

this provision on consumers will be disastrous. Moreover, granting such an extension in the dark of night is not the way to legislate.

So all of my colleagues have a letter announcing my intent to challenge this provision on a point of order. I am also considering offering a concurrent resolution to delete this provision from the conference report. My hope is that we can get bipartisan support for this effort, in which case, one way or the other, we can knock this special interest giveaway out of conference committee report.

I want to state to my colleagues that this patent extension that we see before us for the manufacturer of Lodine essentially means that for a period of 2 years, and in effect over a period of 5 years because of the way the provision is written, cheaper versions of the prescription drug will not be made available to consumers. People who are suffering from arthritis and are not able to buy a cheaper drug will pay millions of dollars that they should not have to. This is really outrageous.

When I was a college professor, I talked about conference committees, and I knew they were kind of the third House of the Congress, but I had no idea that this type of thing happened all the time, or some of the time. But it should not happen any of the time.

What we have here is a company that sells over a quarter of a billion dollars worth of a drug, willing to pay the Government \$10 billion a year for the additional costs that the patent extension will cost the Government in increased Medicaid and health care costs, but not willing to do anything for consumers and seniors. And quite frankly, the payments to the Government are nothing compared to the ripoff of seniors and consumers.

I hope that we may be able to do something about this situation together, in a bipartisan way. I believe that Senator KENNEDY, Senator KASSEBAUM, and many other Senators will be interested in doing that one way or the other. I started talking about this yesterday when I realized that, in the dark of night, this provision had been inserted, and one way or the other I am going to take action as a Senator from Minnesota to do everything I can to knock this provision out.

This provision represents a giveaway to a special interest at the expense of patients and senior citizens, and, quite frankly, the mysterious manner in which it was added to the conference report late at night is not the way we ought to be conducting our affairs here. This is a perfect example of the kind of practice that makes people lose confidence in our political process. Therefore, I hope all Senators, Republicans and Democrats alike, will join me in my effort to knock this provision out.

Mr. DEWINE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio is recognized.

FAMILY HOUR PROGRAMMING

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, earlier this week, the President of the United States gathered the TV networks together to work out a much-trumpeted agreement on quality TV programming for children. I certainly applaud the President's efforts, and I am pleased that the meeting has served to at least spotlight this important issue. But the sad fact remains that this new and improved agreement to bring quality programming to our children is really nothing more than a ratification of the status quo. In fact, two of the major networks announced they already met this agreement. Another said that it is just barely short of compliance now.

So, essentially, the President has come out and said he approves of what the networks are already doing about quality programming; the status quo is OK.

Mr. President, as the father of eight children, and now the grandfather of three, let me just say that I do not approve of what the networks are doing. In fact, I find that some of what you see on television during the so-called family hour, from 8 to 9 o'clock at night, is absolutely outrageous today. I do not approve of it. I can say with assurance that parents I have talked to are clearly frustrated with television programming today. The last thing we want to say to the networks is, "Just keep on doing what you are doing."

Parents do not want a measure that has a lot of fanfare and no substance. They want to do something real. Personally, I would like to be able to sit down after dinner with my 13-year-old daughter, Alice, or my 9-year-old son, Mark, or my 4-year-old daughter, Anna, and watch a half an hour or an hour of TV without having to always be in some sort of high state of alert for things that might not be appropriate for any one of them to see.

You know, Mr. President, it was not that many years ago that we did not have this problem. We could all watch TV with our children between 8 and 9 o'clock at night without having to worry about them. While every show between 8 and 9 wasn't a great show, at least you could find one show between 8 and 9 o'clock at night that was appropriate for a child to watch with a parent.

Mr. President, I think we should take advantage of the attention that the White House has focused on this issue, and I think we should use it to call for some measures that really would make a difference.

Our distinguished colleague from Connecticut, Senator LIEBERMAN, has recently proposed a resolution that I think would do a great deal to accomplish this goal. His resolution would call upon the networks, on a strictly voluntary basis, to restore the idea of family hour programming.

