

Edwards	Klecza	Ramstad
Ehlers	Klink	Redmond
Ehrlich	Klug	Regula
Emerson	Knollenberg	Reyes
Engel	Kolbe	Riggs
English	LaFalce	Riley
Ensign	LaHood	Rivers
Eshoo	Lampson	Rodriguez
Etheridge	Lantos	Roemer
Evans	Largent	Rogan
Everett	Latham	Rogers
Ewing	LaTourette	Rohrabacher
Farr	Lazio	Ros-Lehtinen
Fattah	Leach	Rothman
Fawell	Levin	Roukema
Fazio	Lewis (CA)	Roybal-Allard
Filner	Lewis (KY)	Royce
Flake	Linder	Ryun
Foley	Lipinski	Sabo
Ford	Livingston	Salmon
Fowler	LoBiondo	Sanchez
Fox	Lofgren	Sanders
Franks (NJ)	Lowey	Sandlin
Frelinghuysen	Lucas	Sanford
Frost	Luther	Sawyer
Furse	Maloney (CT)	Saxton
Gallegly	Maloney (NY)	Schaefer, Dan
Ganske	Manton	Schaffer, Bob
Gejdenson	Manzullo	Schumer
Gekas	Martinez	Sensenbrenner
Gephardt	Mascara	Sessions
Gibbons	Matsui	Shadegg
Gilchrest	McCarthy (MO)	Shaw
Gillmor	McCarthy (NY)	Shays
Gilman	McCollum	Sherman
Goode	McCrery	Shimkus
Goodlatte	McDade	Shuster
Goodling	McHale	Sisisky
Gordon	McHugh	Skaggs
Goss	McInnis	Skeen
Graham	McIntosh	Skelton
Granger	McIntyre	Slaughter
Green	McKeon	Smith (MI)
Greenwood	McNulty	Smith (NJ)
Gutierrez	Meehan	Smith (OR)
Gutknecht	Meek	Smith (TX)
Hall (OH)	Menendez	Smith, Adam
Hall (TX)	Metcalf	Smith, Linda
Hamilton	Mica	Snowbarger
Hansen	Millender-Solomon	Snyder
Harman	McDonald	Souder
Hastert	Miller (FL)	Spence
Hastings (FL)	Minge	Spratt
Hastings (WA)	Mink	Stabenow
Hayworth	Moakley	Stark
Hefley	Molinari	Stearns
Hefner	Mollohan	Stenholm
Herger	Moran (KS)	Stokes
Hill	Moran (VA)	Strickland
Hilleary	Morella	Stump
Hilliard	Myrick	Stupak
Hinchey	Nadler	Sununu
Hinojosa	Neal	Talent
Hobson	Nethercutt	Tanner
Hoekstra	Neumann	Tauscher
Holden	Ney	Tauzin
Hooley	Northup	Taylor (MS)
Horn	Norwood	Taylor (NC)
Hostettler	Nussle	Thompson
Houghton	Oberstar	Thornberry
Hoyer	Obey	Thune
Hulshof	Ortiz	Thurman
Hunter	Owens	Tiahrt
Hutchinson	Oxley	Torres
Hyde	Packard	Trafficant
Inglis	Pallone	Turner
Istook	Parker	Upton
Jackson-Lee	Pascrell	Vento
(TX)	Pastor	Visclosky
Jefferson	Paxon	Walsh
Jenkins	Pease	Wamp
John	Pelosi	Watkins
Johnson (CT)	Peterson (MN)	Watts (OK)
Johnson (WI)	Peterson (PA)	Waxman
Johnson, E. B.	Petri	Weldon (FL)
Johnson, Sam	Pickering	Weldon (PA)
Jones	Pickett	Weller
Kaptur	Pitts	Wexler
Kasich	Pombo	Weygand
Kelly	Pomeroy	Whitfield
Kennedy (MA)	Porter	Wicker
Kennedy (RI)	Portman	Wise
Kennelly	Poshard	Wolf
Kildee	Price (NC)	Woolsey
Kim	Pryce (OH)	Wynn
Kind (WI)	Quinn	Yates
King (NY)	Radanovich	Young (FL)
Kingston	Rahall	

NAYS—32

Carson	Kucinich	Payne
Clay	Lewis (GA)	Rangel
Conyers	Markey	Rush
Cummings	McDermott	Scott
Davis (IL)	McGovern	Serrano
Delahunt	McKinney	Tierney
Dellums	Miller (CA)	Towns
Frank (MA)	Murtha	Velazquez
Jackson (IL)	Olver	Waters
Kanjorski	Pappas	Watt (NC)
Kilpatrick	Paul	

NOT VOTING—11

Abercrombie	Forbes	Thomas
Bonior	Gonzalez	White
Coburn	Scarborough	Young (AK)
Foglietta	Schiff	

□ 1653

Mr. MEEHAN changed his vote from "nay" to "yea."

