

United Nations leading up to the war against Iraq. I believe the American people have a right to know this and this is what this sentiment of this amendment is, and I would urge the gentleman to reconsider.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. The time of the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GOSS) has again expired.

(By unanimous consent, Mr. GOSS was allowed to proceed for 1 additional minute.)

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Chairman, I well understand the purpose of the gentlewoman's amendment, and what I am trying to say and outline for her is that dealing with the United Nations with intelligence is an extraordinarily complex issue, and I do not think there is a particular body in Congress that has more experience than the oversight committees on intelligence, House and Senate. And I therefore say give us a chance to do our job and I think she will understand. If the gentlewoman wants to know how much intelligence has been shared with the U.N., I guarantee we can find out upstairs.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GOSS. I yield to the gentlewoman from California.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman again for that response; but, again, this amendment allows the American people to know what that information was in a declassified form. This amendment allows for a classified index, and I believe in terms of the fact that U.S. tax dollars were of course used in this war that people, the American people, just have a right to ask these questions and have the right to know. This has nothing to do with whether one supports or opposes the United Nations.

Mr. GOSS. Reclaiming my time, this is not supporting or opposing the U.N. I will tell the gentlewoman flat out that I do not have the capacity to declassify information. Our committee does not. We can get involved in a process, but the declassification question is another issue which I would love to enlist her support on on how we can make it better, but that is not part of this amendment.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN PRO
TEMPORE

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. The Chair will once again remind Members to refrain from improper references to the Senate.

The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

The question was taken; and the Chairman pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) will be postponed.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DREIER) having assumed the chair, Mr. SIMPSON, Chairman pro tempore of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2417) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2004 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana 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 New York (Mr. HINCHEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. HINCHEY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER
TIME

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take the Special Order time of the gentleman from New York (Mr. HINCHEY).

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

There was no objection.

MEDICARE: H.R. 1 TURNS BACK
THE CLOCK

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, as a member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, I worked on the markup of the prescription drug bill, the Republican Medicare privatization bill, the other day; and I really could not figure out why Republicans were in every case doing the bidding of the drug companies and in every case doing the bidding of the insurance companies.

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I asked the chairman if it could be perhaps that because the drug compa-

nies contributed about \$80 million to campaigns last year, about 85 percent of that to Republicans, and the chairman said that could not be it. I asked if because our committee markup on two different occasions was delayed, stopped until the next day, stopped early because President Bush was headlining a major Republican event honoring the CEO of Glaxo Wellcome, one of the largest drug companies in the world, in this case a British drug company. He said that had nothing to do with it. I asked if it could be perhaps because President Bush was in the midst of raising millions of dollars this year from the drug companies and the insurance companies, if that is why the Republican drug bill was written by the drug industry and the insurance industry, and he said no to that.

Now, I will take the chairman of the Committee on Energy and Commerce at his word, that Republicans were not at the beck and call of the drug and insurance industry because the drug and insurance industry so richly funds the Republican Party. I will take them at their word.

But I finally figured out the reason that Republicans always do the bidding of the drug and insurance companies and why the Republicans want to privatize Medicare is because they just do not much like Medicare. And while that may sound strange to some Members of this House or anyone else that might be watching, I think we need to look at the history of Medicare.

In 1965, there were only 11 Republican Members of Congress out of 150 or 160 or so, only 11 Members of Congress on that side of the aisle that actually supported the creation of Medicare. Gerald Ford, later to become President, opposed it. Bob Dole, later to be a Senator and then a presidential nominee. Opposed the creation of Medicare. Strom Thurmond, a longtime, longest-serving Senator in U.S. history, opposed the creation of Medicare. Donald Rumsfeld, now the Secretary of Defense, was a Member of the House in those days and he opposed the creation of Medicare. Basically, almost every single Republican opposed the creation of Medicare. They made all kinds of comments about big government and socialized medicine, all of those kinds of things they said because they just did not want a government health care program like Medicare.

Then, during the Reagan administration, Republicans tried several attempts to privatize Medicare. They cut reimbursement for hospitals, they cut reimbursement for doctors, they tried to scale back the Medicare benefit for seniors, but they really could not get much through a Democratic Congress. But then, the day came in 1995 when Newt Gingrich came on the scene as the new Speaker and Newt Gingrich literally waited fewer than 100 days, literally fewer than 100 days until he tried the beginning of the dismantling of Medicare.

What Speaker Gingrich did was he tried to cut Medicare \$270 million and

then to turn around and give a major tax cut, taking the money from Medicare, and giving a major tax cut to the wealthiest people in sight. Does that sound familiar? That is what they are basically doing today, giving tax cuts to the wealthiest 1 percent. In this case, the tax cut for millionaires is \$90,000.

Speaker Gingrich also made a statement. He said, "We can't get rid of Medicare"; this was back in 1995. He said, "We can't get rid of Medicare in round one because we don't think that is politically smart, but we believe it is going to wither on the vine."

Bob Dole that same year bragged to a conservative group, a group of conservative politicians who do not like Medicare; sort of the Republican line. He said, Bob Dole said, I was there 30 years ago fighting the fight, voting against Medicare, trying to stop it from ever being created.