That, Mr. President, would make a real difference in the lives of America's families. I would guess that, on this issue, my experience is not unique or

unusual. Who among us—among all the parents in this country—has not been very worried about what their children might suddenly be exposed to on TV?

Just a few years ago, during the family hour, you did not have to do that. I am not talking about just the 1950's or the 1960's; I am talking about as recently as less than a decade ago. I think many of us in politics do not fully realize how much and how fast TV has changed just in the last few years. That is why I think my colleagues will be interested in seeing a comparison of the TV Guide listings for the hour between 8 and 9 o'clock as they have changed over the years.

I ask unanimous consent that this very interesting document be printed in the RECORD at the conclusion of my remarks, and I recommend it to the attention of my colleagues.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(See Exhibit 1.)

Mr. DEWINE. This was put together by Dan Wewers, a young man who interned in my office. He researched the TV Guides going back to 1954 and looked at a typical week. We take it every so many years, in 1954, in 1960, all the way up through July 14 through the 20th of 1996. People are not going to approve or like every program on here. They weren't all great shows. But the point is, I think there were very few times where you could not at least find one program between 8 and 9 o'clock that was suitable to watch with your children.

Mr. President, the networks recognize, at least in principle, that they have a responsibility to the public. As parents and citizens, we have both the right and the duty to tell the networks what we think they should do—the little changes they can make that we believe will make a positive difference in the lives of our children and our families.

Scheduling 1 hour of programming in the early evening that is appropriate for parents to watch with their children would be a very big positive step, and it would be a great change from the status quo. That is why I support the Lieberman initiative, and I think my colleagues, if they look at the document I am submitting today, which I asked be printed in the RECORD, they will come to the same conclusion.

I think the President should talk to Senator LIEBERMAN about this idea. It is a good idea, and it would make a real difference.

I yield the floor.

EXHIBIT 1

FAMILY HOUR PROGRAMMING

(8:00–9:00 p.m.)

TV GUIDE LISTINGS

*New York Metropolitan Area*¹

Major Network Stations

(CBS, NBC, ABC, and FOX)

For the dates of:
APRIL 2–8, 1994

¹ Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Area

APRIL 2-8, 1960
 APRIL 4-10, 1964
 APRIL 4-10, 1970
 APRIL 5-11, 1975
 APRIL 5-11, 1980
 APRIL 6-12, 1985
 APRIL 4-10, 1992
 JULY 14-20, 1996

WEEK OF APRIL 2-8, 1954

TV GUIDE

New York Metropolitan Area

Friday, April 2, 1954

8:00 p.m.
 CBS Mama—Peggy Wood
 NBC Dave Garroway—Variety
 ABC Ozzie & Harriet—Comedy
 8:30 p.m.
 CBS Topper—Comedy
 NBC Life of Riley—Bendix
 ABC Playhouse—Anita Colby

Saturday, April 3, 1954

8:00 p.m.
 CBS Jackie Gleason—Comedy
 NBC Spike Jones—Variety
 ABC My Hero—Comedy
 8:30 p.m.
 CBS Amateur Hour—Mack
 ABC The Unexpected—Film

Sunday, April 4, 1954

8:00 p.m.
 CBS Toast of the Town
 NBC Comedy Hour—Variety
 ABC The Mask—Drama

Monday, April 5, 1954

8:00 p.m.
 CBS Burns & Allen—Comedy
 NBC Name That Tune—Quiz
 ABC Sky King—Kirby Grant
 8:30 p.m.
 CBS Talent Scouts—Godfrey
 NBC Concert—Barlow
 ABC Movie—"World Without End"

