

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM  
HEARINGS NEEDED IN HOUSE NOW

(Mr. DOGGETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, today, for the first time in this Congress, Democratic determination has produced some results on reducing the influence of special interest campaign money.

A debate is under way at this very moment in this very building on specific bipartisan campaign finance reform, the McCain-Feingold proposal. But it is not enough that reform pass the Senate. In my civics class we learned it has to pass the House of Representatives also. And what is the news on that subject? Today's banner headlines, "GINGRICH Asserts Campaign Bill, Alive in Senate, Is Dead in House."

The American people do not want this proposal stillborn in the House. We are pleased that there is a debate finally after so many Democratic demands underway, but it must occur in both parts of this Capitol Building, not just in one.

As we read on through the story, we learn we have the same problem with the Republican leadership. They say they want more money in campaigns, not less. We need reform now.

NO FEDERAL FUNDING OF STUDIES OF USE OF MIND-ALTERING DRUGS

(Mr. BARR of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, we just adopted an amendment to the appropriations bill currently before this body that would prohibit, at least for those agencies and departments of this Government covered by that bill, H.R. 2267, that none of them can use any funds so appropriated for the study of legalization or so-called medicinal use of marijuana or other schedule I controlled substances.

Mr. Speaker, I wish it were not necessary to offer such amendments, but it is. The fact of the matter is that even though our Office of National Drug Control Policy asserts under oath and in writing that it is neither the intent nor the purpose of this administration to expend taxpayer moneys for such purposes, such as the medicinal use of marijuana or other drugs or the legalization thereof, they are in fact doing so.

Therefore, these amendments become necessary to stop this administration from talking out of both sides of its mouth on drug policy. This amendment and others I intend to offer on spending bills will send a very clear message to the taxpayers of this country that they are not going to have to continue to fund the study of legalization of mind-altering drugs.

DEBATE NEEDED IN HOUSE ON  
CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

(Mr. MILLER of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, this is the people's House. This is where the debate of our constituents is supposed to take place by those who have been elected by them.

But we cannot have a debate, apparently, in the people's House on campaign finance reform, and yet it is campaign contributions and soft money contributions to campaigns that is distorting the decisions that are being made in this House. It is campaign contributions that allow a \$50 billion tax break to be given to the tobacco companies in the middle of the night, with no vote, no discussion, and no debate.

In the other body, in the U.S. Senate, they are starting the debate on campaign finance reform. But here, because of Speaker GINGRICH, Majority Leader ARMEY, we are told we cannot debate that in the people's House.

We need to have that debate. We need to free the people's House from the influence of soft money and special interest contributions that are corrupting the legislative process and are corrupting the democratic process in this country. No longer can we have the decisions being made based upon who gave you a contribution.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I, the pending business is the question of agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal of the last day's proceedings.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 29, 1997

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 10:30 a.m. on Monday next for morning hour debates.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR  
WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON  
WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

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.

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

[Mr. SHIMKUS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.]

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, it is really now or never. Either this Congress acts now to remedy at least some of the shortcomings of the 1996 campaigns and the way that they are financed, or we can kiss good-bye to any hope of reform in time to affect the 1998 elections.

Many Americans have been concerned about practices and events that occurred in both of the political parties during the 1996 elections. But the time is today to decide, are we going to do anything about it, or just talk about it a little bit more?

Fortunately, the determination of Democrats in the U.S. Senate is leading to action today. As I speak here, in the Senate a specific proposal to change the way campaigns operate is being debated fully, and I am sure it will be discussed over the next several days there. After considerable obstruction by Republicans and the leadership and probably more obstruction to come, there is at least a debate going on there, according to agreed terms.

But here in the House of Representatives, where this proposal must also be approved, we read in this morning's paper, "Gingrich asserts campaign bill, alive in Senate, is dead in house."

Indeed, we find ourselves in a situation where, back in 1995, that same Speaker GINGRICH shook hands with President Clinton and said he wanted to achieve bipartisan campaign finance reform. That is essentially the last we heard of it. The smile had hardly faded before the interest in reforming campaigns, which could have been in place for the 1996 elections, was forgotten. Nothing happened until the eve of the elections, when a contrived proposal was brought here on a very short notice for 1 hour, and even many of our Republican colleagues rejected it, because it was not reform. Rather, it was the kind of proposal that was condemned by every good government group that had worked to reform our campaign and election laws in the past.

I prefer the kind of comprehensive reform that Mr. MCCAIN, a Republican, and Mr. FEINGOLD, a Democrat, are urging over in the Senate. But whatever the approach that we might take