So it is pretty clear, Mr. Speaker, that it may not be just the fact that Republicans raise a ton of money from the drug companies and a ton of money from the insurance companies, and that is why they are for Medicare privatization and that is why they want to turn Medicare over to the drug and insurance industries. It may not be that; it may be that they have an honest, philosophical difference with us and with 90 percent of the American public. They just do not like Medicare. They voted against creating it. They bragged about voting against creating it. Speaker Gingrich voted to cut it on several occasions.

And now in 2003, with a Republican President, a Republican Senate and a Republican House, this is their golden opportunity to privatize Medicare. That is what this vote is all about this week. The Republicans, at the behest of the insurance companies and the drug companies, want to privatize the health care system that has worked for America's seniors.

The gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS), the new Republican star in their efforts to privatize Medicare, in their efforts to dismantle Medicare, has said, and I will end with this, Mr. Speaker, he said, to those who would say the bill would end Medicare as we know it, our answer is, from the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS), Republican chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, we certainly hope so. Old fashioned Medicare is not very good. We want to end it.

Mr. Speaker, we need to vote "no" on the Republican plan, vote "yes" on the Democratic plan that will preserve Medicare and provide a solid prescription drug benefit for our seniors.

THE SONS OF COLVILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight in honor of Minnesota's 135th Infantry.

It is hard for us to imagine what it must have been like in the spring of 1861 when cannons announced the first battle of the Civil War by firing on Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor. Minnesota's first Governor, Alexander Ramsey, happened to be in Washington on other business. Upon learning the news, he raced to the White House to become the first Governor to volunteer troops for the Union Army.

A few nights later, in Red Wing, Minnesota, William Colvill used his considerable size and agility, as he stood almost 5 feet, 5 inches tall, to elbow his way to the front of the line to become the first volunteer in the first regiment of the first State that volunteered troops to preserve the Union.

Minnesota's First Regiment fought with distinction in many of the bloodiest battles in the Civil War, including Fredericksburg, Bull Run, and Antietam. American history has a special footnote, however, to commemorate their actions on July 2, 1863 in that most famous of Civil War contests, the Battle of Gettysburg.

General Winfield Scott Hancock, commander of the Union forces, saw the vulnerability of General Sickles' New Yorkers, who had moved forward, leaving a huge gap in the Union line. Hancock noticed that the First was positioned somewhat south of the middle of the long Union line on Cemetery Ridge. He nervously rode up and asked, Colonel Colvill, how long can you hold your position? Colvill, who spoke in short, crisp sentences firmly answered, "General, to the last man."

Now, this was no idle boast. By the end of that day, the regiment would suffer 82 percent casualties.

That single phrase, "to the last man," survives today as the motto of the Minnesota National Guard detachment that traces its heritage to the Minnesota First Regiment.

When the regiment headed off to war from Fort Snelling in 1861, they were 1,023 strong. After Pickett's charge at Gettysburg had been repelled only 2 years later, just 67 men could answer the call.

The Minnesota First went on to see action in the Spanish American War and served with distinction in the Philippine Insurrection. During World War I it was mustered into service, but did not see action as a unit.

That changed in 1941 when war clouds gathered far across the sea. The 135th Infantry became the first division to be activated and shipped out. Advance units of the 135th sailed to Africa to take on the famed Africa Corps of Field Marshal Rommel. Despite being outmanned and underequipped, the 135th turned back the Desert Fox and his Army.

After World War II, the 135th once again saw action in Korea.

Today, the 135th is a battalion; no longer a regiment. It has five compa-

nies compared with 20 years past. It is concentrated in southeastern Minnesota as a member of the historic 34th Red Bull National Guard Division.

That is why, this July 11 through 13, the thin ranks of the 135th Infantry's combat veterans of World War II and the Korean War, the "Sons of Colvill" as they are known, will gather to remember. They will close ranks in Mankato, Minnesota, to honor those who have fallen and to remember one more time the sacrifices of a generation.

Once again, they will listen to the special music that identifies the 135th: "March of the Red Bull Lesions," "The Old Gray Mayor," "The Sons of Colvill." It will be a final hoo-ah for the surviving men of World War II, and it will be one more commemoration for the thinning ranks of the Korean War vets. And, it will be one last chance for us to say, "thank you, well done, oh good and noble servants. You have brought hope and freedom to millions who will never know your names."

Mr. Speaker, I salute the brave Minnesotans who have given so much to keep the lamp of liberty burning brightly throughout the world. To the families of those who have made the supreme sacrifice, we cannot adequately salve the wounds that will never heal. The best that we can say is that we will never forget.

May God bless you. May God continue to bless our country and all who defend her.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take the time of the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

WOMEN AND PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, like the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) said, this is *deja vu* all over again. Here we are, once again, discussing ways to help seniors afford the prescription drugs that they need and must have and, once again, the majority insists on a sham proposal that gives seniors nothing more than a false sense of security.

I am here tonight with the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) to remind everyone that as we debate proposals to add a prescription drug benefit to Medicare, the decisions we make