Tuesday, April 6, 1954

8:00 p.m.
 CBS Gene Autry—Western
 NBC Milton Berle—Comedy
 ABC The Mask—Drama

8:30 p.m.
 CBS Red Skelton—Comedy

Wednesday, April 7, 1954

8:00 p.m.
 CBS Godfrey & Friends
 NBC I Married Joan—Comedy
 ABC Film Drama

8:30 p.m.
 NBC My Little Margie—Comedy
 ABC Into the Night—Mystery

Thursday, April 8, 1954

8:00 p.m.
 CBS Meet Mr. McNutley—Film
 NBC Groucho Marx—Quiz
 ABC Boston Blackie—Film

8:30 p.m.
 CBS Four Star Playhouse
 NBC Justice
 ABC Ray Bolger—Comedy

WEEK OF APRIL 2-8, 1960

TV GUIDE

New York Metropolitan Area

Saturday, April 2, 1960

8:00 p.m.
 CBS Perry Mason—Mystery
 NBC Bonanza—Western
 ABC High Road—Gunther
 8:30 p.m.
 CBS Wanted—Dead or Alive—Western
 NBC Man and the Challenge
 ABC Leave It to Beaver

Sunday, April 3, 1960

8:00 p.m.
 CBS Playhouse 90—Drama

NBC Hollywood Sings—Variety
 ABC Maverick—Western
 8:30 p.m.
 ABC Lawman—Western
 Monday, April 4, 1960

8:00 p.m.
 CBS Texan—Western
 NBC Riverboat—Adventure
 ABC Cheyenne—Western

8:30 p.m.
 CBS Father Knows Best
 NBC Wells Fargo—Western
 ABC Bourbon Street Beat

Tuesday, April 5, 1960

8:00 p.m.
 CBS Dennis O'Keefe
 NBC Laramie—Western
 ABC Bronco—Western

8:30 p.m.
 CBS Dobie Gillis—Comedy
 NBC Startime—Drama
 ABC Wyatt Earp—Western

Wednesday, April 6, 1960

8:00 p.m.
 CBS Be Our Guest—Variety
 NBC Wagon Train—Western
 ABC Spring Night—Music

8:30 p.m.
 CBS Men Into Space—Adventure
 NBC Price Is Right—Contest
 ABC Ozzie and Harriet

Thursday, April 7, 1960

8:00 p.m.
 CBS Betty Hutton—Comedy
 NBC Bat Masterson—Western
 ABC Donna Reed—Comedy

8:30 p.m.
 CBS Johnny Ringo—Western
 NBC Producers' Choice—Drama
 ABC Real McCoys—Comedy

Friday, April 8, 1960

8:00 p.m.
 CBS Rawhide—Western
 NBC Trouleshooters
 ABC Walt Disney—Cartoon

8:30 p.m.
 CBS Hotel De Paree
 NBC Art Carney—Drama Special
 ABC Man From Blackhawk

WEEK OF APRIL 4-10, 1964

TV GUIDE

New York Metropolitan Area

Saturday, April 4, 1964

8:00 p.m.
 CBS Jackie Gleason
 NBC Lieutenant—Drama
 ABC Hootenanny—Songs

8:30 p.m.
 CBS Defenders—Drama
 NBC Joey Bishop—Comedy
 ABC Lawrence Welk

Sunday, April 5, 1964

8:00 p.m.
 CBS Ed Sullivan—Variety
 NBC Walt Disney's World
 ABC Empire—Drama

8:30 p.m.
 NBC Grindl—Imogene Coca
 ABC Arrest and Trial

Monday, April 6, 1964

8:00 p.m.
 CBS I've Got a Secret—Panel
 NBC Movie—"The Virgin Queen"—Biography
 ABC Outer Limits—Drama

8:30 p.m.
 CBS Lucille Ball—Comedy
 ABC Wagon Train—Western

Tuesday, April 7, 1964

8:00 p.m.
 CBS Red Skelton—Comedy
 NBC Mr. Novak—Drama

ABC Combat!—Drama
 8:30 p.m.
 NBC You Don't Say!—Kennedy
 ABC McHale's Navy
 Wednesday, April 8, 1964

