House of Representatives from voting on Shays-Meehan. This is a disingenuous way to conduct the debate. We need to see through it today.

This is not a Democratic issue or a Republican issue; this is an American issue. Mr. McCain is leading the fight in the Senate. We need to come together as Democrats and Republicans today. We need to have an open and honest debate on campaign finance reform and defeat the poison pill amendments that will be offered on the bill.

TAXES TODAY ARE SIMPLY TOO HIGH

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, taxes today are simply too high. The average American pays $30,000 every year in taxes to all levels of government. That is more than the cost of food, shelter, and clothing combined. Yet President Clinton continues to reject tax relief for hard-working Americans.

If one is married and paying more in taxes than one should because of the IRS marriage penalty, the President says, tough. If one works hard all of their life to build a business so that one can pass it on to their kids only to fall victim to the death tax, he says, that is too bad.

Rather than allow taxpayers to keep more of what they earn, he wants them to give more to Washington bureaucrats. By vowing to veto tax cuts, President Clinton is no longer responsible for that, just like any insurance company has the option to add certain riders to policies.

Along with across-the-board tax cuts for all taxpayers, the Republican Congress wants to provide badly needed relief from the marriage penalty and do away with the death tax. But the President says he will veto that.

A VOTE FOR SHAYS-MEEHAN IS A VOTE FOR A STRONGER DEMOCRACY

(Ms. DELAUNO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAUNO. Mr. Speaker, when the founders created our democracy, they did not foresee soft money. They did not anticipate PACs, they did not know phrases like “lobbyists,” “fund raiser” and “issue ad.” They did not know they would become part of our political vocabulary. But what our forefathers did know was that the strength of our democracy would rest entirely, rid our society of the poison pill amendments that will be offered on the bill.

A UNITED FRONT BRINGS REFORM

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

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, like the previous speaker, I too want to compliment the Speaker for giving us this opportunity to debate what I feel is the most important issue that we are going to face. The Speaker has given us the chance to vote for a stronger democracy and to support the Shays-Meehan bill, which is a bipartisan issue.