

friends and colleagues from across America, continue to report that Americans want us to move and act on the mandate that was handed to us on November 8, 1994, and that mandate is to balance the budget, to cut taxes, to cut spending, to cut regulations, to cut out bureaucracies, and make sweeping changes that will reform the welfare state and change the welfare state, where we stop encouraging reckless behavior and we start encouraging productivity and hard work.

I held 30 townhall meetings and had over 100 other meetings and countless TV and radio talk shows. Again, the clear message, the resounding message that I heard time and time again, was make something happen in Washington.

Mr. Speaker, up here when you are in Washington, if you talk about just cutting the increase of spending on a Federal program, they call you a radical. They say that it is going to have a devastating impact; that you are out of touch with America.

Let me tell you something: You ain't out of touch with America when you talk about radically downsizing the Federal Government. You are out of touch with lobbyists, you are out of touch with special interest groups, you are out of touch with bureaucrats, and you are out of touch with a national press corps that still does not get it, that still believes that the unprecedented congressional landslide on November 8, 1994, was a fluke, and somehow it is just going to go away.

Let me tell you something: It ain't going away. It is here to stay. Americans do not trust the Federal Government to micromanage every single part of their lives.

One year ago President Clinton sent Congress home, and when they came back, they brought in the message, "Your health care reform bill is dead on arrival. Americans do not want socialized medicine."

Well, let me tell you something: We came home to our districts this time, and the American people came to us, and they are not saying that you are moving too fast; they are saying that you are not moving fast enough. They say make something happen.

Now, we have made quite a bit of progress. The Wall Street Journal and congressional historians say that this Congress has done more in 8 months than any other Congress since Reconstruction, since the 1870's, in over a century. We are not the imperial Congress that we were a year ago when the Democrats ruled this House, when Tom Foley was Speaker of the House. This Congress passed the Shays Act, so now Congress has to abide by the same laws as the rest of the country has to abide by. This Congress cut committee staff by one-third. This Congress passed term limits on committee chairmen so we do not have little empires inside of this Congress. This Congress passed term limits on the Speaker of the House. This Congress passed a ban on

proxy voting. And this Congress, I am sure, will have no problem with also passing a ban on lobbyist gifts, if it comes up at the appropriate time and place.

We have a challenge before us. I really think you would be hard-pressed to find a time in recent American history where this Congress was going to deal with as many important issues as we will be dealing with in the next 1 or 2 months.

We have an opportunity to do something this Congress has not done in 40 years: balance the budget. We have an opportunity to save Medicare. The trustees say it is going bankrupt. Almost half of the Congress is sticking their head in the sand and saying "Let's just hope it goes away," and the other half is daring to make a difference. Let us dare to make a difference on Medicare and save senior citizens from the pain that they will experience if we do nothing.

Let us pass tough welfare reform. Forget what the lobbyists and special interests say. Americans want tough welfare reform. We cannot be cowards; we have to be bold. We have to step forward and make a difference with the mandate that was given to us.

I will once again quote Bobby Kennedy, who in 1966 in Johannesburg, South Africa, said, "The future does not belong to those who are content with today, apathetic toward common problems and their fellow man alike, timid and fearful in the face of new ideas and bold projects. Rather it will belong to those who can blend vision, reason and courage in a personal commitment to the ideals and great enterprises in American society."

Today I make that commitment to make a difference, to make something happen, and boldly move into the 21st century with the values that created this country and Republic over 200 years ago.

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#### THE GIFT BAN AND LOBBYING REFORM PROVISIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Connecticut [Ms. DELAURO] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, the House of Representatives is a House that is in need of repair. After decades of withstanding the heavy reins of special interests, lobbyists and gifts, our House has truly suffered. Our structure is not sound, and this once great institution is in danger of collapse. Today in fact, and my colleague who spoke a minute ago, I would say to him that today, we have an opportunity in this House. We have a historic opportunity to begin to rebuild this institution by passing gift and lobbying reform.

