

PRESIDENT CALLS FOR MORE TAX COLLECTORS AT IRS

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, it astounds me and most of my fellow Nevadans as well when we hear that the Clinton-Gore administration intends to veto the Treasury-Postal appropriations bill, a bill which this Chamber passed just last week; veto it simply because the bill does not give enough money to the IRS.

The IRS is demanding \$224 million more than their current \$8.6 billion budget to pay for 5,000 more tax collectors.

Mr. Speaker, what the American people need is not more tax collectors; what the American people need is a tax break. The overwhelming tax burden currently placed on the American families is simply unconscionable and by vetoing the Treasury-Postal bill President Clinton also vetoes the repeal of the telephone excise tax, a tax passed over 100 years ago to fund the Spanish American war.

Not one single Nevadan has ever asked me to fight for more IRS tax collectors. Americans do not want the bloated bureaucracy of the IRS to expand; they want and deserve a tax break.

AMERICA SHOULD BE STRONG PARTICIPANT IN UNITED NATIONS

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

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I come before the House today to talk for 1 minute about today being United Nations Day. It is also the beginning of the decade of peace in the world. They are trying to begin to emphasize how to bring peace in a variety of different places across the globe.

It is important for us in this body to recognize the important part we play, not only by our contributions to the U.N. in which we have lagged seriously behind, but in our support for what goes on.

The United States has, from time to time, supported the U.N. when it has been in our interests and at other times we walk away from them. But as we look across the globe with all of the places, Sierra Leone or Liberia or Somalia, when we look, we see always that the U.N. sometimes has our support and sometimes does not.

Now, if we are going to be the leader of the world, we certainly are economically, but if we are politically going to be leaders of the world, we must participate in the United Nations in a very strong way. That means paying our dues.

GENERICS ARE CRITICAL IN ADDRESSING HEALTH CARE COST ESCALATION

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

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I do not have to tell Members of this body that health care inflation is out of control. Our constituents are telling us that every day.

They are feeling the effects of medical costs that increased over 10 percent in 1999 alone. The latest projections are that health care inflation will outpace overall inflation for many years to come. This poses a significant threat to American families, government programs, and employers who are shouldering a growing burden of the U.S. health care costs.

One solution to this problem is to increase the availability of generic drugs. Generic drugs deliver the same health results as brand drugs, but generics cost 70 percent less on average than the brands they replace. The savings are significant.

A new report released by Sanford University in Alabama shows that for every 1 percent increase in generic drug utilization, consumers, taxpayers and employers save over \$1 billion in prescription drug costs. It is clear that the greater use of generic drugs must be a part of the plan to cure the Nation's ailing health care system.

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GENERIC DRUGS

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

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, most Americans know that the cost of pharmaceutical drugs is at a record high. Prescription drug costs rose 85 percent between 1993 and 1998, and prescription drugs represent the highest out-of-pocket expense for three out of four senior citizens.

Generic drugs are FDA approved to be safe and to be secure, but they cost 70 percent less than brand name drugs. The fact of the matter is, there are loopholes in today's laws that block entry to these affordable generic drugs.

This Congress needs to reform the Hatch-Waxman Act to improve competition and make our markets more accessible and fair. Let us end the brand drug monopoly that stifles competition, restricts our consumers' choice, and raises consumer drug prices.

CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, the month of September is Childhood Can-

cer Awareness Month, and I am proud to stand here wearing my gold ribbon of hope and voice my support for the children and families who are affected by this disease.

Cancer causes more deaths during childhood than any other disease. This year an estimated 12,400 children will be diagnosed with cancer, and 2,300 will die. Though we celebrate with the survivors and their families, we cannot forget the children who will, unfortunately, succumb.

That is why I am preparing to introduce legislation on behalf of these children and their families that will support them through the hospice care. Later this month, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN) and I will host a conference for Members and staff in order to address the challenges concerning hospice care for children and share our ideas and examine questions regarding this serious topic.

I hope my colleagues will support this legislation, the conference, and Childhood Cancer Awareness Month.

GENERIC DRUGS PROVIDE AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE ALTERNATIVE

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

Mr. GOODE. Mr. Speaker, today over 40 million Americans lack adequate health insurance coverage and millions more are struggling to cover their health care bills. Unfortunately, seniors and children are among the groups most vulnerable in American society. Finding solutions to this health care crisis has to be at the top of our agenda.

Fortunately, there is help. Right now, generic drug companies are producing lifesaving and life-improving medicines that cost substantially less than brand name drugs. In fact, generic drugs provide one of the best values in the United States health care system. The substantial savings provided by generic drugs means more Americans can buy the medicines they need. It also means that through greater use of generic drugs, public health programs, like Medicaid and Medicare, can manage to help more Americans.

Generic drugs should be a key part of any prescription drug program approved by this Congress.

BRAND NAME AND GENERIC DRUGS ARE INTERCHANGEABLE

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, does anyone in the Chamber know the difference between Zantac and Ranitidine Hydrochloride? Here is the answer: Price. Zantac is the brand name of a popular medication to treat ulcers. Ranitidine Hydrochloride is the generic name of the exact same drug.

