

Sometime in the early 1860's, while this Nation was embroiled in a civil war, a conversation took place between Senator Charles Sumner of Massachusetts and President Abraham Lincoln. Sumner asked the President, "Mr. President, do you realize who is the largest slaveholder in the United States?" The President had to think, and the Senator said, "It is you, Mr. President."

At the time there were over 3,000 slaves in the District of Columbia who were stuck in slavery and bondage and could be freed by an act of Congress. That conversation began a monumental epic in the history of this country. Within a short period, the House of Representatives and the Senate passed legislation, and on April 16, 1862 President Lincoln signed the D.C. Emancipation Proclamation.

Mr. Speaker, let me read to you from a history of the Nation's Capital written by M. Bryant in 1960 that explains the significance of the D.C. Emancipation Proclamation. He said:

The proclamation brought to a close an issue about which the anti-slavery Congress had raged for years. As well as placed on the statute books the preliminary measure of what proved to be national policy that would not merely destroy the chains from the slaves, but raise them to civil and political equality.

That was done with an act of Congress.

The Congress could not really set free the slaves in the District of Columbia though. What Congress did was to recognize what God intended from the beginning: that all men are created equal, and all men are created free. All Congress could do was to recognize that which God had intended.

Abraham Lincoln affixed his signature to that great document. That began the pealing of bells in the District of Columbia. The pealing of the bells said the Nation's Capital shall no longer be a stronghold for slavery.

Here are the words of the document that was the precursor of the Emancipation Proclamation:

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, that all persons held to service or labor within the District of Columbia by reason of African descent are hereby discharged and freed of all claims of service of labor. From and after passage of this Act, neither slavery or voluntary servitude shall hereafter exist in said district.

Those were the words.

Nine months later he did something else quite significant. Spurred on by Congress to set the slaves free in the District of Columbia, President Lincoln, by Executive proclamation, issued the Emancipation Proclamation. Two years ago, I took to the Library of Congress my family and Loretta Carter Hanes—the wonderful lady who, along with her son, Peter, has revived the D.C. Emancipation Commemoration ceremony in this city. There, we read the words of one of the original drafts of the Emancipation Proclamation. It

was an extremely moving event. Reading these words, Loretta's knees buckled and she turned to me and said: "I have to sit down because of the majesty of seeing one of the original drafts penned by Abraham Lincoln."

This is one of the few documents Lincoln signed with his full first name, "Abraham". Lincoln did this because he wanted these two documents, the two Emancipation Proclamations, to be among the most remembered and revered of everything that he signed into law as a President. Listen to these words:

That on the first day of January, in the year of our Lord, 1863, all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall then be remanded as the United States, shall be thenceforward and forever free.

REPUBLICANS CARE ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. MICA] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, I took to the floor earlier today in response to charges from the other side.

With Earth Day coming up, the other side is bashing Republicans. Republicans are going to hurt the environment. They send an incorrect message to the American people. Let me take, if I may, a few minutes and set the record straight.

First of all, probably most of the Members and the young people who have come here to serve in Congress do not realize, Mr. Speaker, that in fact the Environmental Protection Agency is a Republican idea. It was started and proposed by President Nixon in 1972. But the idea was not to create a huge bureaucracy. The idea was to set some national standards, because Republicans want clean air. Republicans want clean water. Republicans want clean land. We have children. We breathe the air. We drink the water. We want our children to inherit a land that is environmentally protected and clean and secure.

So it is a Republican idea that we are talking about. But the idea was not to pay more and get less. In fact, the Republican idea was to set some national standards of regulation. But let us look at what has happened. Just take a minute and look at this. Since today, we have 18,000 Federal bureaucrats in the Environmental Protection Agency, not to mention thousands of contract employees, and their job is to pump out rules.

You think they might be in my State of Florida, but in fact they are scattered throughout 10 regional offices and 1,000 at a clip there. Then here in Washington, DC, we have 6,000 EPA employees within almost speaking distance of my voice.