8:00 p.m.
 CBS CBS Reports
 NBC Virginian—Western
 ABC Patty Duke—Variety

8:30 p.m.
 CBS Suspense—Mystery
 ABC Farmer's Daughter

Thursday, April 9, 1964

8:00 p.m.
 CBS Rawhide—Western
 NBC Temple Houston—Western
 ABC Donna Reed—Comedy

8:30 p.m.
 NBC Dr. Kildare—Drama
 ABC My Three Sons

Friday, April 10, 1964

8:00 p.m.
 CBS Great Adventure
 NBC International Showcase
 ABC Destry—Western

WEEK OF APRIL 4-10, 1970

TV GUIDE

New York Metropolitan Area

Saturday, April 4, 1970

8:00 p.m.
 CBS Jackie Gleason
 NBC Andy Williams
 ABC Newlywed Game

8:30 p.m.
 CBS My Three Sons
 NBC Adam-12
 ABC Lawrence Welk

Sunday, April 5, 1970

8:00 p.m.
 CBS Ed Sullivan
 NBC World of Disney
 ABC FBI

8:30 p.m.
 NBC Bill Cosby

Monday, April 6, 1970

8:00 p.m.
 CBS Gunsmoke
 NBC Laugh-In
 ABC ABC News Special

8:30 p.m.
 CBS Here's Lucy
 ABC Movie—"An Eye for an Eye"—Western

Tuesday, April 7, 1970

8:00 p.m.
 CBS Lancer
 NBC NBC White Paper
 ABC Mod Squad

8:30 p.m.
 CBS Red Skelton
 NBC Julia

Wednesday, April 8, 1970

8:00 p.m.
 CBS Hee Haw—Variety
 NBC Virginian
 ABC Nanny

8:30 p.m.
 CBS Beverly Hillbillies

Thursday, April 9, 1970

8:00 p.m.
 CBS Jim Nabors
 NBC Daniel Boone
 ABC That Girl

8:30 p.m.
 NBC Ironside

Friday, April 10, 1970

8:00 p.m.
 ABC Bewitched

CBS Adventure
 NBC High Chaparral
 ABC Tales From Muppetland (Regularly, the Brady Bunch)
 8:30 p.m.
 CBS Hogan's Heroes
 NBC Name of the Game
 ABC Ghost/Mrs. Muir

WEEK OF APRIL 5-11, 1975

TV GUIDE

New York Metropolitan Area

Saturday, April 5, 1975

8:00 p.m.
 CBS All in the Family
 NBC Emergency!
 ABC Kung Fu
 8:30 p.m.
 CBS The Jeffersons

Sunday, April 6, 1975

8:00 p.m.
 CBS Cher—Variety
 NBC World of Disney
 ABC Jacques Cousteau—Documentary
 8:30 p.m.
 CBS Kojak—Crime Drama
 NBC McCloud
 ABC Movie—"Man in the Wilderness"—Adventure

Monday, April 7, 1975

8:00 p.m.
 CBS Gunsmoke
 NBC Carl Sandburg's Lincoln
 ABC Rookies

Tuesday, April 8, 1975

8:00 p.m.
 CBS Good Times—Comedy
 NBC Adam-12
 ABC Happy Days—Comedy
 8:30 p.m.

CBS M*A*S*H

NBC Cavalcade of Champions Awards
 ABC Movie—"Guess Who's Sleeping in My Bed?"

Wednesday, April 9, 1975

8:00 p.m.
 CBS Tony Orlando and Dawn—Variety
 NBC Little House on the Prairie—Drama
 ABC That's My Mama—Comedy
 8:30 p.m.
 ABC Movie—"The Story of Pretty Boy Floyd"—Drama

Thursday, April 10, 1975

8:00 p.m.
 CBS The Waltons
 NBC Movie—"Conspiracy of Terror"—Comedy-Drama
 ABC Barney Miller—Comedy
 8:30 p.m.
 ABC Karen—Comedy

