

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, increasingly people across this country are referring to this Congress as the "do nothing Congress." But more appropriately it might be referred to as the "conspiratorial Congress." The leadership in this House has conspired with someone in this Congress to kill both antismoking legislation and campaign finance reform.

The somebody yesterday succeeded in killing the antismoking legislation. That job has been done. Now the leadership in this House has got to live up to its part of the conspiracy and deliver on killing campaign finance reform. They are doing so by proposing a rule on the floor later today with an unprecedented 258 amendments designed to drag this issue out all through the summer into the fall. It is death to campaign finance reform by amendment.

Mr. Speaker, that is the conspiracy that is going on in this Congress. We need Meehan-Shays on the floor. We need real campaign finance reform. Let us have a vote on the real bill.

REPUBLICAN EDUCATION PROPOSAL LONG ON PROMISE AND SHORT ON SUBSTANCE

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

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the education savings account proposal. Ninety percent of America's children receive a public school education. This proposal is a slap in the face to America's already struggling school systems.

If this measure is adopted, resources will be siphoned away from an already financially needy education system. It does nothing to strengthen one of our most cherished American institutions, public education.

How then can we in good faith suggest a measure to the American public that would primarily benefit wealthy families? Instead, I urge my colleagues to join the effort to build and modernize our public school buildings and administrations.

Instead, let us provide funding for local school districts to hire 100,000 new and qualified teachers to reduce class size. Instead, let us initiate comprehensive reform through the creation of Education Opportunity Zones in both urban and rural areas.

Instead, let us expand access to after-school initiatives through the "21st Century Community Learning Center Program."

Mr. Speaker, the agenda proposed by my Republican colleagues is long on promise and short on substance.

SHAMEFUL MORNING IN AMERICA

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

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, this is a shameful morning in America. Two of the most important issues facing the American people, anti-tobacco legislation and campaign finance reform, have just been dealt a severe setback by this Republican-controlled Congress.

There was an opportunity yesterday in the Republican-controlled Congress to bring some justice to this debate, to right some wrongs, to invest in the tobacco-free future of our children. But instead, our Republican colleagues killed the tobacco bill.

Here in the Republican-controlled House, the leadership will not even allow debate on tobacco. They do not even plan to bring a bill to the floor. Instead, the Republican leadership in this House continues to spend their time killing campaign finance reform.

Mr. Speaker, I believe strongly in finding bipartisan solutions to America's problems. But how can we solve America's most important problems if the present Republican-controlled Congress continues to kill or strangle debate on issues of such vital importance to America as tobacco and campaign finance reform?

HOUSE SHOULD CONSIDER MEANINGFUL TOBACCO LEGISLATION

(Ms. DEGETTE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, last night Big Tobacco did what it does best again when it spent \$40 million to kill the comprehensive tobacco legislation. Is that what America's children are worth?

This Saturday, it will be exactly 1 year since the State attorneys general proposed their settlement agreement. Since last June, Congress has done nothing to stem the willful and destructive forces of the tobacco industry.

By selling out to Big Tobacco, the 105th Congress has sat idly by while an astounding 1,095,000 more kids have become addicted to tobacco. One-third of those children, over 300,000, will die from tobacco. These kids are not faceless figures, they are our children.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot be fooled into believing this problem is too complex for the House to address. We can address it. We must address it this year.

One simple solution is to raise the legal purchase age for smoking from 18 to 21. Raising the legal age will squash big tobacco's ransom demands by paving the way for new restrictions on tobacco solicitations on college campuses.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the House to consider meaningful tobacco legislation.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

(Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, campaign finance reform is the "Little Engine that Could," and it is picking up steam.

Last night, the leadership on the other side of the aisle once again tried to derail this train with a cynical commission bill that was heavy on talk and light on action. When that failed, real reform was pulled from the schedule while the leadership discussed new ways to use parliamentary tricks to stop action on the Meehan-Shays bill.

Mr. Speaker, it does not seem to matter to the leadership on the other side of the aisle that the American people are crying out for reform. It does not seem to matter to the leadership on the other side of the aisle that both Democrats and Republicans want reform now.

It does not seem to matter to the leadership on the other side of the aisle that we were promised an open, honest debate on campaign finance reform. Because when it comes to campaign finance reform, the leadership on the other side of the aisle seems to be all about promises made and promises broken, because it is time to pass real campaign reform now.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2646, EDUCATION SAVINGS AND SCHOOL EXCELLENCE ACT OF 1998

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 471, I call up the conference report on the bill (H.R. 2646) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow tax-free expenditures from education individual retirement accounts for elementary and secondary school expenses, to increase the maximum annual amount of contributions to such accounts, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NEY). Pursuant to the rule, the conference report is considered as having been read.

(For conference report and statement, see proceedings of the House of Monday, June 15, 1998, at page H4551.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING), and the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the conference report on H.R. 2646.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the conference report on H.R. 2646, the