

the big donors to derail our elections takes power away from the voters and threatens our democracy itself. Cleaning up our campaigns should be an issue we all support. Supporters of clean campaigns in both parties have stepped up to the plate to bring this important issue to a vote, and the time has come to give the American people the victory they deserve by passing the Shays-Meehan bipartisan reform bill.

Good government watchdog groups have consistently recognized my home state of Minnesota as having some of the strongest clean campaign laws in the country. I am proud of those laws, which have increased the power of smaller donors, allowed the average citizen to have a prominent voice, reduced the influence of wealthy special interests, and restored confidence in the political process. I now urge my fellow representatives to implement tough campaign reform measures for federal elections.

The key provision in the Shays-Meehan proposal is a ban on "soft money"—the unregulated, unlimited donations from individuals and political action committees that are often used to run shady and misleading campaign commercials before an election. Eliminating the corrupting influence of soft money is the most basic reform we can make to begin cleaning up our election system and the Shays-Meehan bill is the only measure on the table today that addresses this pervasive problem.

Our nation owes a debt to the authors of this legislation—Representatives SHAYS and MEEHAN and Senators MCCAIN and FEINGOLD—for their tireless commitment to reform. I believe a basic turning point in this effort occurred during last year's presidential election when the public rallied around JOHN MCCAIN's message of reform. The public sent a strong message to the political establishment: they are tired of elected representatives who perpetuate a system that gives the advantage to large wealthy special interests. They are tired of politicians who resort to obscure parliamentary procedures to deny the American people the opportunity to have an honest debate on reform. They are tired of the current system and the overwhelming advantage that it gives to the incumbents. Now is our chance to enact true reform that the American people are demanding, a reform that has the potential to restore a new generation's faith in the political process.

There has been a lot of focus from the political punditry about which political party will benefit from the passage of various reform proposals. This is the wrong approach to take when debating campaign reform proposals. The approach should be on passing legislation that benefits the American people. Our constituents have sent us a strong message that the system is broken. It is time we hear them and pass strong campaign finance reform legislation. It is the right thing to do. I urge the passage of the Shays-Meehan bipartisan campaign reform bill.

BIPARTISAN CAMPAIGN REFORM  
ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2002*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2356) to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to provide bipartisan campaign reform:

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, Minnesotans wanted real campaign finance reform last summer before the House's debate was unfortunately cut short, and they still want it today. We must begin cleaning up our campaign finance system and the Shays-Meehan bipartisan campaign finance reform bill is a good place to start.

We all have the right to have our voices heard when we engage in the political process. Right now millions of the unregulated dollars flood our campaigns and continue to drown out the concerns of working families in Minnesota and all America. Their opinions are being lost in the flood of big campaign checks from special interests.

Mr. Chairman, we should be encouraging political participation, not discouraging it. I've heard from too many people in my district that our campaign finance system is broken. It's now time this unbalanced system be fixed.

Shays-Meehan will prohibit national parties, officeholders and candidates from raising unregulated soft money for political parties at all levels. State and local parties can continue with voter registration and get-out-the-vote activities. This bill would also require sham issue ads be treated like all campaign ads right before an election—to be paid for with regulated money that requires full disclosure.

With Minnesota's unique system of public financing and contribution rebates, we have shown the nation how to run clean elections. Where else could the Republican party control the House of Representatives, the Democratic party control the Senate and there be an Independent in the Governor's mansion? Minnesotans are used to campaigns that are open, honest and competitive and it shows in voter turnouts that lead the nation year after year.

Campaign finance reform is critical, but we must also learn to control how much is spent on elections as well. I've introduced legislation that model's Minnesota's campaign finance system and will continue to work hard to take the next step in campaign finance reform limiting the hundreds of millions of dollars that are spent on our elections.

It is not a mistake that we are considering real campaign finance reform today. The discharge petition I signed last year finally forced the Republican leadership of the House to recognize that a majority of Americans had finally been joined by a majority of this House in the fight for real campaign finance reform. We must begin now.

Shays-Meehan will help to clean up our campaign finance system. By eliminating soft money, America's confidence in our political system will be restored.

HAPPY 109TH BIRTHDAY TO  
MAEBELLE PLANT

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 14, 2002*

Mr. JEFF MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer a very happy birthday to Maebelle Plant who turns 109 years old on February 25, 2002.

Now living in her third century, Granny Plant has seen twenty presidents take the oath of office, experienced two World Wars, the Great Depression, and witnessed America's growth into the world's superpower. She came to Florida in a covered wagon and watched our men walk on the moon.

Granny Plant is our community's matriarch and the embodiment of our values. By helping others in need, she has had an immense effect on our area. Her efforts to feed hungry children is worthy of the highest acclamation. Her work-hard-attitude, unwavering faith in God and countless deeds of good, serve as an inspiration for our own civic responsibilities.

Granny Plant is adored by a family of six living children, 54 great grandchildren, 2 greatgreat grandchildren and a grateful community.

On behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to wish this inspirational woman the happiest of birthdays and many more to come. I offer my sincere thanks for all she has done. Maybe we can all live such a complete life if we live by her words, "Other's is my motto. I love people."

COMMENDING THE HONORABLE DIRECTOR GENERAL VICTOR C.Y. TSENG ON ASSUMING THE POSITION OF REPRESENTATIVE OF THE TAIPEI MISSION IN SWEDEN

**HON. DOUG OSE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 14, 2002*

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, the Republic of China on Taiwan has been a true friend and partner of the United States of America.

During the past three years, the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in San Francisco has operated successfully under the guidance of the highly respected Director General Victor C.Y. Tseng.

Victor C.Y. Tseng assumed the position of Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in San Francisco on July 1, 1998, and quickly became a good friend of the United States of America, strengthening the bond that has grown with each passing day.

On February 9, 2002, a farewell reception was held in Sacramento honoring Director General Victor C.Y. Tseng for his dedication, cooperation and exceptional leadership.

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation for the years of outstanding effort as the Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in San Francisco and offer my best wishes and good luck to Victor C.Y. Tseng on assuming the position of Representative of the Taipei Mission in Sweden.