I think if there is anything that the American people want to see is that the Congress of the United States begins to live their lives the way working middle-class families in this country have got to live their lives. The Amer-

ican public strongly favors banning gifts from lobbyists to Members of Congress, and so do I. Perks and privileges demean this institution and every single person who serves here. That is not why we were elected to these offices. We are here to do the people's work, and we are well compensated for that. We do not need free vacations, free frequent flyer miles, free gifts, or free meals to sweeten the deal. Those working middle-class families that I talked about a moment ago, they are not getting anything free. They are paying and paying and paying. They are not able to keep their heads above water, and they are frightened to death of what is going to happen to themselves and to their families. For the first time in this country, that American dream is no longer there. Families are concerned that their kids are not going to get the same benefits and the same advantages that they have had.

We do need to enforce disclosure by lobbyists. The American people have the right to know what legislation these groups are attempting to influence and how much money they are spending on those efforts. I remind my colleagues that it has been the House that has traditionally led lobbying and gift reform efforts in the Congress. It is high time that we tackle these issues and join our colleagues in the other body in implementing serious gift and lobby reform. Some of us have already instituted a no-gift policy in our offices, because we feel so strongly about this. I can speak from experience; it is not that difficult to just say no to lobbyists.

Because the Republican leadership has repeatedly told us that the schedule for this season is full, this vote today will probably be our last chance to pass lobby and gift reform this year. Let us seize the opportunity to limit the influence of special interests on Congress once and for all. Let us take a definitive step to really reforming this institution.

So I urge my colleagues today to join me and others who are speaking here this morning to join us in this effort to defeat the previous question on the rule in order that the American people know once and for all that we are serious about repairing this House of Representatives. It is time to shore up these walls, to rebuild this institution. Let it be reflective of the people's interests, and not reflective of the special interests.

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#### SUPPORT LOBBY REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kentucky [Mr. WARD] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in strong support of lobby reform measures which have already been adopted by the other body. I want to thank the gentleman from Texas [Mr. DOGGETT] for calling this special order to address this very

serious matter which should be a legislative priority in this House, because as you have just heard from the gentleman from Connecticut, it strikes at the very heart of what reform is supposed to be all about.

One of the first statements I made on this House floor last January was a support of House Resolution 40, which seeks to ban gifts to Members and staff from lobbyists and lobbying firms. This legislation would ban all meals, entertainment, travel, legal defense fund contributions and other gifts. It would get at the question of these weekend junkets to so-called charity tournaments.

I have personally pledged to follow the provisions of this gift ban whether or not it passes, and I have been doing so. The gift ban that 47 other Members and I have signed is far more stringent than the other body's proposal, and I still hope that other Members of this body will follow our lead by signing the gift ban. However, adopting the other body's proposal would be a strong first step, and it would tell the American people that we are serious about reforming the way the Congress operates, and that we are serious about restoring accountability to this House.

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Our counterparts in the other body have taken appropriate action and have passed the much needed gift ban and lobbying reform measures which ban gifts to Members and staff. However, as of today, the House has not voted to limit the value of gifts that a Member or staff can receive to \$100 a year. This House voted not to limit individual gifts, including meals, to \$50. This House has voted not to prohibit Members from accepting free travel to charity events such as golf and ski trips.

This House has not voted to narrowly define exactly what constitutes a lobbyist and require lobbyists to receive at least \$5,000 from any one client to register with the Clerk of the House and the Secretary of the Senate. These are things that this House has not done but needs to do.

In his State of the Union Message, President Clinton stated that what we do not need is a law for everything, and I agree with that, but, Mr. Speaker, today we have been given clear and convincing evidence that not all Members will take these actions voluntarily. I think, therefore, that we must enact proper legislation for those who are unwilling to do it on their own.

The time is long overdue for the House to pass real lobbying reform and gift ban measures and restore the people's trust in this body. The legislation passed in the other body is a strong first step and we should follow that example. I hope that this afternoon, when the amendment is offered, it will be ruled in order. I hope that with the rule not including the opportunity to offer this amendment, that the rule will be defeated. Now is the time for

meaningful lobbying reform and gift ban, and I hope that we can take this time to do it.