The Food and Drug Administration ensures that whether a consumer uses a drug by its brand name, such as Zantac, or a drug that goes by the generic name, such as Ranitidine, they will receive the same active ingredients and the same health benefits. To quote FDA Commissioner Jane Henney, "If the FDA declares a generic drug to be therapeutically equivalent to an innovator drug, the two products will provide the same intended clinical effect."

This is important, Mr. Speaker, because if we ever hope to bring health care inflation under control, we have to understand that brand drugs and generic drugs are truly interchangeable. Through greater use of high quality, less costly generic drugs, we can have truly affordable and effective medicine.

If we check our medicine cabinets, we find that there are more affordable generics available for many of these expensive prescriptions.

ADMINISTRATION HAS FAILED TO RESOLVE OIL CRISIS

(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, first let me say the Federal Reserve has done a great job in keeping our economy strong and growing. Unfortunately, the Clinton-Gore administration's lack of a coherent energy policy threatens that very economic prosperity.

As I speak, fuel prices around the Nation and around the world are skyrocketing as the price of oil tops \$37 per barrel. Rising fuel prices affect every sector of the economy and eventually every American.

Airlines are increasing fares; truckers, who deliver our food, medicine, and virtually everything else are straining to meet their contractual obligations and pay for fuel that is now costing an average of \$1.62 cents a gallon. As consumer prices rise, consumer spending will decrease, leading to sluggish sales, larger inventories and slower growth.

So, Mr. Speaker, what is the administration's answer to the pending crisis? Well, instead of using the 8 years they had in office to develop an energy policy which would have prevented this crisis, the Clinton-Gore administration squandered those opportunities and now is only offering last-minute solutions, like begging Saudi Arabia to increase oil production.

For an administration that has not been ashamed to take all the credit for the current economy, I hope they do as much to solve this crisis than just admit, as they did in the spring, that they fell asleep at the switch.

BLUE RIBBON PANEL SHOULD BE FORMED TO PROTECT RIGHTS AND LIBERTIES OF ALL AMERICAN CITIZENS

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California asked and was given permission to ad-

dress the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, at the time that Wen Ho Lee was first arrested, I met with the Chinese-American Political Association of the greater San Francisco Bay area. Many in that community raised their concerns that he was the target of selective prosecution, of racial profiling, and prosecutorial abuse. As we now see, as that case has started to come to a conclusion with the plea bargain, in fact many of the concerns raised by the Chinese community turned out to be true.

All Americans should be deeply disturbed by the prosecutorial abuse that was raised in this case and used against Wen Ho Lee. This does not suggest that Wen Ho Lee did not have some serious transgressions of the current law and policy, but what his government did to him should cause concern by all Americans.

All Americans are entitled to an impartial review of the actions by all parties to that prosecution. Unfortunately, the congressional committees, the FBI, the intelligence agencies, and all the rest participated in the feeding frenzy at the time of the arrest.

I think maybe we ought to have a national, impartial blue ribbon commission to look at the Wen Ho Lee case and see how we can better safeguard the rights and liberties of all American citizens.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LINDER). Pursuant to the provisions of clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record vote on the Debt Relief and Retirement Security Reconciliation Act of 2000, together with such other votes as may have been postponed to that point, will be taken after the debate has concluded on that motion.

Record votes on remaining motions to suspend the rules will be taken later today.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 4919, SECURITY ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2000

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 4919) to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 and the Arms Export Control Act to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions under those Acts, to authorize the transfer of naval vessels to certain foreign countries, and for other purposes, with a Senate amendment thereto, disagree to the Senate amendment,

and agree to the conference asked by the Senate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York? The Chair hears none and, without objection, appoints the following conferees:

Messrs. GILMAN, GOODLING, and GEJDENSON.

There was no objection.

FHA DOWNPAYMENT SIMPLIFICATION EXTENSION ACT OF 2000

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (5193) to amend the National Housing Act to temporarily extend the applicability of the downpayment simplification provisions for the FHA single family housing mortgage insurance program, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 5193

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "FHA Downpayment Simplification Extension Act of 2000".

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF APPLICABILITY OF DOWNPAYMENT SIMPLIFICATION PROVISIONS.

Subparagraph (A) of section 203(b)(10) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1709(b)(10)(A)) is amended by striking "executed for insurance in fiscal years 1998, 1999, and 2000" and inserting "closed on or before October 30, 2000".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAFALCE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH).

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5193, the FHA Downpayment Simplification Extension Act of 2000 would extend existing statutory provisions in the National Housing Act that provides for the manner and method of calculating downpayments by new homeowners closing on mortgage loans insured by the Federal Housing Administration.

This simplification is merely a technical change that rewrites and clarifies downpayment requirements that, over time, have been amended in such a manner that are now unclear and difficult to understand. A simplified or streamlined method would provide savings to homebuyers and a calculation method uniformly understood by the mortgage industry and consumers.

This calculation method would reduce from a three-tiered approach to a two-tiered approach. Its effect would also decrease the amount of downpayments necessary. For example, this streamlined approach will save borrowers of a typical \$150,000 home loan approximately \$1,000 to \$2,000 at closing.

In the 105th Congress this body passed similar legislation. Originally,