to the American Federation of Government Employees, but to civil servants across the country. John Sturdivant demonstrated dedication and courage throughout his entire life, as he battled against Government downsizing, excessive privatization, restrictions on political activity by Government employees and, ultimately, leukemia. Through all of these challenges, he remained a devoted champion of workers everywhere, and his efforts will be long remembered and sorely missed.

John Sturdivant leaves behind him a legacy of victories and improvements that will continue to benefit the employees he represented even though he can no longer speak for them. During a period of relentless attacks on Federal workers, through Government downsizing and budget pressures, John fought to preserve jobs and spoke out for the interests of working families everywhere. He struggled against two wasteful Government shutdowns, and tirelessly advocated for improved conditions, pay raises and better retirement benefits for those he represented. John Sturdivant was instrumental in bringing about Hatch Act reforms which enable Federal employees to contribute money, attend fundraisers and volunteer for campaign work. In short, he was a great friend for workers and a great voice for change, and his passing leaves us missing a powerful and passionate ally.

SECRETARY BABBITT'S ABUSE OF POWER

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today in disbelief, in fact in total disgust. I stand here before you in an effort to seek the truth in campaign fund-raising allegations involving the Secretary of Interior, Mr. Bruce Babbitt, a serious abuse of power.

I am here to inform my colleagues of the mounting evidence that Secretary Babbitt potentially misused his administrative position to influence the outcome of a 1995 Department of Interior decision regarding an Indian gaming permit to a group of Chippewa Indians in Wisconsin, all that in exchange for political contributions to the Democratic National Committee.

Allow me to set the stage. Three groups of Wisconsin Chippewa Indians recently filed a lawsuit charging that the Clinton administration bowed to improper political pressure when the Interior Department rejected their application for a gaming permit in 1995.

So what was the reason for this otherwise unexplainable denial? Well, other tribes opposing their application donated more than $270,000 to the Democratic National Committee soon after their proposal was rejected. The rival tribes were trying to prevent competition to their lucrative gaming interests located some 20 miles from Minneapolis and St. Paul, MN.

Now, Mr. Paul Eckstein, an attorney and old friend of Mr. Babbitt, recently testified before a Senate Governmental Affairs panel on campaign fund-raising hearings that he met with Secretary Babbitt on July 14, 1995, after being told by another Interior Department official that the casino planned by 3 Wisconsin Chippewa tribes was being disapproved. Eckstein proceeded to tell the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee that Mr. Babbitt's response was that Deputy White House Chief of Staff, Harold Ickes, had directed him to issue the decision that day. In a 1996 letter to Senator JOHN MCCAIN, a Republican of Arizona, the Interior Secretary denied making the comment about Ickes. But last month, Mr. Babbitt again recanted, acknowledging that he did, in fact, make the remarks to Mr. Eckstein simply to get the lawyer out of his office.

Well, the contradiction in Secretary Babbitt's responses troubles me almost as much as the act of trading favors for campaign money. The blatant misuse of administrative power for monetary gain is a serious offense. If no other inconsistencies were uncovered beyond this, this would still warrant the appointment of an independent counsel.

At issue in this case is whether Secretary Babbitt's decision to deny the application was influenced by the promise of political contributions and whether his actions came as a result of an order from higher up in the administrative ladder.

Mr. Speaker, it is not my intent to stand here before the House in an attempt to influence the outcome of this case, nor to comment on any more specific details of the event that precipitated this matter. However, the apparent seriousness of the allegations of this wrongdoing and underlying facts clearly dictate further investigations into this matter.

I have in my office investigative reports, many from major news publications on this subject, that confirm in precise detail the pervasive, serious and potentially unlawful conduct of Secretary Babbitt's 1995 decision.

The likelihood that government policy was made in return for a political donation in this case clearly brings into question whether criminal misconduct occurred in fund-raising efforts for the 1996 Federal election.

Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to inform you of major malfunctions in the campaign fund-raising machine for the 1996 election, and I am also here to inform my colleagues of my intent to pursue this matter further.