#### INFLUENCE OF LOBBYISTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. EVERETT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. BILBRAY] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BILBRAY. Mr. Speaker, it is quite invigorating to see Members of Congress coming back from time in their districts. It is as if they have gotten a breath of fresh air of reality every once in a while. And I guess that is the best thing about Members of Congress going back to their districts. They leave the stifling air of Washington, where people start believing their own lies, and they go and really touch base with the real people who make this country operate, not those of us that stay within the beltway.

I have to say, though, it is sort of interesting to see how fired up Members are at this time and then watch how it tapers off. I was quite interested in the gentlewoman from Colorado stating that somehow this Congress is not moving its budget agenda along quick enough, and that how previous Congresses had done it so much more quickly. Well, Mr. Speaker, I just wish to point out that the fact is, yes, previous Congresses have moved along the budget, but when you move garbage fast, it is still garbage. An unbalanced budget is an unbalanced budget.

We may be taking a little more time because we are doing something that has not been done in too long a period, and that is we are going to have a balanced budget design for the next 7 years.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there is a lot of talk about influence of lobbyists here in Congress. But I was here a year ago, and now I am here as a Member of Congress, and there is a big difference, and I want the members of the public to understand. You watch what is said and talked about here on the floor, but it is what happens off this floor that you really have to be aware of.

Those of you that are in the gallery, if you come down on this floor now you do not see the floor lined with lobbyists, you do not see Members of Congress having to run a gauntlet of influence peddlers trying to get to a Congress Member before they vote because the new majority, the new Republican majority has done what the Democratic majority refused to do for 40 years: Tell the lobbyists to get off this floor and leave it for legislation.

So all this talk about reducing the influence of lobbyists I think sounds great on the floor, but actions speak louder than words. And for those who want to come to Washington to see the difference, as a citizen I was shocked at how many lobbyists were on this floor a year ago. And as a legislator I am proud of what NEWT GINGRICH and the

leadership with Mr. ARMEY has done to make sure we straighten this out.

Mr. Speaker, I have here an edition of Surfer Magazine that was given to me by a surfer, \$35. It was a gift because they wanted me to read the environmental issues that surfers are concerned about. At the same time, a political action committee can donate almost \$10,000 to me politically every cycle. For the minority, the Democratic Party, to sit and say they want to limit the influence of lobbyists and special interests by talking about what kind of gifts we can take, when they are actively protecting the right of special interest groups to load money up into political action committees and drop thousands of dollars on us that an individual could not do, I think is really cynical.

I will leave this challenge to the new minority: That if you really wanted to limit the influence of special interest groups, let us support the Wamp Congress Act, ZACH WAMP's proposal, which means a political action committee can only give as much as an individual can give.

Let us empower individuals to influence Congress as much as we empower the political action committees and the special interest groups. Let us have the guts to really talk about it. You talk about the donation to this Member, but the fact is that \$10,000 around being pumped into a Member has a hell of a lot more influence than what anything we are talking about. I do not play golf, so I am not worried about this issue, but I do worry about the influence of political action committees.

I call on you to join with Members on both sides of the aisle in limiting the level of contributions that political action committee can make, and make it equal to what an individual citizen of the United States can make to a Member of Congress. Let us raise the individual contribution to \$2,000 for an individual and let us lower the political action committee's contribution to \$2,000, and then we can talk about what kind of influence the political action committees and the lobbyists have on this Congress.

We have cleared this floor of the lobbyists, let us clear the air. Let us not be self-righteous at this time and talk about a contribution from a surfing magazine. Let us talk about the thousands of dollars that political action committees pump into our campaigns, and let us all work together to limit that and encourage individual contributions, individual influence, not lobbyists' influence, not PAC influence.

#### LOBBY REFORM AND A GIFT BAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. DOGGETT] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to accept the challenge of the