

FAIRNESS FOR SMALL BUSINESS  
AND EMPLOYEES ACT OF 1998

SPEECH OF

**HON. VINCE SNOWBARGER**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 1998*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3246) to assist small businesses and labor organizations in defending themselves against government bureaucracy; to ensure that employees entitled to reinstatement get their jobs back quickly; to protect the right of employers to have a hearing to present their case in certain representation cases; and to prevent the use of the National Labor Relations Act for the purpose of disrupting or inflicting economic harm on employers.

Mr. SNOWBARGER. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to speak for the many small owners in Kansas who have been working for years to reform the National Labor Relations Board and our current employment laws.

Millions of dollars and countless jobs have been lost in the Third District of Kansas because of the tactics of some labor unions. While I respect and appreciate the right of working Americans to be represented by a Union, I also respect the rights of the great majority of working men and women who choose not to be represented by a Union.

If this wasn't such an important issue, Mr. Chairman, I might remind my colleagues that my district has one of the healthiest economies in the nation, which is due, in no small part to Kansas' Right-to-Work legislation.

As we consider today's important reform initiative, I wanted to share with my colleagues some stories from my home in Kansas.

Millions of dollars and countless jobs have been lost in the 3rd District because of a tactic referred to by the AFL-CIO as "salting". This common procedure is used in Kansas by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. Their regular plan is to have around 20 union members storm into a non-union electrical contractor's office with video cameras mounted on their shoulders. The union members then demand to be hired and if they are not, they file discrimination charges with the National Labor Relations Board.

The two largest independent electrical contractors in my district, SKC Electric (200 employees) and Teague Electric (100 employees), have spent nearly \$500,000 (between the two of them) fighting frivolous charges of discrimination. Not once has the union asked for a NLRB sanctioned election to decide if the employees want to be represented by the IBEW. Instead, they harass the companies by driving up legal expenditures and limiting their ability to grow. Fortunately these two companies are financially strong and have been able to survive under this intense pressure for the past four years. But it is wrong to allow bad actor unions to literally . . . litigate small businesses to death.

Not everyone in my district has been so lucky.

M&R Electric was a two-year old electrical company with approximately 30 employees. It was owned and operated by a former union electrician who had saved to start his own small business. The company was growing rapidly and providing good careers for many

hard working young people. That is until the IBEW showed up with their video cameras and NLRB charges. By the time small company knew what hit them, they had spent more than \$250,000 fending off legal challenges and were out of business. I am sure most of my colleagues know that new businesses are very vulnerable. This is why these kinds of actions are so threatening. The result in this case? Thirty good jobs lost in my district.

The bottom line is, that no employer should be required by law to hire an individual who is bent on destroying their company.

Mr. Chairman, this practice is not defensible and the families who lost their jobs and the men and women who invested their life savings to start a business deserve the protections that this bill provides.

CAMPAIGN REFORM AND  
ELECTION INTEGRITY ACT OF 1998

SPEECH OF

**HON. BRUCE F. VENTO**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 30, 1998*

Mr. VENTO. Madam Speaker, I opposed H.R. 3485 which was defeated by the House. This legislation would guarantee a new arms race in campaigns and campaign spending by setting in place incentives for more money to be raised from special interests and more money to be spent.

While there is not agreement in Congress on the campaign finance reform, the American people have spoken. They are tired of slick, multi-million dollar campaigns that feature 30 second sound-bites and media spin masters. They want the unlimited campaign spending binges brought under control; they want the candidate, not the candidate's handlers, to speak; and they want campaigns to focus on the issues.

However, as with so many other matters, the Republican Majority Congress has failed to listen to what the American people want, and instead relied on the voice and pocketbooks of the special interests. The result was H.R. 3485, more money, not less and a greater alienation of the voters.

H.R. 3485 did nothing to bring the explosion of campaign spending under control. Instead, this legislation tripled the amount of money that individuals could contribute to state, local and federal political parties and doubled their contribution limits to federal candidates.

H.R. 3485 would make politics the playground of the wealthy. This legislation increased individual contributions to federal candidates from \$1,000 to \$2,000 per cycle (\$2,000 to \$4,000 for both the primary and general elections); to state and local parties from \$5,000 to \$15,000; national parties from \$20,000 to \$60,000 and the aggregate limit from \$25,000 to \$75,000. These levels do not invite participation by more people; it encourages more participation by the few who have the big bucks to participate.

While H.R. 3485 expanded the ability of wealthy to participate, this bill ironically contains a separate provision designed to intimidate low-income, minority citizens to keep them from voting.

This program, a citizen verification system, conjured up poll taxes and inhibiting actions

form another time in our history. This legislation was appropriately rejected by the House earlier this year.

