These aliens were hastily naturalized without adequate background checks. Many more submitted the fingerprints of another person to avoid triggering a hit by the FBI. How many criminals has the INS allowed to become a U.S. citizen? How many criminal aliens are lurking in our neighborhoods and preying on our children?

Mr. Speaker, yesterday I helped introduce legislation drafted by my colleague, ELTON GALLEGLY. This bill would expand a pilot program currently operating in Anaheim and Ventura Counties, CA, which requires 24-hour presence of INS agents at local jails in 100 counties with the highest concentration of illegal aliens.

Currently, our local law enforcement officials do not have the power to deport these criminal illegal aliens. This bill will place the proper authorities in the hands of our communities in order to send these criminal illegal aliens back over the border for good. In addition, because those who committed crimes are more likely to break the law again, this bill will pick up those who slipped through the cracks of the Citizenship USA Program. It is my hope that the INS will now correct the wrongs they have committed against law-abiding U.S. citizens. The INS must take appropriate action to deport those who are found to have submitted falsified documents to gain U.S. citizenship. It is the right thing to do for the safety of our children and the security of our neighborhoods. We must rid our streets of these criminal aliens.