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, because of weather problems at Dulles Airport my flight was delayed and I missed all the rollcall votes yesterday. Had I been present, on rollcall votes 332, 333, and 334, I would have voted "no." On rollcall vote 335, I would have voted "yes."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, like the previous gentleman, due to weather problems here in D.C. I missed all four votes. On rollcall vote 332, I would have voted "yes," on rollcall vote 333, I would have voted "no," on rollcall vote 334, I would have voted "yes," and on rollcall vote 335, I would have voted "no."

CORRECTION TO THE RECORD OF JULY 28, 1997, PAGE H5879

The speech printed on page H5879 and erroneously attributed to Mr. BURTON of Indiana, was submitted under general leave by Mr. WAXMAN, and should appear as follows:

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Chairman, the legislative branch appropriations bill for fiscal year 1998 cuts the funding level for the General Accounting Office by \$9 million from the fiscal year 1997 funding level. This cut is unwise and unfair and should be reversed in Conference.

Two years ago, the GAO and House and Senate appropriators reached an agreement on a two-year plan to reduce GAO's budget. As part of that agreement, GAO's budget has been reduced by 25 percent and its staffing has dropped below 3,500—its lowest level in almost 60 years. These cuts have taken a heavy toll. Hiring and promotions have been frozen for a long time. Staff reductions have diminished expertise in key areas. And needed investments in information technology have been placed on hold. Additional cuts now are not only a violation of that agreement, they will result in a loss of morale and a further loss in staff expertise as the agency's future is cast in doubt.

Instead of pursuing this foolish course of action, the House should have honored the agreement over funding for the GAO. It could easily have made up for the revenue difference by refusing to fund the Government Reform and Oversight's partisan witch-hunt into campaign fundraising practices. The budget for that "investigation" is an extravagant waste of taxpayers' money. The Senate is doing a better, and fairer, job while the House's investigation is in a shambles. We are wasting millions of dollars on a mistake-plagued House investigation which duplicates the more comprehensive and bipartisan efforts of the Senate. Instead of funding partisan investigations in the Government Reform and Oversight Committee, let's give money to those than can really use it, the professional auditors and investigators of the GAO.

The Senate has also taken a much wiser approach to GAO's funding, and kept faith with the agreement reached two years ago. By funding GAO at their requested level, the Senate has provided less than a 2 percent increase; not enough for any staff or program increases, just enough to continue current operations at their present levels. In essence it is a cost of living increase. This is certainly the least Congress should provide for the GAO, our own investigative arm. The cuts in the House bill are penny wise and pound foolish because the GAO remains an excellent investment for the American taxpayer. The financial benefits from its work in the last five years alone total over \$103 billion.

If we in Congress are to continue doing our jobs well, we need a strong and effective General Accounting Office. I urge my colleagues on the House Appropriations Committee to carefully consider these issues during the conference with the Senate on this bill.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Sherman Williams, one of his secretaries.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

HAROLD SCHUITMAKER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. UPTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated and devoted community leader and a dear friend, Mr. Harold Schuitmaker of Paw Paw, MI. Harold has been very active in our community, lending his hand wherever he can to help our neighbors. As a Rotarian, United Way board member, an Elk, an advocate for children, an active member of his church, Harold has always been there for the community of Paw Paw.

I talked to a few of our neighbors, and they all agree when it comes to

this community Harold has never said no. In fact, I first got to know Harold through his fine work with the child and family services organization.

Harold has also been an active leader in our Republican Party. For as long as anyone can remember he has been at the helm of the Republican Party in the Sixth District serving as its Chair, and at convention after convention, whether it be on the local, State, or national level, Harold has exhibited the kind of leadership that is both admired as well as respected.

But his efforts are about a lot more than just working for today. One of the indelible images of Harold that sticks out in everyone's mind is him holding his 2-year-old grandson Jordan at every event, the get-togethers, Harold brings his grandson Jordan. He starts early showing the next generation what leadership and service and dedication are all about, and he also helps to remind us what we are working for as well here in this House.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Harold for all his efforts. I would also like to thank a special woman in his life and for everyone's life for that matter, Zoe, for her dedication. Thanks, Harold. The whole community joins me in thanking you for your fine work. You have made a difference for all of us.

□ 1700

THE PROBLEM OF CAMPAIGN FINANCES IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Florida). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maine [Mr. ALLEN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to talk about the problem of campaign finances in this country. Today is a good day to be talking about this subject, because we have an agreement, a budget agreement, entered into by the President and by the Republican leadership, and that budget agreement and tax agreement has drawn strong support across the aisles today.

