

While the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) inspects these overseas plants when built to certify their products, there is little supervision later.

Ireland is a favorite location and Singapore is getting new plants. This overseas production of drugs was \$40.7 billion in 2002, a five-fold increase from 1995. The impact has given us a negative balance of trade in that field.

Pfizer Inc. and Eli Lilly & Co. enjoy huge profit margins compared with other U.S. firms. Pfizer's was 28.4 percent profit in 2002 while Eli Lilly was at 24.4 percent.

Pfizer reported \$9.1 billion in profits on \$32.4 billion, a return of 28 percent and a rate more than twice that of General Electric, nine times that of Wal-Mart and 31 times that of General Motors.

Our U.S. sales of prescription drugs is the highest in the world at \$654 per person with an average life expectancy of 77 years. Japan is second at \$421 with a life expectancy of 81 years.

Americans pay on an average 40 percent more for their prescription drugs than do Canadians. And it has been ruled illegal for us to import them from Canada. Drug companies have threatened to cut off supplies to Canadian drug stores that sell to Americans.

Despite all this, the cities of Montgomery, Ala., and Springfield, Mass., have negotiated with Canadian sources. Montgomery alone is saving \$34,000 a month with its contract.

Members of Congress, the FDA and all the rest who are in bed with the pharmaceutical industry who use the excuse of safety regarding Canadian drugs are just blowing hot air. So far there have been no reported incidents of any problem. In the U.S., 50,000 to 100,000 people die annually as a result of adverse reactions from FDA-approved drugs.

Drug companies like to talk about the cost of developing new drugs. A report of the Joint Economic Committee of Congress in 2000 dispels some of that. It found that the federal government, mainly through the National Institutes of Health, the National Cancer Institute and other public agencies funds about 36 percent of all U.S. medical research. Of the 21 most important drugs introduced between 1965 and 2002, a total of 15 was developed using knowledge and techniques from federally funded research.

Best current figure we could locate indicates \$2.5 billion was spent by the drug industry on advertising in 2001.

There is absolutely no real effort by the President or Congress to take an honest look at the high cost of prescription drugs. We believe in the capitalist system but not in those extreme profiteers whose huge profit is at the cost of our health. Canada does a good job of regulating prices and would be a good example to follow.

Regulations always take away a little freedom from some segment of the economy but the government has seen fit to regulate the broadcast industry, the airline industry, interstate commerce and through taxes numerous other aspects of the economy. It is time to do something about runaway prescription drug prices.

There is a Republican president, a Republican Congress and this problem lies largely on their shoulders, election or not!

ARTICLE BY RABBI ISRAEL
ZOBERMAN

HON. EDWARD L. SCHROCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 2004

Mr. SCHROCK. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to share the following article written by a constituent, Rabbi Israel Zoberman.

The recent bus #19 suicide bombing in the heart of Jerusalem with its heavy toll found me in Israel's capital during a solidarity mission of my Reform Jewish movement.

I passed by that doomed site, near another past one, only hours before the latest of incredible serial terrorist attacks in the three and a half years of the bloody Second Intifada. Once again violating Jerusalem where Biblical Abraham proclaimed the sanctity of human life in the midst of a paganism now being resurrected by its contemporary messengers of death who should not be allowed by the civilized world to reverse Abraham's victory. Let what just ghastly happened, newly available on Israel's Foreign Ministry website for a reality check not become an added statistic!

Upon arriving in my parents' home in Haifa on that hellish day, I found them anxious, even panicky, already having called hospitals in Jerusalem looking for me . . . I thus experienced a bit the anguish encountered by Israelis, without parallel, with Holocaust survivors like my parents whose constant exposure to trauma may reawaken repressed carnage images.

The timing of the deadly Palestinian violence with both Arafat's forces and Hamas competing to claim responsibility, purposefully coincided with exchanging only four Israelis, three of them in coffins, and promised information on the fate of Israeli navigator Ron Arad, captured 17 years ago, in return for hundreds of Hizballah terrorists. Of the three killed Israeli soldiers, Benny Avraham, Adi Avitan and Omar Suad, whose fate was cynically manipulated by the Hizballah to inflict pain upon their families, the first one was connected to Tidewater Jewry through a joint communal program.