The House should not detour from the road of campaign finance reform by adopting H.R. 3485. Instead, we should move forward with the solid bipartisan reform package, that the Republican leadership is blocking from House action. This alternative, similar to the McCain Feingold proposal offered in the Senate, will ban soft money and make a meaningful contribution to campaign finance reform.

There has been a lot of public consternation by Members of Congress about the declining participation levels and the feeling of disenfranchisement among American voters. After witnessing the lengths that the leadership will go to keep real campaign finance reform off of the House floor, I can understand why the American voter is giving up on Congress. The People's Body does not have time to do the people's work. Instead of bringing up meaningful campaign finance reform this week, the House is going to be dividing up the financial marketplace among the special interests who pour money into campaign coffers.

Madam Speaker, the process used last night harkens back to the smoke-filled rooms of long ago. A bill supported by a majority of the House was kept off the House floor through legislative legerdemain. Not only were we denied a full debate on campaign finance reform, but we were kept in the dark as to the final contents of H.R. 3581. This bill is like a lot of campaign ads—lots of rhetoric, not much substance.

It was appropriate that H.R. 3485 be considered so close to the Academy Awards. Like the 1972 Best Actress, Lisa Minelli, in the movie, Cabaret, this bill and its supporters were singing loud and clear "Money makes the world go around." It is time to get off the money merry-go-round and restore our political process to the American people by moving forward with true campaign finance reform.

HON. JOHN L. BURTON: STATE  
SENATE PRESIDENT

**HON. GEORGE MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 1, 1998*

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, it may still come as news to some members of the House that our former colleague, the Hon. John L. Burton of San Francisco, has recently been unanimously elected the President of the California State Senate, elevating him to one of the highest elective positions in our state.

John Burton, as all who know or have served with him know, is an extraordinarily gifted legislator, a deeply committed public servant, and very much his own man. There has not been a more dedicated or unrepentant spokesperson for working people, for children, for the poor, for those living on society's margin, than Johnny Burton.

His elevation to Senate President caps a remarkable and inspirational career. It also demonstrates that we can disagree, even strongly, but retain the personal relationships and trust that are integral to the operation of a successful legislative body. When John Burton set out to accomplish something on the floor of the House, whether it was expanding food stamp

benefits or protecting the Point Reyes seashore, he was unmatched in knowing how to make the inter- and intra-party contacts that led to success.

His return to the state Legislature in 1988 was welcomed by Democrats and Republicans alike, because all recognized that here was a consummate politician who knew how to make policy happen and who spoke with a candor and frankness unmatched in Sacramento or in Washington. Mark Shields, one of our most respected political observers, recently wrote a wonderful column about John Burton's election as Senate President that every member of the House deserves to read. Those who knew John here will immediately recognize him; those who did not have that pleasure will instantly know him.

A CALIFORNIA COMEBACK  
(By Mark Shields)

SACRAMENTO, CALIF.—You may already have heard the joyless laughter that follows the line: George Washington was the president who could never tell a lie; Richard Nixon was the president who could never tell the truth; and Bill Clinton is the president who cannot tell the difference.

Well here in California's capital city, the second most powerful position in state government—that of president pro tempore of the State Senate—has just been won in a 32 to 0 vote by a blunt, profane, quick-tempered and unreconstructed liberal Democrat from San Francisco who was elected to the State Assembly in 1964, to the U.S. House in 1974 and who, in 1982, left Congress to seek treatment for cocaine and alcohol addiction.

What makes John Burton so appealing in today's politics of slippery hedging and too-clever evasiveness is the man's barefaced candor. U.S. Rep. James Rogan, R-Calif., who served with and voted against Burton in the California Assembly, confesses: "John Burton is just a man of incredible integrity. . . . I love him because he is the most honest liberal I've ever know. He really feels, he really bleeds, for the underprivileged."

Rogan remembered the night in the Assembly when Burton single-handedly stopped a Republican-backed bill to criminalize the use of cocaine by pregnant women. Burton spoke in stark terms of his own addiction, of the advantages he had as a professional and a member of Congress for treatment at Bethesda and Walter Reed.

He told of the daily battle the recovering addict must wage against the demons and of how much more lonely and terrifying it is for the poor addict: "You don't kick it until you die. You have two choices. Either you die clean or you die dirty."

As John Jacobs wrote in "A Rage for Justice," his truly masterful biography of John Burton's late brother, Phil, who was arguably the most influential member of Congress ever from California, "Somewhere in his (John's) mind, he seized on the image of his teenage daughter, Kim, and the thought of her gave him the strength to begin his long, painful recovery. Kim gave him back his life. He gave Kim back her father."

John Burton, who has been both clean and sober for 15 years now, won back his State Assembly seat in 1988 with the strong backing of his friend of 40 years, now San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown. He was elected to the Senate in 1996. Happily, he has not melowered. His language could still make a long-shoreman blush. His ability to employ forms of a single four letter word as verb, noun, adjective, gerund, participle, prefix, suffix and even infix is truly remarkable. He does not delete expletives.