In fact, I would like to report on Friday of last week I sent a letter to the Attorney General, lauding the Justice Department's decision to open a 30-day initial review into how Secretary Babbitt handled the application for an Indian gaming permit back in 1995. But this is not enough. In this same letter I expressed my earnest sense of urgency on behalf of the American people in pushing forth with the appointment of an independent counsel to investigation this scandal.

SHADY DEALS TO JAM FAST TRACK THROUGH CONGRESS

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to address the House for a few minutes this evening.

I read earlier today a story on the AP wire about some of the deals that have been made between the White House and Members of Congress on the fast track legislation which we were going to consider today, but has been pushed back until Sunday, frankly because Speaker GINGRICH and the President do not have enough votes with the deals they are making to jam this bill through the Congress of the United States.

What troubled me today, and I would like to share for a moment one of those deals that was mentioned in the AP wire story. I will quote:

> A Member of Congress announced his support for a fast track trade bill Friday after the White House circulated a 7-point memo promising continued support for the tobacco price support program and immunity from health-related lawsuits for tobacco farmers.

The paper also promised reform of import duty rules that farmers say encourages imports of foreign tobacco. Lobbyists said the moves were aimed at garnering the Congressmen's support.

This deal is troubling for a whole bunch of reasons, Mr. Speaker. As the ranking Democrat on the Subcommittee on Health and Environment on the Committee on Commerce, the subcommittee that, under the leadership before of the gentleman from California [Mr. WAXMAN] and other Members of Congress brought forward many of the problems with tobacco, many of the issues with tobacco executives and some of the problems, particularly with teenaged smoking, and I am particularly concerned about this deal that the President has purportedly made, according to the AP wire story, with some Members of Congress in order to get their votes for the fast track legislation.

Immediately, upon reading this story, I called the White House to ask for a copy of this 7-point memo that was about tobacco, about protecting tobacco, that would bring in the support from Members of Congress for the fast track bill.

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The White House has still refused to send this memo. For whatever reason, they have not felt obligated to send this memo, even though next week this Subcommittee on Health and Environment and the full Committee on Commerce will be holding a hearing on tobacco.

So what troubles me, and I think what troubles people across this country, is that on a trade issue, an issue that has nothing to do with tobacco,

we are seeing a deal cut by a President that has gone around the country and a Vice President that has gone around the country talking about the evils of teenaged smoking, something I agree with.

On the one hand, the President and the Vice President have excoriated the tobacco companies, have talked about how the tobacco companies market to children, and on the other hand, on an unrelated trade deal, the administration seems to have cut a deal on tobacco in order to get the vote of one Member of Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I called the White House and could not get a copy of this memo. So we placed calls to the American Cancer Society, the Coalition for Tobacco-Free Kids, the Heart Association, and several other public health groups to try to get a copy of this memo. Nobody has been able to, except supposedly this Congressman that has made this deal with the President.

I think, Mr. Speaker, that when the American people find out about this, that on a trade deal, on an unrelated trade deal, the President of the United States and the Vice President of the United States, both people who have led the charge against teenage smoking, and I admire them for that, I respect them for that, I applaud them for that, they have turned around and cut a deal in order to get an unrelated fast track trade bill through the Congress, I think that the American people will be outraged when they hear this, when they hear that this kind of deal has been cut simply to get a vote on the floor of Congress on an unrelated trade bill.

Again, Mr. Speaker, the President and the Vice President have led this country admirably, have moved forward in a very positive way in exposing the evils of teenage smoking. They have, through our subcommittee and through other committees in Congress, helped to lead the charge in eradicating smoking among teenagers, and have played a very positive role in helping people stop smoking in this country. Yet, they turn around and do this.

I think, Mr. Speaker, that we will see a torrent of calls to the White House wanting to know more about this deal, wanting to know what exactly has happened. When does this kind of deal-making stop?

