

known conservative publisher and financier who thought that the Foster case should be reopened, who has helped publicize allegations of wrongdoing by the President. Who knows what the status of that job offer is now?

In order for people to have confidence in the results of an investigation, that investigation must be nonpartisan and perceived to be nonpartisan. That is not the case when it comes to Mr. Starr. My friend from Pennsylvania, Senator SPECTER, as a former prosecutor, fully appreciates that principle as well. I understand he, too, has questioned the wisdom of having Mr. Starr head an investigation into the alleged affair since his activities have raised such an appearance of partisanship. I again urge Mr. Starr to do what is in the interests of the country and to consider whether his judgment has been so affected, whether he is now so driven to achieve a result, that he should reconsider his own role in the process.

The Senator from Vermont must conclude that Prosecutor Starr has not used his power responsibly and has failed his duty. Kenneth Starr is not the impartial, neutral and independent prosecutor the American people need now and the President, as would any American, deserves.

I predicted that his investigation may mark the death knell of the independent counsel statute. Before it is reauthorized, we ought to take a hard look at safeguards and accountability here. To have a nation on the brink of war preoccupied with affairs of the bedroom rather than of state is an abomination. More time has been spent on weekend talk shows talking about a White House intern than on the President's decision whether to use force against Iraq.

The good news is that while the rest of the country may be distracted by whom Mr. Starr will next drag before his grand jury, the President and his administration are properly focused on speaking to the American people about the circumstances that brought us to the brink of battle. The administration's preparations for battle surely helped bring about the proposed agreement the United Nation's Secretary General Kofi Annan has reached with Iraqi officials, and I remain hopeful that diplomacy, backed by the commitment to use force, will result in a peaceful resolution of this standoff. I look forward to reviewing the details of that agreement.

Mr. President, I thank my colleagues for their forbearance, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

#### THE HIGHWAY BILL

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I listened with interest to the presentation by Senator BYRD, the distinguished Senator from West Virginia, on the subject of the highway bill and his de-

sire, and the desire of so many others in this Chamber, to see that the piece of legislation that authorizes spending on highways and roads, the building and repairing of our country's infrastructure, be brought to the floor of the Senate, be debated and go to conference so that we can get this bill done and tell the Governors and the other people in this country who are waiting for this Congress to do its work that we have finally finished the job. This is not some idle piece of legislation that either may or may not be enacted into law. The Congress has a responsibility to deal with the issues of this country's infrastructure, especially bridges and roads and safety on our highways, and all of those issues are in the body of this legislation.

This legislation was supposed to have been enacted by this Congress last year. Now we are told by some that last year's business must wait until we have considered next year's budget. That is preposterous. We should bring that bill to the floor now. We were told it would be the first item of business on the Senate calendar when we reconvened in January. It was not. Today we will take up campaign finance reform. I am pleased that we are going to do that. But we should take up, expeditiously, the highway bill, debate it and pass it and get it to conference.

The highway bill, investing in our country's infrastructure, is about jobs, economic expansion, retaining and creating a first-class transportation system. For a first-class economy to exist, it must have a first-class transportation system, and that is what this issue is about. Every day, people pull up to the gas pumps and put some gasoline in their automobiles. When they do so, they pay money, through a tax on every gallon of that gasoline, that goes into a trust fund that is to be used in the highway bill that we are required to authorize. The taxes are already paid. The question is, will we use that money to invest in this country's bridges and roads? Those who are driving around this country know there is plenty yet to do. There is a big job ahead of us, and the quicker we get this legislation out of the Congress the better for this country.

So, I appreciate the Senator from West Virginia, the Senator from Montana, the Senator from Texas, Senator GRAMM, and others who have repeatedly come to the floor of the Senate saying this is not a partisan issue, this is not about parties; this is about investment in our country and that we finish the work we didn't get done last year and bring this important piece of legislation to the floor and pass it as soon as possible.

#### CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I would like to turn just for a moment to the issue of campaign finance reform which we will take up this afternoon at 3 p.m. This is an issue, also, that was dis-

cussed some last year and, by agreement, is to be brought to the floor of the Senate this afternoon. Since our last discussion on this issue, I want to call my colleagues' attention to two pieces of information in the newspaper dealing with the two special elections to the Congress that have been held in the interim period. One was in New York, a special election to fill a vacancy in New York. It says:

RNC [Republicans National Committee] Invests Heavily in "Issue" Attack Ads; \$800,000 spent in New York House race.

It's not hard to figure out who won this race. Mr. President, \$800,000 of outside money called "issue ads," unregulated by the current rules on campaign finance—corporate money, unlimited quantities of money from any given source stuck into a big pot and then sent into a district by a political party. And it is declared, under current circumstances and with current court decisions, that this is not a part of the investment in those races. This nearly \$1 million, with other funds included, was brought into the system in the form of issue ads—sham ads that were clearly direct 30-second advertisements expressly waged for one purpose, and that was to attack and destroy a candidate of the other party. This was done, by the way, with a legal form of cheating made possible by today's campaign finance law and current court decisions permitting issue ads, not so thinly disguised, to be waged in unlimited quantity using unlimited corporate money, unlimited individual money and undisclosed so that no one, no one in this country, will discover where the money came from. That is what is wrong with this current system.

We just had more recently a race in California. Same result; different amounts. Two different groups, large amounts of money coming into so-called issue advertising. Do they have a right to do this? Yes, they do. But do they have a right to wage advertisements in political campaigns with money that can come in huge blocks donated by corporations or very wealthy people to the tune of \$50,000, \$100,000 or \$500,000 and then go into a State and use it in a political race in a Federal election and never have to disclose where the money came from? I don't think that's fair.

If anybody on the floor of the Senate, given what we have seen in the recent races in this country, can stand and say, "Gee, campaign finance reform, there's nothing wrong here, things are just fine," if anybody can honestly stand on the floor of the U.S. Senate and say things are just fine, we have no problems with campaign finance reform, I submit that they have not watched what is happening around the country.

We passed a piece of campaign finance reform legislation in 1974, and the rules since 1974 have been bent and twisted and people have gone under them and over them, and the result now, not only because of what has happened with those rules but also because