Israel has proved again, with Prime Minister Sharon's guiding input, that for humanitarian values' sake, sorely lacking by its enemy, it is willing to pay a high price though it might be interpreted as a weakness. Is it any wonder that without a credible peace partner and unwilling to respond in kind, Israel is forced to erect a costly security separation fence to save innocent lives? The fence, which our group observed for miles, is not necessarily permanent and can be adjusted. Some resulted Palestinian hardship has to be weighed against penetrating terror. It is the least Israel can do in face of relentless terrorism, experienced by the United States' heroic troops in Iraq as well, while questionably restraining itself to the very limits from using its superior military power. A state's obligation for self-defense is no less incumbent upon Israel whose national morale and very way of life are threatened. In spite of Sharon's uncharacteristic dovishness, at the moving state welcoming ceremony for the fallen soldiers he referred to unspecified options in Israel's arsenal. His announced intent, tantamount to an earthquake, to unilaterally withdraw from the Gaza Strip reflects Sharon's commitment to peace even in the face of painful sacrifices, opposition within his own political camp, expected resistance, and increased threats on his life. Will the Palestinian Authority finally respond by halting terror in compliance of President Bush's Roadmap?

General Shlomo Gazit, former director of Military Intelligence and fellow at the Jaffe Strategic Center at Tel Aviv University, who addressed us, justified the fence as a security need, refusing to call it a wall. He urges economic and demographic separation from the West Bank to safeguard Israel as a Jewish and democratic entity. Both the reserve General and former Minister Michael Melchior who serves in Israel's parliament as chair of Diaspora Affairs, view the American war in Iraq to have a transforming impact on the

unstable Middle East, sending a clear moderating message to the Arabs. Gazit was optimistic that the ultimate resolution of Israeli-Palestinian conflict has begun. He and Melchior stressed building bridges to Israel's own Arab minority, attending to its special needs with the hope to draw the two essential partners closer. Otherwise Israel's security is at risk.

I watched Jewish kids purchase with their moms costumes for the joyous Purim holiday and Arab families celebrating the Eid. For the sake of their inevitable shared future and that of their own children, may these parents find a way to each other's hearts. Perhaps, Israeli Arabs will yet be a bridge of shalom to the larger Arab world.

Rabbi Israel Zoberman, spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Chaverim in Virginia Beach, was born in Kazakhstan and grew up in Haifa, Israel.

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE
HUBBLE SPACE TELESCOPE'S
ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND RECOM-
MENDING RECONSIDERATION OF
FUTURE SERVICING MISSIONS

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 2004

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a resolution recognizing the accomplishments of the Hubble Space Telescope and recommending reconsideration of future servicing mission to Hubble. I am very pleased that a number of my colleagues are joining me as original cosponsors of this bill—including Representatives BARTLETT, HOYER, MCDERMOTT, AKIN, GORDON, LAMPSON, and RUPPERSBERGER.

I wish this resolution weren't necessary. I am introducing it in response to NASA's decision made in mid-January to cancel all future space shuttle missions to the Hubble Space Telescope, including SM-4, the next flight that would have installed the new Cosmic Origins Spectrograph and the Wide Field Camera 3 instruments—both largely completed at a cost of about \$200 million. Installation of these instruments would have provided over a factor of ten improvement in Hubble's imaging and spectroscopy, and in addition to replacement gyros and batteries, would make Hubble's final years its most scientifically capable and productive. If SM-4 goes forward, Hubble will continue to operate until 2012. Without the mission, Hubble will likely die in orbit sometime in 2007.

My goal in introducing this resolution is simple—I want to call attention to the Hubble Space Telescope's contributions to scientific research and education and ensure that any decision affecting its future is made carefully and seriously and for the right reasons. Precisely because of Hubble's extraordinary contributions in the past and promised contributions in the future, I also believe that the decision to cancel the planned servicing mission to Hubble should be considered by an independent panel of experts.

Finally, I want to try to ensure that the planning for the servicing mission continues at least until the panel comes up with its recommendations and until NASA provides a timetable of compliance with recommendations of the Columbia Accident Investigation Board