

end of the day all but one of the bridges had been taken.

The next day 450 C-47s, towing 450 gliders heavily laden with glider troops and equipment, started landing. The 505th had been battling the Germans all that day to clear the landing area of German troops. The landing area was within one-quarter mile of the border of Germany. On Tuesday, September 19, the Nijmegen bridge was seized. The 82nd troops held off numerically superior German troops for the next two weeks.

Allied forces suffered more casualties (17,000) in Market-Garden than they did in the invasion of Normandy. The 82nd Airborne Division's casualties were heavy. More than a thousand troops were buried in a cow pasture between Molenhoek and the Maas-Waal Canal.

In mid October the 82nd moved into some old French Army barracks about 80 miles from Paris. Numerous replacement paratroopers were received to fill huge voids in the ranks.

BATTLE OF THE BULGE

On December 16, 1944, the Germans launched a massive attack through the Ardennes against a green U.S. infantry division with no previous combat. The only U.S. Army reserve divisions were the 82nd and the 101st Airborne Divisions. General Gavin soon ordered both the 82nd and the 101st Divisions to move out to the battle area.

The 82nd, was the first to move out. They passed north through Bastogne and took up a blocking position west of St. Vith, spreading out along a 25 mile front. Some hours later the 101st moved out with orders to hold the vital crossroads and the town of Bastogne.

The weather was severe, extremely cold and heavy snowfall had started. The 82nd was scattered over 100 square miles of terrain. On the 19th of December the 505th paratroopers, including Bill Geary, were occupying the best defensive positions along their six mile front. Fierce fighting against two German Divisions soon began and continued for a week. By December 27, the first phase of the Battle of the Bulge was over. The German advance had been stopped.

The First U.S. Army, of which the 82nd was the spearhead, launched a counter attack on January 3, 1945. In the first day of fighting the 82nd completely overran the German 62nd Volksgrenadier Division and the 9th S.S. Panzer Division, inflicting severe casualties on the enemy, capturing 2,400 prisoners. A German reserve column of trucks and troops moving up to support the decimated German divisions advanced straight into the 82nd's lines and was totally destroyed. On January 8, the 82nd advanced to the Salm River in heavy fighting. The Battle of the Bulge was over.

THE ARDENNES

On January 28, 1945, the 82nd and 1st Infantry Division would lead the Allied assault through the Seigfried Line. Heavy fighting ensued as the 82nd, with Bill Geary, fought it's way into Germany through the Ardennes Forest. At 4:00 a.m. on February 2, the division mounted an aggressive attack. It penetrated through two miles of the Seigfried Line in fierce fighting. The German troops were retreating in the face of a tremendous onslaught.

Three days later the 82nd was en-route to the Huertgen Forrest. The paratroopers of the 505th pressed on pushing the Germans back through the towns of Lammersdorf and Schmidt in two days of fierce fighting, moving closer to the Roer River which would be their next objective. Fighting continued all the way to the Roer River. On February 17, 1945, the 82nd was pulled out of the front lines.

RHINELAND

In late March, the 82nd fought its way to the Rhine River on a 20 mile front north and south of the city of Cologne, Germany. On April 29, 1945, the 82nd moved out of its positions and north more than 200 miles to a crossing site on the Elbe River. The 505th reached the site by dark. At 1:00 a.m. on April 30, the 505th made a crossing and caught the Germans completely by surprise. Bill Geary was now across the Elbe River and once again fighting Germans. The 505th advanced all day on May 1, as the Germans retreated.

When news of the 82nd's crossing reached General Omar Bradley's 12th Army Group headquarters, there was much delight and laughter. British General Montgomery had been complaining that the German opposition was far too great for him to cross the Elbe River.

On May 2-3 1945, the advance of the 82nd continued and a complete German Army Group of 250,000 men, with all their weapons of war, surrendered to the 82nd Airborne Division.

THE WAR IN EUROPE HAD COME TO AN END

For the 82nd Airborne Division the war in Europe had been costly. More than 60,000 men had passed through the ranks of the division. They left thousands of white crosses on foreign soil.

On November 15, 1999, Bill Geary lost a two year battle. It was a battle against Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), commonly known as Lou Gehrig's Disease.

CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE'S MEMOS SHOW S. 1895 MEDICARE BOARD IS A RECIPE FOR DISASTER

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2000

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, S. 1895, the Breaux-Frist Premium Support proposal to change Medicare is a recipe for administrative disaster.

Don't take my word for it. Following are quotes from two Library of Congress Congressional Research Service memos describing the many problems with S. 1895.

Just ask yourself, in the history of the world, has the administration of a large program (and Medicare is spending about \$220 billion a year) ever been successfully accomplished by a committee of seven?

As the ultimate Founding Father, George Washington said,

... wherever and whenever one person is found adequate to the discharge of a duty by close application thereto, it is worse executed by two persons, and scarcely done at all if three or more are employed therein.