Mr. Speaker, we have 6,000 EPA Federal bureaucrats who, again, their re-

sponsibility is to pump out more rules and regulations and justify their bureaucracy and their rulemaking ability. So we have seen that bureaucracy grow. In 1972, we did not have 47 of the 50 States that have full-blown environmental protection agencies. Almost every city, every county, every State has full-blown authorities.

Let us look at the programs that they talk about, the gentleman from New Jersey came back and talked about. Do these programs work? Are we making polluters pay? Look at this headline from 1993: "EPA Lets Polluters Off Hook." So polluters are not paying under the current law. So this misinformation is incorrect.

These are the facts. Now, of the sites that we have in Superfund, a program which was well-intended, are we cleaning up the Superfund? Wrong. Look at the number of sites. We have over 2,000 sites, and only a handful have been cleaned up at great expense. So we are not cleaning up the sites, and that is according to GAO reports. They do not want to deal with the facts. Then a GAO report that was released in 1994, it says: "Are we cleaning up the sites that are most hazardous to public health, safety and welfare? And the answer is no."

The report says EPA does not use risk to set priorities. You know what drives the cleanup? Political pressure. That is what this report says. That is what Republicans are trying to change. We say why pay more and get less? Superfund is a disaster. You know who gets the money in this? The lawyers and the people who do studies. About 80 percent of the billions of dollars that are expended on these programs go to the lawyers and the studies.

Mr. Speaker, I sit on the committee that oversees EPA. You know who does the studies? Another report by the General Accounting Office showed that the largest percentage of contractors are former EPA employees. An incestuous relationship. So this is what they want to keep. They want to keep the pollution. They want to let the polluters off the hook. They do not want the sites cleaned up that are hazardous to our children and our future. They want to pay more and get less. They want the attorneys and these fat cats from EPA who have gone into the private sector to keep milking the cow because the taxpayers are paying. This is what the argument is about, and the American people and this Congress must listen.

Republicans care about the environment. Republicans care about the land and the water and the air we breathe. The thing is, we are not getting our money's worth. The thing is, people are out there busting their buns to send money to Washington, and this is where the billions are going and the hazardous waste sites are not being cleaned up and priorities are not being met and promises are not being kept.

THANK YOU TO MY WIFE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. DORNAN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DORNAN. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues and the broad C-SPAN audience of a million people or more, sometimes a million and a half when we are having a hot debate here on public policy, I watch in 1-minute speeches at the beginning of some days hear Members from both sides of the aisle get up and proudly talk about a little league team, a professional basketball team, a professional baseball team, or some worthy American citizen in their district who has passed away who lived a great life and contributed to the overall greatness of our country and to the benefit of their fellow citizens. But today I rise to do that very thing for someone very close to me, my wife. Today is her birthday, but it is also our 41st wedding anniversary. Last year it was the day that I declared for President in the city of my birth, the island of my birth, Manhattan, in New York City.

It was Easter Sunday last year, the 16th, and we went to mass in the beautiful cathedral where I was baptized, the seventh largest church in the world, St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York. On that beautiful Easter Sunday, we went up to the baptismal font where I became a Christian and we retook our wedding vows, and this last year has been one of the most exciting, delightful years of my life, running, fulfilling a boyhood dream for the Presidency of this great United States.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to thank my wife for putting up with an Air Force fighter pilot who ejected twice, saved a couple other aircrafts, landing in dangerous conditions without any power, dead-sticking, almost lost at sea once, traveling around the world in dangerous areas. The plane that killed our Commerce Secretary Ron Brown was the very airplane that Mr. CALLAHAN flew on not 4 weeks before, 3 weeks and 6 days before. Four times I flew with that same wonderful Air Force crew. About seven of the eight on that crew were with SONNY CALLAHAN's crew and BOB STUMP of Arizona and myself. Great, fine young people.

We flew into some dangerous fields, Tuzla, in a snowstorm, Sarajevo in a snowstorm. That could have been me. It could have been six Members of this House instead of 24 CEO's, 35 people overall, including Ron Brown. But it is not easy being married to someone that is living a life of adventure and trying to serve his fellow countrymen, giving up wonderful opportunities in media to make a lot of money and still contribute significantly.

I just want to thank my wife, Sally Hanson Dornan, for putting up with me for 41 years, giving us five beautiful children, all of them charging conservatives of principle.