Friday, April 11, 1975

8:00 p.m.
 CBS Comedy Special—"Rosenthal and Jones"
 NBC Sanford and Son
 ABC Night Stalker—Drama
 8:30 p.m.
 CBS We'll Get By
 NBC Chico and the Man—Comedy

WEEK OF APRIL 5-11, 1980

TV GUIDE

New York Metropolitan Area

Saturday, April 5, 1980

8:00 p.m.
 CBS Tim Conway—Variety
 NBC B.J. and the Bear
 ABC Easter Bunny is Comin to Town—Cartoon

Sunday, April 6, 1980

8:00 p.m.
 CBS Archie Bunker's Place

NBC Chips—Crime Drama
 ABC Movie—"The Ten Commandments"—Biography
 8:30 p.m.
 CBS One Day at a Time
Monday, April 7, 1980

8:00 p.m.
 CBS WKRP in Cincinnati
 NBC Little House on the Prairie
 ABC That's Incredible
 8:30 p.m.
 CBS Stockard Channing

Tuesday, April 8, 1980

8:00 p.m.
 CBS White Shadow
 NBC Misadventures of Sheriff Lobo
 ABC Happy Days
 8:30 p.m.
 ABC Laverne & Shirley

Wednesday, April 9, 1980

8:00 p.m.
 CBS Movie—"A Boy Named Charlie Brown"—Cartoon
 NBC Real People
 ABC Eight is Enough
Thursday, April 10, 1980

8:00 p.m.
 CBS Palmerstown, U.S.A.—Drama
 NBC Buck Rogers in the 25th Century—Sci Fi

ABC Mork & Mindy

8:30 p.m.
 ABC Benson—Comedy

Friday, April 11, 1980

8:00 p.m.
 CBS Incredible Hulk
 NBC Here's Boomer—Adventure
 ABC When the Whistle Blows—Comedy
 8:30 p.m.
 NBC The Facts of Life.

WEEK OF APRIL 6-12, 1985

TV GUIDE

New York Metropolitan Area

Saturday, April 6, 1985

8:00 p.m.
 CBS Daffy Duck—Cartoon
 NBC Different Strokes
 ABC T.J. Hooker—Crime Drama
 8:30 p.m.
 CBS Bugs Bunny—Cartoon
 NBC Gimme a Break!

Sunday, April 7, 1985

8:00 p.m.
 CBS Murder, She Wrote—Mystery
 NBC Movie—"Florence Nightengale"—Drama
 ABC Movie—"Superman II"—Fantasy
Monday, April 8, 1985

8:00 p.m.
 CBS Scarecrow and Mrs. King
 NBC TV's Bloopers and Practical Jokes
 ABC Hardcastle and McCormick—Crime Drama
Tuesday, April 9, 1985

8:00 p.m.
 CBS Lucie Arnaz—Comedy
 NBC A-Team
 ABC Three's a Crowd
 8:30 p.m.
 CBS Movie—"Coal Miner's Daughter"—Biography
 ABC Foul-ups, Bleeps & Blunders
Wednesday, April 10, 1985

8:00 p.m.
 CBS Double Dare—Crime Drama
 NBC Highway to Heaven—Drama
 ABC Fall Guy
Thursday, April 11, 1985

8:00 p.m.
 CBS Magnum, P.I.—Crime Drama
 NBC Cosby Show

ABC Wildside—Western
 8:30 p.m.
 NBC Family Ties

Friday, April 12, 1985

8:00 p.m.
 CBS Detective in the House—Mystery
 NBC Knight Rider
 ABC Webster
 8:30 p.m.
 ABC Mr. Belvedere—Comedy

WEEK OF APRIL 4-10, 1992

TV GUIDE

New York Metropolitan Area

Saturday, April 4, 1992

8:00 p.m.
 CBS NCAA Basketball
 NBC Golden Girls
 FOX Cops
 ABC Who's the Boss?
 8:30 p.m.
 NBC Powers That Be
 FOX Cops
 ABC Billy—Comedy