The full CRS papers are available from my office at 239 Cannon HOB, Washington, DC 20515 (202-225-5065).

Following are other quotes from the studies. Describing how Medicare would be largely independent of the Secretary of HHS and the Administrator of HCFA, the CRS writes:

NEW, UNTESTED IDEAS

This organizational and administrative design is somewhat unusual when considered in light of traditional guidelines regarding the effective administration of government programs. These guidelines normally call for

placing major elements of a program in the same agency or department, and lodging authority over the program in the head of the agency or department, while authorizing the agency head to delegate that authority.

* * * * *

The Secretary of HHS and the administrator of HCFA appear to be almost totally removed from any role regarding the Division of HCFA-Sponsored Plans, although they would apparently retain supervision and authority over the Division of Health Programs.

To a large extent, the proposed organizational and administrative restructuring of the agencies that would be administering the proposed Medicare program appears to depart from the traditional guidelines for the administration of government programs.

DIVIDED ADMINISTRATION: A RECIPE FOR CONFUSION?

The administration of the Medicare program is divided between the board and the Division of HCFA-Sponsored Plans. The fact that the Division must submit its sponsored plans to the board for approval compounds the problem. . . . What happens if the Division is unwilling or unable to develop plans the board finds acceptable? The board may appeal to the President for assistance, but since he appears to have little or no administrative or supervisory authority or responsibility regarding the operations of the board, he may have little motivation to intervene on their behalf.

The CRS points out that OMB is the only independent agency "exercising considerable authority over other independent bodies . . . as the President's surrogate . . ."

Even OMB, however, does not share or assume operating authority over government programs assigned to other agencies or departments.

It is difficult to find an example where independent bodies share administrative responsibility over a program, and where one body may veto the plans of another, as with the board and the Division of HCFA-Sponsored Plans.

CRS writes:

WHO'S IN CHARGE HERE? WHERE'S THE ACCOUNTABILITY?

Under S. 1895 the Secretary of HHS appears to be stripped of supervisory authority over the Medicare Program and of practically all authority over the Division of HCFA-Sponsored Plans [even though that Division is within HHS and operating under Federal laws].

Apparently, the Secretary would retain supervisory authority over only the Division's budget. Since the Secretary would have no role to play in the Division's activities, there is a possibility that its budget requests might not receive much support compared to other agencies in the Department.

The CRS memo notes "two of the most independent units existing within departments appear to be the Office of Comptroller of the Currency and the Office of Thrift Supervision," both in Treasury.

. . . such independence generally is given only to independent regulatory commissions that for convenience sake are located within departments.

But note, Mr. Speaker: Medicare is not just a regulatory program: It is an insurance program for 40 million people that spends \$220 billion a year and processes nearly a billion medical claims a year.

CRS writes:

WHY 7 MEMBERS?

A further issue of authority and ease of decisionmaking is raised by the seven-member composition of the proposed Medicare Board. The current trend is to establish boards of three to five members, because larger boards often experience great difficulty in reaching a decision. Most recently, the former Interstate Commerce Commission, which initially consisted of 11 members, and was later reduced to five members, was abolished and many of its functions were transferred to a three-member Surface Transportation Board.

WHAT PRESIDENT?

The amount of independence granted the Medicare Board from the President and from congressional oversight is highly unusual and serves to limit the accountability of the board members . . .

Presidential authority over one of the largest government programs would . . . be severely limited, because the Chief Executive would have virtually no authority over board activities . . . Congressional influence and direction would also be limited because the board, able to raise its own operating funds, would not be subject to the yearly appropriations process.

TALK ABOUT MAKING HCFA MORE UNRESPONSIVE!

It is rare for such agencies to be authorized to generate their operating funds. Only a handful of such agencies, nearly all involved with banking and financial matters, have such authority.

IN CONCLUSION, LET'S BE ANTI-DEMOCRACY

Congress Sometimes departs from traditional guidelines regarding what is considered the type of organizational and administrative structure most likely to result in the effective delivery of government programs. The proposed bill restructuring the Medicare program, departing as it does from those guidelines, raises questions because it would divide program responsibility and authority between two government entities, an independent Medicare Board and the Division of HCFA-Sponsored Plans. Difficulties in administering the program are more likely to arise and produce conflicts more difficult to resolve when a program is divided between two distinct federal entities than when located within one entity. Additionally, there may be a problem when one of the entities is located within a department and the head of the department has little if any supervisory authority over that entity. That situation may serve to separate the department head from any problems that the entity may be experiencing and make it less likely that he or she would be willing or able to help resolve those problems. Finally, the amount of independence proposed for the Medicare Board would make it more difficult for the President to exercise guidance and direction over the Medicare program, and for Congress to provide guidance and direction to the board through its use of the appropriations process.

