

was going for kids. What did it go to? It went to elect Republicans.

VOTE TODAY TO HELP THE DISABLED AND THE ELDERLY

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

Mr. LAZIO of New York. Madam Speaker, this morning we are going to have an opportunity to stand up for the most vulnerable members of society, the disabled and the elderly. There will be an amendment that was debated on the floor yesterday that will be up for a vote. We will have a chance to step forward and to do something important in terms of providing shelter and housing to give people the ability to have a meaningful life who have disabilities and who are elderly.

Now, when we talk about the word "disabled," it is almost a sanitized word, but let us think about it in terms of the veteran who has returned from the war and who is in a wheelchair and lost his legs, or the 90-year-old grandmother who is in a wheelchair and wants her own home, not a nursing home, or the young girl who has lost her sight, and the young man who was born so mentally challenged that he needs the help that only a community house can provide to him.

In 1996, we were spending about \$387 million out of a \$30 billion budget for housing for the disabled. We are now talking about reducing funding down to \$174 million. Please vote for the Lazio amendment that will restore about \$40 million of that.

WEST GEORGIA STATE WILL INVESTIGATE CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES OF SPEAKER

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, get in line. Even West Georgia State in the Speaker's home State is investigating the charitable activities of Speaker GINGRICH. Newspaper after newspaper, conservative and liberal alike, have questioned the Speaker's activities and his fundraising apparatus.

West Georgia College Foundation oversees the Speaker's reading charity, something called Earning by Learning. That charity pays schoolchildren to read books, and Speaker GINGRICH has said the charity is all volunteer, with all proceeds going directly to children.

But let me quote from Speaker GINGRICH's hometown paper, a paper which has supported him regularly.

The vast majority of the charity's money was paid not to children but to college instructor Mel Steely and several of his colleagues. Steely, who served as Gingrich's campaign manager in 1986 and a congressional aide in the 1990's, is the charity's coordinator. Some of the work done by Steely

and paid for with charitable funds apparently focused on Gingrich's reelection chances and was written on the Marietta Congressman's campaign stationery.

Madam Speaker, that is simply wrong.

CALL FOR APOLOGY TO MEMBERS SERVING ON COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT

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

Mr. ARMEY. Madam Speaker, 10 good men and women from this body, 5 from each side of the aisle, have responded to the request of their colleagues and their leadership to serve on the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, known as the ethics committee. They have taken a responsibility on that most of us would shun, most of us would avoid, and they have done so with integrity, discipline, and the confidentiality required by the rules of the House.

These 10 good men and women deserve to be respected and appreciated. They do not deserve to have their work or their integrity called into question by people who are so full of zeal for vengeance on another of our Members they would ask this committee to violate its own standards.

I have seen a lot of speeches given from the well of the House, but never have I seen speeches that expressed so much disdain and lack of regard and appreciation for those 10 among us who would take on the toughest job we have to do. I would suggest apologies are in order.

MOVE TOTALITY OF COMPLAINTS AGAINST SPEAKER GINGRICH TO INDEPENDENT COUNSEL

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

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, the Los Angeles Times said Gingrich politics got boosts from nonprofits. GOPAC's use of six tax-exempt agencies raises questions by legal experts and special counsel. Questions by legal experts and special counsel.

With all due respect to the majority leader, this House is under a cloud of suspicion that does not seem to go away because of the actions of the Speaker and GOPAC. As a former police officer, I just cannot understand why the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct has failed to investigate and has failed to refer this matter to a special prosecutor.

Take the totality of the circumstance, the six investigations, and send it to the independent counsel. It is foolish for politicians to be investigating politicians. Let us get it to the independent counsel, let us get to the bottom of these questions by legal ex-

perts and other specialists in the field and get it off this floor. Get the cloud off our head. Move it to the independent counsel.

TIME TO REFORM THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

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

Mr. BONILLA. Madam Speaker, it is time to reform the Endangered Species Act and our people have waited long enough. Private property owners are sick and tired of the Federal Government stepping in and taking their land because the ESA cares more about bugs than about people.

There has been a lot of talk in this Congress about reforming the ESA to make it work for people and species. I commend the gentleman from Alaska, Chairman YOUNG, and the gentleman from California, Mr. POMBO, for the tremendous efforts in developing legislation to reform ESA. But this bill deserves our immediate attention. This is why I have chosen to go the extra mile for hard-working farmers and ranchers who have suffered the consequences of a bad law.

Today I am beginning the process of submitting a discharge petition to get much-needed ESA reform to this floor as quickly as possible. The current ESA legislation has failed to recover species. The ESA has saddled property owners with outrageous fines because of Federal designation of critical habitat.

ESA reform establishes a cooperative framework for these landowners to work together with the Government to protect species. The people of Texas want to conserve species and to protect the environment. I ask everyone in this Congress to support me and sign the Bonilla discharge petition.

APPROVE THE PRIVILEGED RESOLUTION AND STOP THE COVERUP

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Madam Speaker, I would say to the gentleman from Texas [Mr. ARMEY], the only apology that is due in this House is one from him for obstructing the investigation which ought to be occurring; an apology that is due to the American people.

I think one of the world's most majestic monuments is that which sits in this city honoring Abraham Lincoln. But apparently not content with that, NEWT GINGRICH and his crowd decided they would erect a second monument to Lincoln. They called it the Abraham Lincoln Opportunity Foundation. It was supposedly created to help poor teenagers, but it was converted into a vehicle to recruit more Gingrichites for Congress.

Political donors to this partisan organization were advised they could