Pleased, almost humbled, by the confidence of his colleagues, Burton questions

what all the praise about his integrity and the keeping of his word says about the state of politics today. "When I grew up, all you had was your word. It was a given that you never went back on your word. It should be that way."

In an era of carefully crafted non-responses released by elected officeholders who echo the findings of focus groups and then deploy spin doctors, Burton is refreshing. Another old adversary and good friend, former GOP State Senate Leader Bill Campbell, explains that appeal: "Johnny Burton has great credibility because you and everyone else knows where he stands."

Where Burton stands politically is where he has always stood. His politics is personal, liberal and decidedly untrendy. He continually embraces the poor, workers, the stranger, the despised—all of those living on the outskirts of hope. Burton fights to prevent the rich from getting too greedy, and to make sure that the poor and middle class enjoy more economic security and receive their share of this society's wealth.

"I don't get this 'New Democrat' b— s—," rails Burton. "There are only so many ways you can feed hungry people, or get jobs for people who don't have them, and get kids a good education."

When he took the oath of office as Senate President Pro Tempore, John Burton thanked his daughter and quoted the words of American composer Jerome Kern:

Nothing's impossible I have found,  
for when you find yourself on the ground  
you pick yourself up, dust yourself off,  
and start all over again."

Whoever said there are no second acts in American life never met John Burton.

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT JOHN  
FRANCIS KRUG

HON. VIC FAZIO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, Congress is assisted in its duties by many men and women without whom we could not do our work effectively. From time to time, an opportunity arises for us to pay tribute to one of those people, and today presents such an opportunity.

After twenty-five and one-half years of faithful service to the United States Congress and more than 30 years dedicated to law enforcement, Sergeant John Francis Krug is retiring on April 3rd. He began his law enforcement career as a fingerprint technician for the Federal Bureau of Investigation in 1967 and became a member of the United States Capitol Police on October 16, 1972.

During his tenure with the Capitol Police, John Krug has served in many capacities. His initial assignments included patrolling the House office buildings and the Capitol. In 1984, to better utilize his experience, he was reassigned to Protective Services where he provided personal protection for individual Members of Congress. In 1987, John was promoted to the rank of sergeant and, once again, served as an integral member of the Capitol Division, ensuring the safety of Congress, staff, and the millions of tourists who visit the Capitol each year.

Most recently, he supervised the Department's Special Events Unit. In this position, he became the central information point for nu-

merous events such as demonstrations, inaugurations, joint meetings of Congress, displays, ceremonies and concerts that took place within the perimeters of the Capitol complex. He assisted in coordinating security for visiting U.S. Government Officials and foreign dignitaries, from the President of the United States to King Hussein of Jordan. Most Capitol Police officers and congressional offices have sought out the Special Events Unit, and Sergeant Krug in particular, for his assistance or advice regarding a congressional event.

I am sure that I speak for all our colleagues when I wish Sergeant Krug our best in the years ahead, and thank him for his many years of dedicated service to the United States Congress.

REFLECTIONS ON EASTER AND  
SPRING

HON. JENNIFER DUNN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Honorable Peter Tali Coleman, a great American who passed from us on April 28, 1997. A four-term chief executive of American Samoa, Peter Coleman is the only person in American history whose service as governor, from the 1950s to the 1990s, has spanned five decades.

After World War II service as an army officer in the Pacific, for which he later was honored by selection to the army infantry hall of fame at Ft. Benning, Georgia, Governor Coleman's civilian career as a public servant began in 1946 on the staff of The Honorable George Bender, a member of this body from Ohio. He later also served as a member of our Capitol Police Force, all while raising a family and completing both an undergraduate and a law degree in just five years from Georgetown University.

Mr. Speaker, upon his return to American Samoa as the first Samoan ever to gain a law degree, he quickly rose from public defender to attorney general until his appointment in 1956 by President Eisenhower as the first native-born governor of American Samoa. He went on to be chief executive of the Marshall Islands and Northern Mariana Islands, and deputy high commissioner of the old Trust Territory of the Pacific before returning home in 1977 to become America Samoa's first elected governor, a post to which he would be elected twice more before retiring in 1993.

Governor Coleman, a true trailblazer in the Pacific Islands and a man of many firsts during more than half a century of service to his nation and his own people, has been paid tribute by the current governor, Tauese P. Sunia, who has launched a drive to establish a permanent lectureship on Pacific Public Policy at Georgetown in Governor Coleman's name.

However, of all his honors and achievements, Mr. Speaker, Governor Coleman was proudest of his family, which at his death included his lovely wife Nora, 12 of their 13 children, 22 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. As he departed the hospital last year to return home for what he knew would be his final battle, he penned a touching farewell letter to his people which he called "Reflections on Easter and Spring."