

But, as much as we need campaign finance reform, I predict that partisanship will live and campaign finance reform will die. We don't need a Democratic bill or a Republican one—we need a workable one. The only way to do that is to create an independent commission to agree on general principles and develop a plan for a vote. Over a year ago, the Speaker and the President shook hands on it. Mr. Speaker, let's turn the promise of your handshake into the reality of a law.

CONGRATULATIONS TO SGT. EUGENE POPE ON HIS RETIREMENT AFTER OUTSTANDING CAREER IN LAW ENFORCEMENT

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

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to congratulate Sgt. Eugene Pope, who retired this week, from the Rome, GA, police force after 40 years of outstanding service.

Officer Pope began his law enforcement career in a time when officers actually walked their beats. Since then, he has held virtually every job in the Rome Police Department.

Gene Pope has served his city through an outstanding career and performed his duties as a police officer with pride and dignity. He has been acclaimed by his fellow officers as a loyal friend and dedicated policeman, true to his principles and the safety and well-being of his community.

His retirement, on July 15, 1996, marked a career in law enforcement that exemplifies leadership, courage, and devotion to duty.

He takes with him the respect and admiration of his fellow officers and leaves an example to those who follow.

On behalf of the citizens of Rome and Floyd County, as well as the people of the Seventh District of Georgia, I join in congratulating Sgt. Gene Pope, wish him well, and thank him for a job well done.

REPUBLICANS PULL THE PLUG ON REFORM WEEK

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, last year these Republicans promised revolution, a reformed Congress. Indeed America witnessed a year of zealotry that culminated in a billion and a half dollars of squandered taxpayer resources on costly Government shutdowns.

So this year the Republicans narrowed their focus from 1 year to 1 reform week. This week. And now that also has vanished because after weeks of Speaker GINGRICH trying to convince the American people that the solution to special interest influence in this Congress was more money and congress-

sional campaigns instead of less special interest money, and when that approach was rejected by the citizen watchdog groups and even by a few Republicans, the Speaker pulled the plug on reform week.

It seems that yesterday's arrogant cries of revolution have been replaced by this year's whimpers of partisan failure.

TAXING EXORBITANT PAY OF MOVIE STARS, ATHLETES, AND CEO'S

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, last week we passed a cost-of-government-day resolution noting that the average person now pays half of his or her income in taxes counting taxes of all types: Federal, State, and local. This is terrible and getting worse, Mr. Speaker. President Clinton's budget estimated in 1994 that young people born that year would pay average lifetime tax rates of an incredible 82 percent. So I am no fan of higher taxes, and we need to drastically simplify our Tax Code. Yet I have come here this morning, Mr. Speaker, because of reports that a basketball player has now signed a 7-year, \$140 million contract.

This is sickening. No one could ever really deserve or earn this much money. Most people will not earn this much, even one-tenth this much, in their entire careers, \$20 million for playing basketball for 1 year.

I oppose increasing our overall tax burden, Mr. Speaker, but we need to greatly lower our taxes on middle and lower income people and make it up by greatly increasing our taxes on these movie stars, on the athletes and CEO's who are earning such exorbitant and undeserved rates of pay.

EXPRESSION OF PROFOUND SORROW TO FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF THOSE ABOARD TWA FLIGHT 800

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

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to express my personal sadness at the loss of 229 passengers and crewmembers, as a 747 airplane bound for Paris crashed into the Atlantic Ocean last night.

It is hard to even find words for the pain and confusion and grief that I feel and that all of us feel. I am especially concerned that some crewmembers and passengers might be from my own town of St. Louis. But we do know from news reports that wherever they came from, the victims include schoolchildren, and parents with children left behind.

This is a time for all Americans to come together, and grieve together, to realize that while there may be no way

to make sense of this kind of tragedy, no way to find meaning in its loss, it is a reminder of how precious our lives and our community really are.

On behalf of the Congress, I can only say that we are committed to finding the facts that lay behind this profound tragedy. In the meantime, my heart goes out to the families and friends of those aboard flight 800, and those still waiting to learn if a friend or a loved one may have been on board. Their loss is our loss, and we stand with them in this terrible and difficult time.

PERMISSION FOR SUNDRY COMMITTEES AND THEIR SUBCOMMITTEES TO SIT TODAY DURING THE 5-MINUTE RULE

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I, and I am sure all Members, would like to associate themselves with the very fine remarks made by the minority leader, the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. GEPHARDT].

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the following committees and their subcommittees be permitted to sit today while the House is meeting in the Committee of the Whole House under the 5-minute rule: The Committee on Banking and Financial Services, the Committee on Commerce, the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities, the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Resources, the Committee on Science, the Committee on Small Business, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

It is my understanding, Mr. Speaker, that the minority has been consulted and there is no objection to these requests.

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

There was no objection.

PROVIDING FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3734, WELFARE AND MEDICAID REFORM ACT OF 1996

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 482 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 482

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 1(b) of rule XXIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for further consideration of the bill (H.R. 3734) to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 201(a)(1) of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 1997. All time for general debate under the terms of the order of the House of July 17, 1996, shall be considered as expired. Further general debate shall be confined to the bill and amendments specified in this resolution and shall not exceed two hours equally divided and controlled by