

I personally do not think that it violates freedom of press or the first amendment to the slightest degree. It does not regulate in any manner what someone can write or say, but I would approach this from a little different angle. I would say tonight that any respectable, any ethical journalist would voluntarily comply with this amendment. But so many journalists are quick to criticize but very slow to lead by example.

The best example I know of this was a few years ago, some of us may remember, the Capitol Hill Press Club, their officers voted to require their membership to follow the same disclosure requirements that we as Members of Congress were required to follow. Their membership rose up in arms and by an 80 percent margin voted to impeach their leadership.

There is a real double standard around here, and it is really time for it to end. Efforts like those of the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. WELLER] will help bring that to an end.

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chairman, in response to the comments of my good friend, the gentleman from Connecticut [Mr. SHAYS], there were a number of us that worked very hard to make sure that this bill came to law. I think a lot of us certainly voiced our concern and priority for bringing these bills to a vote quickly so that the Congress could address them.

A lot of good ideas are being discussed and a lot of good Members have worked hard on lobbying reform. This proposal actually improves the bill. Frankly, it is pretty much a common sense question, Mr. Chairman. Does anyone believe that the public does not have the right to know who is on the payroll of special interests, particularly a registered lobbyist? I believe they do, Mr. Chairman.

This amendment respects the first amendment. Reporters can still be on the speaking circuit. Reporters can still collect speaking fees, some small, some as large as \$30,000 or \$40,000. And under this amendment, they are not required to disclose that publicly.

The burden is registered lobbyists who disclose the honoraria they pay to members of the media. I think that if a reporter receives a speaker fee and then writes a story or does a story and covers an issue impacting the very issue that is so important to that particular lobbyist, the public has a right to know. This amendment improves the bill.

I ask for bipartisan support.

Mr. CANADY of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chairman, I have the greatest respect for my colleague from Illinois. I understand that he is doing something that he believes is important and is the right thing to do. But I think this is a bad amendment. I think this is an amendment that targets the press in a way that is unacceptable.

Again, I do not approve of everything the press does. I think there is obvious bias there. But I think we are going down a road here that is not a road we want to get on. It is a road that is inconsistent with the values that we hold under the first amendment, and I would urge all the Members of the House to reject this amendment, as well as other amendments, which are going to interfere with passing this legislation and reforming lobbyist disclosure after 40 years of gridlock.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. WELLER].

The question was taken; and the Chairman announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote and, pending that, I make a point of order that a quorum is not present.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Illinois will be postponed.

The point of order is considered withdrawn.

Mr. CANADY of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania) having assumed the chair, Mr. KOLBE, Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2564) to provide for the disclosure of lobbying activities to influence the Federal Government, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

LEGISLATION PROVIDING FOR
CLEAN EXTENSION OF CONTINUING
RESOLUTION—MESSAGE
FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE
UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight and ordered to be printed.

To the Congress of the United States:

In declaring my intention to disapprove House Joint Resolution 122, the further continuing resolution for fiscal year 1996, I stated my desire to approve promptly a clean extension of the continuing resolution that expired on November 13. Accordingly, I am forward the enclosed legislation that would provide for such an extension. This legislation also provides that all Federal employees furloughed during the Government shutdown through no fault of their own will be compensated at their ordinary rate for the period of the furlough.

I urge the Congress to act on this legislation promptly and to return it to me for signing.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.
THE WHITE HOUSE, November 16, 1995.

THE REAL DEFAULT

(Mr. SCARBOROUGH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks and to include therein extraneous material.)

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Well, well, well, there they go again. But if we want to talk about something that has gotten out into the public, it is the fact that the Democrats have shamelessly been demagoguing on Medicare to try to scare senior citizens.

Read the Washington Post this morning. It tell you what the real deficit is. It says, it is a deficit in leadership on the President's part and on the House Democrats' part. The Post says, the Democrats, led by the President, choose instead to present themselves as Medicare's great protectors. They have shamelessly used the issue, demagogued on it, because they think that is where the votes are, and that is what the President is still doing this week.

If the Democrats play the Medicare card and win, they will have set back for years, for the worst of political reasons, the very cause of rational government in behalf of which they profess to be behaving. This has finally come out in the open. They know the President's plan does the same thing as our plan. It is indefensible, and the American people, and even the Washington Post, has caught on.

By the way, read the front page. Robert Rubin is now raiding the Federal retirees' trust fund to get out of this crisis. That is the real shame.

[From the Washington Post, Nov. 16, 1995]

THE REAL DEFAULT

The budget deficit is the central problem of the federal government and one from which many of the country's other, most difficult problems flow. The deficit is largely driven in turn by the cost of the great entitlements that go not to small special classes of rich or poor but across the board to almost all Americans in time. The most important of these are the principal social insurance programs for the elderly, Social Security and Medicare. In fiscal terms, Medicare is currently the greatest threat and chief offender.

Bill Clinton and the congressional Democrats were handed an unusual chance this year to deal constructively with the effect of Medicare on the deficit, and they blew it. The chance came in the form of the congressional Republican plan to balance the budget over seven years. Some other aspects of that plan deserved to be resisted, but the Republican proposal to get at the deficit partly by confronting the cost of Medicare deserved support. The Democrats, led by the president, chose instead to present themselves as Medicare's great protectors. They have shamelessly used the issue, demagogued on it, because they think that's where the votes are and the way to derail the Republican proposals generally. The president was still doing it this week; a Republican proposal to