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## House of Representatives

The House met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. NETHERCUTT].

### DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
September 29, 1997.

I hereby designate the Honorable GEORGE R. NETHERCUTT, Jr. to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,  
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed bills of the following titles, in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 462. An act to reform and consolidate the public and assisted housing programs of the United States, and to redirect primary responsibility for these programs from the Federal Government to States and localities, and for other purposes;

S. 1178. An act to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to extend the visa waiver pilot program, and for other purposes; and

S. 1227. An act to amend title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to clarify treatment of investment managers under such title.

### MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 21, 1997, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member other than the majority and minority

leaders and the minority whip limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. KNOLLENBERG] for 5 minutes.

### PEOPLE'S BUSINESS DELAYED BY CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, last week my colleagues on the other side of the aisle held the House hostage in an attempt to score political points. In apparently a panic mode over the endless scandals from the 1996 Presidential election, they repeatedly forced procedural votes that delayed our work on the appropriation bills. They justify delaying the people's business as an attempt to force consideration of campaign finance reform.

Mr. Speaker, campaign finance reform is an important issue, but it is also a complex issue. Before acting, we should first fully understand all that is involved with the current system.

From the beginning of this year, scandal after scandal involving the Clinton White House, the Democratic National Committee, and their liberal political allies have dominated the headlines.

Given this onslaught of negative press coverage, I understand why my Democratic colleagues would like to change the subject and create the appearance that they are good Government reformers. But I believe it is critically important for Congress to act in a deliberative fashion on this issue. It is not enough to say that the system stinks. We need to identify the people who make the system stink and hold them accountable for skirting the law.

The money laundering schemes involving illegal foreign contributions are serious allegations, and they are allegations that need to be fully investigated before campaign finance legislation is considered.

I am not saying that there is no need for reform. In fact, I have introduced a bill that would make Members of Congress more accountable to their constituents and less beholden to Washington special interests. But I believe the old saying, "Do not place the cart in front of the horse." It applies to this situation.

The American people have elected us to do their business in a deliberative and a thoughtful manner. They understand the way we finance elections is flawed, but they are not looking for knee-jerk solutions or reactions that may have the unintended consequence of making the system worse. At this point, we do not know enough about what went wrong in 1996 to offer a solution.

Just consider, for example, the scandal involving the 1996 Teamsters presidential election. On September 18, three political consultants for Teamsters president Ron Carey pled guilty to criminal conspiracy charges related to a money laundering scheme that may involve the Democratic National Committee, Clinton campaign aides, and senior White House officials.

For background purposes, a 1989 settlement between the Teamsters and the Justice Department over racketeering charges called for the Federal Government to finance and oversee the 1996 Teamsters presidential election. Ron Carey won the election by a narrow margin, but on August 22 a court-appointed Federal overseer threw out the election, the results, and called for a new election because of fundraising abuses.

Mr. Speaker, under current law it is illegal for Teamsters funds to be spent on a candidate in a union election. The money laundering scheme that Carey's political aides pled guilty to involved using Teamsters funds to make political contributions to outside groups which then sent the money back to the Carey campaign, a clear violation of the law.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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