This year, on the eve of the Iowa debate, I won the Presidential election

because I got a 10th grandchild. And I woke up this morning to my granddaughter handing me Molly Dornan, looking at that beautiful, precious face. We have had all 10 grandchildren together for the first time over this Easter week, and I am just overwhelmed that I have so many blessings from God to account for an to never retire, to just find some way to serve my fellow Americans.

We spent Saturday all day at Mount Vernon. What an inspirational point in American history, the birthplace of the Father of our country, first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen.

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That was the first time I would be back to Mount Vernon since my dad took my two brothers and me there in 1941 in the summer, right before we were drawn into World War II, and I remember those 8-year-old boyhood memories of the beautiful vistas of the Potomac, but I did not remember the house, and what a humble way, in spite of the dark clouds of slavery over that plantation and that Washington freed his slaves on the death of his wife, which happened 4 years after his own. He died at age 67; Martha died at age 70.

But you walk through those small bedrooms, wooden floors, looked at the bed where George Washington died, and thought what great dreams he had for this country, this man of character, how far we have fallen in some areas, then the promise that Washington, Adams, Jefferson, Madison, the Father of our Constitution, Abraham Lincoln, fighting Teddy Roosevelt; all these Presidents, so many of them general officers that were shot and wounded in combat.

Washington, when he was with Brad-dock, was 1 of only 4 officers out of 100 that were not wounded. Thirty-eight of them were killed, and he said only by God's hand was he saved, and he was 23 years old and he wondered why.

Mr. Speaker, that is what I wondered when I bailed out of the jet the second time at 23, wondered why did God keep me around, and hope I am not disappointing anybody. I will continue, Mr. Speaker, to keep fighting for faith, for family, and for freedom, and again I thank my wife on here birthday for 41 wonderful years.

DOD MEDICAL AND DENTAL SUPPORT CONTRACTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COBLE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. JONES] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I rise this afternoon along with my colleague from the State of Georgia, Mr. NORWOOD, to talk about our military health care system, specifically to discuss TriCare and its implementation.

I believe there are a number of important issues this body needs to address. The long-established ways of providing medical care for soldiers, military retirees, and family members are changing. As the bond with Korea's soldiers for lifetime medical care is being redefined, the historic promise of free lifetime medical care is coming face to face with the fiscal realities of the post-cold war.

The most significant change in military health care is the introduction of TriCare, the Defense Department's regional managed care program. It is my understanding that TriCare is intended to provide high-quality, low-cost, successful care to dependent and retiree beneficiaries by partnering with civilian sector health care providers. The change has begun in selected areas of the United States and is scheduled to be fully operational in the continental United States and Hawaii by 1997.

As we closely watch TriCare evolve, it seems that several outcomes appear apparent. Throughout the transition, Congress will examine TriCare closely, and alternatives to TriCare will be considered if problems of access and cost escalate and TriCare is unable to provide a uniform benefit.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to yield to the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. NORWOOD].

Mr. NORWOOD. I thank my friend from North Carolina, and I am honored to share this time with you.

Mr. Speaker, we are grateful for the opportunity to bring to you a very complex subject, and I hope that we can bring this down to a point where the people understand what we are talking about in terms of a national problem and by bringing it to you on a very local level.

Now, I want to say up front I have the highest praise for the Department of Defense medical care system. In my district, the Eisenhower Army Medical Center is an outstanding example of how the Department of Defense provides the highest quality medical care to its military beneficiaries. However, with the military drawdown, this has forced many of our military families and our retirees out of the military hospitals and clinics. Under the new DOD medical management care system, now called TriCare that you referred to earlier, many of these beneficiaries are treated by civilian medical and dental care providers through the use of managed care contractors.

Now, the intent, I believe, of the Department of Defense is to use these contracts to be sure that our military retirees and our active-duty dependents have access to care, and quality of care, but at the same time manage the health care costs; in other words, try to bring that cost down.

Now, if this is done well and properly, I believe these managed care contracts can successfully augment the outstanding care that is now being provided in our military hospitals and dental clinics all over the country; in