Sunday, April 5, 1992

8:00 p.m.
 CBS Murder, She Wrote
 NBC Mann & Machine—Crime Drama
 FOX ROC—Comedy
 ABC Funniest Home Videos
 8:30 p.m.
 FOX In Living Color
 ABC America's Funniest People

Monday, April 6, 1992

8:00 p.m.
 CBS Evening Shade
 NBC Fresh Prince
 FOX Movie—"Night of the Comet"—Science Fiction
 ABC FBI: The Untold Stories
 8:30 p.m.
 CBS Major Dad
 NBC Blossom
 ABC American Detective

Tuesday, April 7, 1992

8:00 p.m.
 CBS Rescue 911
 NBC In the Heat of the Night—Crime Drama
 FOX Movie—"Tough Enough"—Drama
 ABC Full House
 8:30 p.m.
 ABC Home Improvement

Wednesday, April 8, 1992

8:00 p.m.
 CBS Royal Family
 NBC Unsolved Mysteries
 FOX Movie—"All the Right Moves"—Drama
 ABC Wonder Years
 8:30 p.m.
 CBS Davis Rules
 ABC Doogie Howser

Thursday, April 9, 1992

8:00 p.m.
 CBS Top Cops
 NBC Cosby Show
 FOX Simpsons
 ABC Columbo
 8:30 p.m.
 NBC Different World
 FOX Drexell's Class

Friday, April 10, 1992

8:00 p.m.
 CBS Tequila and Bonetti—Crime Drama
 NBC Matlock
 FOX America's Most Wanted
 ABC Family Matters
 8:30 p.m.
 ABC Step by Step

WEEK OF JULY 14–20, 1996

TV GUIDE

Washington, DC. Metropolitan Area

Sunday, July 14, 1996

8:00 p.m.

CBS Murder, She Wrote

NBC Mad About You

FOX Simpsons

ABC Lois & Clark: The New Adventures of Superman

8:30 p.m.

NBC Movie: "Tequila Sunrise"—Drama

FOX Married . . . With Children

Monday, July 15, 1996

8:00 p.m.

CBS Nanny

NBC Fresh Prince of Bel-Air

FOX Movie: "So I Married An Axe Murderer"—Comedy

ABC Marshal

8:30 p.m.

CBS Almost Perfect

NBC Fresh Prince of Bel-Air

Tuesday, July 16, 1996

8:00 p.m.

CBS The Client

NBC 3rd Rock From the Sun

FOX Movie: "Alien Nation: Dark Horizon"—Sci Fi

ABC Roseanne

8:30 p.m.

NBC Newsradio

ABC Drew Carey

Wednesday, July 17, 1996

8:00 p.m.

CBS Dave's World

NBC Dateline

FOX Beverly Hills, 90210

ABC Ellen

8:30 p.m.

CBS Can't Hurry Love

ABC Faculty

Thursday, July 18, 1996

8:00 p.m.

CBS Wynonna: Revelations—Special

NBC Friends

FOX Martin

ABC High Incident

8:30 p.m.

NBC Mad About You

FOX Living Single

Friday, July 19, 1996

8:00 p.m.

CBS Movie: "National Lampoon's Vacation"—Comedy

NBC Summer Olympic Games: Opening Ceremony

FOX Sliders

ABC Family Matters

8:30 p.m.

ABC Boy Meets World

Saturday, July 20, 1996

8:00 p.m.

CBS Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman

NBC Summer Olympic Games

FOX Cops

ABC Movie: "Project ALF"—Comedy

8:30 p.m.

FOX Cops

Mr. WYDEN addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss for a few moments what will, hopefully, be before the Senate before too long. Also, I will make some comments with respect to the antiarthritic drug, Lodine.

I am particularly pleased that the Senate will have a chance to vote

shortly on the Kassebaum-Kennedy legislation, because breaking this political logjam on health care reform means that millions of Americans who are stuck in jobs because they have a preexisting health problem will have a new margin of health security and economic freedom.

