

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MATT SALMON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 3, 1998

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained during consideration of several amendments to the Bipartisan Campaign Integrity Act (H.R. 2183). If I had been present, I would have voted:

Yes on rollcall vote 367, an amendment by Mr. BARR to prohibit the use of bilingual ballots.

Yes on rollcall vote 368, an amendment by Mr. MCINTOSH to prohibit congressional communications regarding legislative positions of members from being interpreted as "coordination with a candidate."

No on rollcall vote 369, an amendment by Mr. HORN to allow the principle campaign committee for a House or Senate candidate to send campaign mailings at the reduced postal rate now provided to party committees with a limit of two mailings per household in the candidate's district or state.

Yes on rollcall vote 370, an amendment by Mr. SHAW to prohibit candidates for the House of Representatives from raising more than 50 percent of campaign funds out of the state in which the candidate is running.

Yes on rollcall vote 371, an amendment by Ms. KAPTUR to prohibit contributions by multi-candidate political committees or separate funds sponsored by foreign-controlled corporations and associations.

Yes on rollcall vote 372, an amendment by Mr. STEARNS to prohibit presidential candidates who receive federal funding from soliciting soft money.

Yes on rollcall vote 373, an amendment by Mr. STEARNS to permit permanent residents who served in the Armed Forces to make contributions to political campaigns and committees.

ROMANI HOLOCAUST
REMEMBERED**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 3, 1998

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to commemorate the tragic events of fifty-four years ago when, on the night of August 2nd and 3rd, the Romani camp at Auschwitz-Birkenau was liquidated. In that single evening, 2,897 Romani men, woman and children were killed in gas chambers.

Although the Roma were among those targeted for complete annihilation by the Nazis, relatively little is known of their horrible suffering before and during World War II. In fact, institutionalized discrimination against Roma in Germany began well before the Nazi regime. During the 1920's and 1930's, these practices took on an increasingly virulent form and policies similar to those instituted against Germany's Jews were also implemented against Roma: race-based denial of the right to vote, selection for forced sterilization, loss of citizenship, incarceration in work or concentration camps, and, ultimately, deportation to and mass murder at death camps.

During the war itself, at least 23,000 Roma were brought to Auschwitz and almost all of them perished in the gas chambers or from starvation, exhaustion, or disease. Some also died at the hands of sadistic SS doctors, like Joseph Mengele. Elsewhere in German-occupied territory, Roma were killed by special SS squads or even regular army units or police, often simply shot at the village's edge and dumped into mass graves. Although it has been very difficult to estimate both the size of the pre-war European Romani population and war-time losses, some scholars put the size of the Romani population in Germany and German-occupied territories at 942,000 and the number of Roma killed during the Holocaust at half a million.

Unfortunately, after World War II, the post-Nazi German Government strongly resisted redressing past wrongs committed against Roma, seeking to limit its accountability. In addition, Roma have been discriminated against in court proceedings and their testimony has often been viewed as, a priori, unreliable. The first German trial decision to recognize that Roma were the victims of genocide during the Third Reich was not held until 1991, and Roma faced discrimination in seeking to re-establish German citizenship after the war. Moreover, since the war Roma have continued to face discrimination throughout the European continent and, in the post-Communist period, their plight was worsened.

In light of this deteriorating situation, I chaired a hearing, convened by the Helsinki Commission, on Romani human rights on July 21. I asked one of our witnesses, Dr. David Crowe, why so little is known about the Romani experience during the Holocaust. In answering, he noted several things. First, he said the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum has devoted some attention to this issue. He said that the lack of attention to this issue reflects the ingrained prejudice throughout the Western world toward the Roma, and he said Roma scholarship on this subject is just beginning.

But how much attention can Roma themselves give to writing about yesterday's tragedies, when every day continues to be a struggle for survival? One writer has described the efforts of Emilian Nicholae, a Rom who painstakingly compiled the oral history of Roma Holocaust survivors in his Romanian village—only to have those handwritten testimonies destroyed during an anti-Roma pogrom in Romania in 1991. Not surprisingly, Dr. Ian Hancock, a Romani representative who also presented expert testimony before the Commission, asserted, "What do Roma want? The top of the list is security." Fifty years after the end of World War II, it is long overdue.

BIPARTISAN CAMPAIGN
INTEGRITY ACT OF 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2183) to amend the Federal Election campaign Act of 1971 to reform the financing of campaigns for elec-

tions for Federal office, and for other purposes:

Mr. PELOSI. Mr. Chairman, the English Amendment is an unfair assault on the ability of average Americans to participate in the political process, especially women who cannot afford for the current system of big money politics to go on.

The English Amendment would ban bundling which allows average Americans with limited resources to pool their contributions and support candidates through one organization. EMILY's List is a perfect example of an organization which accepts donations in support of woman candidates and bundles them for greater effect.

In 1996, the average donation to candidates supported by EMILY's List was \$95, and through these small donations \$6.5 million dollars was raised. Most of the money raised by EMILY's List came from women. The English Amendment would limit the impact women have on the electoral process as contributors and as candidates.

EMILY's List has helped to elect six women to the Senate, 44 to the House of Representatives, and three women governors.

According to a recently released study of the Joyce Foundation of Chicago, 81% of all individual congressional campaign donors who gave \$200 or more to one or more congressional candidates in the 1996 elections were men. Women contribute, but they contribute in smaller numbers and in smaller amounts.

We must also identify the English Amendment for what it really is: A Poison Pill, an attempt on the part of the Republican leadership to undermine bipartisan support for campaign finance reform in the form of the Meehan-Shays bill.

LEGISLATION TO CONTINUE OPERATING ASSISTANCE FOR SMALL TRANSIT OPERATORS IN LARGE URBANIZED AREAS

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 3, 1998

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that will address a serious problem facing certain small transit operators in large urbanized areas. My bill will allow for the continuation of operating assistance for small transit operators in large urbanized areas.

With the passage of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21), a number of new programs will be implemented which will benefit and enhance mobility across the country and in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. However, due to the elimination of transit operating assistance to cities in large urbanized areas, funding for certain small transit operators will also be cut. The elimination of this funding will cause extreme hardship for those operators, particularly those that provide transportation exclusively to the elderly and disabled.

My bill will direct the Secretary of Transportation to allow small transit operators that have fewer than 20 revenue service vehicles located in a large urbanized area to continue to use funds for operating costs, if the Secretary finds that providing no assistance to the small