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

[Mr. TRAFICANT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

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

IN RECOGNITION OF DAVID E. LARKIN

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the remarkable work of David E. Larkin on behalf of Cincinnati's Dan Beard Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

David's achievements in Greater Cincinnati Scouting are both extraordinary and numerous, and I would like to cite just a few examples.

He has provided outstanding leadership, motivation, and direction in the development of the Dan Beard Council's Executive Board, one of the most philanthropic youth service organizations in the Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky area.

More than 1,000 ''at risk'' young people in the Greater Cincinnati area have had the opportunity to experience the cherished values of Scouting thanks to Challenge Camp, which David created.

David's imagination and creativity brought into being ''The Scout Family Jamboree,'' an event attracting some 45,000 attendees showcasing not only Scouting, but many community activities and events.

Through his exceptional leadership and global vision, David has provided the catalyst for the approval of a comprehensive $14.5 million Camp Re-Development Capital Campaign to construct a 25-acre lake, Cub World, and Boy Scout camp to serve the Dan Beard Council well into the 21st century.

David has provided the leadership, quality standards, the means and methods necessary to expand the scouting program in Southwest Ohio and Northern Kentucky to annually involve a record 65,000 youth and adults.

David's work in Scouting has also enabled him to be involved in other vital community programs. He has worked to enrich the relationships of scouting with the United Way and Community Chest, which has helped increase awareness and funding for these highly worthwhile service organizations. In addition, David has successfully initiated a positive alliance between the Boy Scouts and the Greater Cincinnati, Northern Kentucky Schools and educational institutions, resulting in expansive growth in ''Learning for Life'' and Career Explorer programs.

David has been asked to be the new Chief Executive of the Atlanta Boy Scout Council, and will soon be leaving the Cincinnati Dan Beard Council, on which he has so ably served. We in Cincinnati will certainly hate to lose David, but his selfless dedication and tireless work on behalf of Scouting and our community will not be forgotten. We wish him the best.

TRANSFER OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the special order time of the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. POSHARD].

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

There was no objection.

THE RECIPROCAL TRADE AGREEMENT AUTHORITIES ACT

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to fast track. Mr. Speaker, the labor movement has always been the home of the American worker. It has been the safe haven for the American dream. But today we are in a time of conflict. There are contemptuous winds blowing in the direction of the American worker.

I have always believed that democracy vests its rights in the living person: one person, one vote. However, the economic markets recognize only money, not people: one dollar, one vote. These markets give no choice to the workers or their families. When the market seeks solely to make a profit, it is an instrument of oppression. It is an instrument which allows the few to monopolize society's resources, leaving the less fortunate without health care, jobs, and other means of livelihood.

Some say that the opponents of fast track would stop United States participation in the global economy and threaten our Nation's jobs. Supporters say fast track helps our country stay competitive and maintain a strong economy by ending unfair trade barriers imposed by foreign governments.

Throughout my public career I have always been an advocate for equality and fairness, but I recognize the difference between fairness and laissez faire-ness. This trade agreement will only consider corporate interest deals, while efforts to improve the conditions of workers' rights are muffled.

According to a University of Illinois study, the city of Chicago lost 80,000 manufacturing jobs between the years 1980 and 1990. These jobs were jobs that enabled workers to purchase homes, pay college tuition, participate in the American dream. At present, my district has recently lost five industries to other countries, leaving 704 workers unemployed and jobless.

Mr. Speaker, markets are important institutions, and they have an essential place in any democratic society, as long as these markets function within the framework of democratically determined rules and public safeguards.

I am in support of American competitiveness and want a democratically fair playing ground for all of our country's companies. But there is nothing democratic about giving jobs to other countries. There is nothing democratic about reducing American workers' benefits and wages. There is nothing democratic about environmental deregulation, and there is nothing democratic about ignoring the rights of thousands of workers for the approval of a few companies.

A. Phillip Randolph once said:

> At the banquet table of life, there are no reserved seats. You get what you can take, and you keep what you can hold. If you can't take anything, you won't get anything, and