This legislation is good for American families. It is good for our workers and our business. What it means is that fear of losing critical health insurance coverage no longer would be a roadblock on the road to a better job and a better life. I want to applaud the bipartisan efforts of the Senate conferees, particularly Senator KENNEDY, Senator KASSEBAUM, and Senator BREAUX, who put long and hard service into this legislation, and it will be an important step forward when adopted.

Besides guaranteeing portability of health insurance coverage, this legislation contains little-noticed provisions that I think are going to make a great difference with respect to expanding health insurance coverage. This legislation, to the bipartisan credit of those Senate leaders, protects State flexibility with respect to State health insurance reforms. States like mine are laboratories for health care reform, and it is essential that we not turn out the laboratories at the State level with unnecessary Federal restrictions.

Senators KASSEBAUM and KENNEDY worked very closely with me so that the exemption language in this legislation will allow Oregon's humane, rational, and far-reaching health insurance reform program to go into effect later this year. It would provide extensive group to individual policy reform in much the same way our Federal legislation envisages, but the approach that Oregon is taking is one that I think other States and possibly the Federal Government will want to emulate in the days ahead.

Mr. President, there are features of this bill and provisions that were not included that I think are unfortunate.

During this debate, I have expressed concern about the possibility of some vulnerable Americans being left behind if medical savings accounts become widespread. Every Senator should want to oppose the balkanization of medicine, where the young, the healthy, and the wealthy get good affordable health coverage at the expense of the sickest, the neediest, and the elderly. It is appropriate to test out the MSA concept, however, and I do believe this conference report offers a reasonable compromise in the form of a limited MSA demonstration project.

I join Senator DOMENICI and Senator WELLSTONE and many of my colleagues in mourning the loss of mental health parity in this legislation. Parity, in my view, is not just fair, it is good health care policy that saves health care dollars in the long run by assuring quality mental health coverage and particularly early intervention. I do not intend to vote against a good, bipartisan bill because of the loss of one provi-

sion, but I intend to join with colleagues of both parties to make sure that mental health parity is an issue revisited early in the next Congress.

Finally, as happens often in large conference reports, a few stray cats and dogs find some homes. This bill is no exception. I am going to talk for a moment about a mongrel in this bill that seems to have a pretty bad case of fleas. There is a provision in this legislation that would give the antiarthritic prescription drug Lodine a 2-year patent extension. Supporters of this idea first tried to maneuver it into the 1997 agriculture appropriations bill in the House. It is now in this legislation, page 76, subtitle H.

This is a bad idea, in my view, and it certainly should not be a part of an important bipartisan health reform bill. Lodine has already received one extension under the terms of the 1984 Hatch-Waxman amendments allowing for additional patent life on drugs which become involved in long regulatory approval delays. With that extension, the drug's manufacturers have built sales of \$274 million. Many of these purchasers are seniors. Many of those who buy this anti-inflammatory drug are older people, walking on an economic tightrope, balancing their food costs against their fuel costs, their fuel costs against their medical bills, and they are paying for this drug, many of them, out of their pocket.

Mr. President, if Lodine's current extension is allowed to run out in 1997, this drug likely would get a generic competitor, and those consumers, those vulnerable older people would get a price break as a result of the competition. They are not going to get that break with this extension. I think it is unwise for the Senate to take more money out of the pockets of older people in this fashion. There have not been any congressional hearings, have not been any deliberations to look at any public purpose served by another 2-year extension of the Lodine patent. I think granting this extension creates a poor precedent. I am sorry to see this provision in this bill. It is a good bill, a bipartisan bill that needs to be enacted, but it is wrong to have this special-interest provision in this legislation.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. BAUCUS addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

MISSOURI WATER RAID OF 1996

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, in the past 2 years, the House of Representatives has made some good decisions, but I must say they have also made some rather questionable ones that is, from the two Government shutdowns not too long ago to the attempted cuts in school lunches, Medicare, and college loans. I think it has left a lot of us not only in the Senate but across the country shaking our heads. But the great water raid they pulled off under