The problem I want to discuss today is an area where we also have some bipartisan agreement. I have been the co-chair of a freshman task force with the gentleman from Arkansas, Mr. ASA HUTCHINSON. This freshman task force has spent 5 months working on the issue of campaign finance reform. I want to speak a few words about the problem, and then describe a little bit what we have been going through.

All of the freshmen went through the experience in 1996 of going through a different kind of an election, an election where there was a vast amount of money spent in our races to influence our races, either by the national parties or by outside groups that were not connected with our campaigns. So in many ways, we felt as if we did not have the same kind of role in the cam-

paigned that candidates had had in the past. In short, there was too much money in politics. Soft money was a big part of the problem. Soft money is the \$100,000, the \$500,000, the \$1 million contributions that go to national parties for so-called party-building activities.

A long time ago, when this provision was created, the thought was that this money would go to help get out the vote, to help build the party organizations. In 1996 we saw that money flowing down into districts around the country to be used for negative advertisements. That simply has to stop, because every individual contributor, every voter, every citizen is diminished when that kind of big money contribution is part of the political process.

Our task force that I cochaired with the gentleman from Arkansas, Mr. ASA HUTCHINSON, worked for 5 months on this particular issue. The gentleman from Florida, Mr. ALLEN BOYD, the gentlewoman from California, Ms. ELLEN TAUSCHER, the gentleman from New Jersey, Mr. BILL PASCRELL, the gentleman from Texas, Mr. NICK LAMPSON, and the gentleman from Wisconsin, Mr. RON KIND, were members of that task force.

We learned together. We held hearings. We had participants, groups that had made contributions, that had run ads, come in and testify. We had advocates for all sorts of change come in and testify. We went through a 5-month process to try to work out on a bipartisan basis what would be the kind of campaign reform that would be significant reform but would also be practical, that could be passed this particular year.

We have a bill. It is the Bipartisan Campaign Integrity Act of 1997. I am proud to be an original sponsor of that bill. It does three particularly important things. First, it bans soft money. It takes the biggest of the big money out of politics. Second, it provides that those groups that want to advertise will have to undergo a further disclosure than they have in the past. They will have to identify who the group is and they will have to identify what they are spending their money on, if they spend more than \$25,000 in a district, or an aggregate of \$100,000 around the country. Third, we will have faster reporting by candidates of their contributions, and electronic reporting in many cases, and more disclosure than we have had in the past.

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ALLEN. I yield to the gentleman from Arkansas.

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to say to my friend, the gentleman from Maine [Mr. ALLEN] that it has been a pleasure to work with him on this task force. I think he has done an outstanding job with his colleagues. I want to commend him for his work on this. I will say more later, but I just wanted to say what a joy it has been to work in a bipartisan fashion with the gentleman and his colleagues.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman very much. We have had a good time. We have learned a lot. We have learned that, among other things, a group of freshmen new to this Chamber can come into this Chamber and learn to work together across the aisles. The gentleman from Arkansas [Mr. HUTCHINSON] has been an extraordinary leader in this endeavor, and other members, Republican members of the task force, have really done an outstanding job.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to address a couple of things, in addition. We have critics. No surprise. There are always critics. There are those who say we have not gone far enough. They want candidate limits or they want public financing.

To them I say whatever their agenda, however important further reform may be, the fact is that if we are going to act this year, we have to ban soft money. We have to take the biggest of the big money out of politics. There may be unfinished business for other times, but at least we must do that much.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT OF THE BIPARTISAN CAMPAIGN INTEGRITY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arkansas [Mr. HUTCHINSON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure today to rise in support of the Bipartisan Campaign Integrity Act. I like that name, because that is what we need to have in our campaign system these days is simple integrity.

About 6 months ago, as my friend, the gentleman from Maine [Mr. ALLEN] indicated, a group of Members, we called it the Bipartisan Freshman Task Force, met together, six freshman Republicans, six freshman Democrats, and we called it, I called it an experiment in bipartisanship to see if we could really work together to accomplish something, to accomplish the job people sent us here to do.

We worked together. We held hearings. We listened to each other. We decided what we could agree upon. As the gentleman from Maine [Mr. ALLEN] suggested, we set aside the extremes and said what could we do for the American people that would improve our system. We focused ourselves on one primary concern, and that was the huge problem of soft money that runs in our system today.

I think the issue that faces the U.S. Congress this year, in 1997, is can we, do we have the courage, to do something about the problem with soft money. That is the overriding issue. I hope that the answer is a resounding yes. I have been encouraged recently by what I have heard from leaders from both sides of the aisle, from the public, and I dearly hope we can do that this session of Congress.

Mr. SNYDER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?