TRIBUTE TO DENMARK'S AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES, K. ERIK TYGENSEN

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2000

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in bidding farewell to Am-

bassador K. Erik Tygesen, who has served as Denmark's extraordinary envoy to the United States for the past five years. Ambassador Tygesen's outstanding efforts to promote the diplomatic relations between the United States and Denmark are a reflection of his exemplary devotion to democratic ideals, and we are immensely grateful for his commitment and integrity. He will be missed here in Washington.

In July 1997 President Clinton traveled to Denmark, the first-ever visit of a United States President in office. The trip was an overwhelming success, due in large part to the preparations and planning of Ambassador Tygesen. This visit further strengthened the long and strong lasting ties between our two countries. In his speech to Her Majesty the Queen of Denmark, President Clinton said, "The United States has had relations with Denmark longer than with any other country, and our nations have never been closer than today. On almost every issue we stand together, and on some of the most important issues we stand together almost alone. But America always knows it is in the right if Denmark is by our side."

Ambassador Tygesen embodies these sentiments that President Clinton voiced. Consistent with a long Danish tradition of championing peace, Ambassador Tygesen was a platoon leader in the first United Nations peacekeeping force, UNEF, in Gaza from 1956 to 1957. He subsequently devoted his life to the diplomatic service. After holding numerous high-level positions in the Danish cabinet, Ambassador Tygesen was appointed Deputy Head of the Danish delegation to the United Nations' 11th Special Assembly on Economic Affairs in 1980, where his performance was so commendable that he shortly thereafter was appointed Ambassador to Brazil and then to Germany. In 1995 he was made Ambassador of the Kingdom of Denmark to the United States of America.

In this last post, Ambassador Tygesen encouraged Denmark to join the United States as an active part of the international effort to counter the destabilizing effects of President Milosevic's ethnic cleansing agenda in the former Yugoslavia. Consequently, Denmark was the one of the largest per capita contributors to peacekeeping missions in Kosova, participating in the air campaign and providing troops and police as well as humanitarian aid and reconstruction assistance.

Ambassador Tygesen also promoted Danish support of NATO expansion. At the Washington Summit in April 1999, Denmark welcomed Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic to NATO. This generosity of spirit and global awareness were also evident as Ambassador Tygesen sought, both in Washington and in Copenhagen, to support further liberalization of transatlantic trade in the interest of both our countries. His efforts to contain and eliminate trade frictions and to devise an early-warning system so that both sides of the Atlantic might avoid such trade disputes in the future have strengthened cooperation between the United States and the European Union.

Last year the Ambassador also secured Danish funds which made it possible to sign an agreement between the Danish Ministry of Culture and the government of the United States Virgin Islands (the former Danish West Indies). Denmark shares a rich common heritage with these islands, and through this agreement will transfer original archival mate-

rial on the history of the Danish West Indies from the Danish National Archives in Copenhagen to the United States Virgin Islands.

Ambassador Tygesen has been integral to promoting the continued good relations between the United States of America and the Kingdom of Denmark. He displays all the noble qualities of compassion, reasonableness and foresight which characterize his countrymen, and we in Washington shall miss him greatly.

HONORING CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY'S MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2000

Mr. LARSON. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Congressman SAM GEJDENSON (CT-02) and myself, today I honor a special group of college athletes who have captured the hearts and minds of people across the State. On March 16, the Central Connecticut State University Men's Basketball team played in the NCAA Division I tournament for the first time since joining the division in 1986.

When the Blue Devils traveled to the Minneapolis Metrodome for their big game, they brought with them the accomplishment of a 25 and 5 overall record during the 1999-2000 season, including a 15-game winning streak, and the title of Northeast Conference Champions. They had set their sights on a win in the first round of action, but they were already winners in the hearts of many across the Nation.

Central waited many years, but it was finally their turn at the "big dance." As an alumnus of the University, I could not be happier for the team.

There is nothing better than school pride. The approximately 12,000 students who attend the University, which is located on a campus that encompasses both Newington and New Britain Connecticut, were given two more reasons to feel this pride with the team's win at the Northeast Conference on March 6, and with the announcement on Sunday, March 12 that they were headed to the NCAA Division I Championship playoffs.

The great, former Central coach Bill Detrick summed up the passion and pride that alumnus, students and friends of the University felt when the team won the Northeast Conference Championship, "When those nets were cut down, oh boy, all the players, coaches and fans ever at Central were up on that ladder, too."

Yes, in a manner of speaking, we were on that ladder. And the person who helped us experience that amazing moment was the Blue Devil's coach and fellow University alumnus, Howie Dickenman. Under his leadership the team won the Northeast Conference Championship just two years after joining the conference. In just his fourth year as head coach, Dickenman has transformed the Blue Devils from a 4 and 22 team into champions. No one is more deserving of the Northeast Conference Coach of the Year recognition than Howie Dickenman.

Here is a man who just earned a remarkable professional achievement, but who gave