

Bob Dole, we increased it to 80 percent; making health care insurance more portable so you can take it between jobs; and no one can be denied coverage because of preexisting conditions. We also provide for medical savings accounts, an innovation that is working across this country. We want to improve access by making health care more affordable to Americans.

I think it is important today to note that it was 57 days ago that the U.S. Senate passed the health insurance reform legislation by a vote of 100 to 0. Every Member, Democrat and Republican, voted for that health care reform bill.

Both the House and Senate have passed the health care reform, so what is the holdup? I think it is important today to point out that today is day 57 of health care reform being held hostage in the United States Senate. Health care reform is being held hostage by a small, narrow, extreme, left-wing minority of one who stands in the way of health care reform. Working families, small businesspeople, entrepreneurs, flower shops, local grocery stores, the people on Main Street—

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman suspend for one moment. It is not in order to cast reflections on the Senate or its Members, individually or collectively. The gentleman may resume.

Mr. WELLER. Working families, the self-employed, flower shops on Main Street, the backbone of our society, the little guys and gals are being punished because one Member is filibustering legislation to provide health care reform and make health care affordable.

This particular Senator is using medical savings accounts as his excuse for blocking affordable health care reform. The reason this Senator is filibustering health care reform is because he wants a Government takeover of our health care system.

Medical savings accounts are an idea which was discussed while I was in the State legislature.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman suspend. It is not in order to cast any reflection on the Senate or its Members and I ask the gentleman to refrain from doing so.

The gentleman may proceed in order.

Mr. WELLER. Medical savings accounts are an issue I dealt with as an Illinois State legislator. While I was in the Illinois General Assembly, we were successful in passing medical savings accounts. Since 1993, Illinois residents in the Land of Lincoln have been able to reap the cost-saving benefits of MSAs.

In fact, there are 18 States today that are leading the effort to provide for medical savings accounts. In fact, there are hundreds of thousands of employees of small businesses and corporations that have the opportunity to have medical savings accounts. Medi-

cal savings accounts work because they provide choice for working Americans, choice amongst their health care providers, choice amongst their physicians. They lower costs by rewarding cost-conscious consumers, and they also provide for portability between jobs.

Unfortunately one legislator stands in the way with his filibuster, and unfortunately that interest is blocking health care reform.

There is strong bipartisan support for health care reform in the House and Senate. It passed the Senate by 100 votes to nothing, it overwhelmingly passed the House, and if it is allowed to be voted on, it will pass.

Ladies and gentleman, I ask the President to call on this one legislator in the other body to drop his effort to hold health care reform hostage.

Let us bring the bill up for a vote. Let us send it to the President with this bipartisan effort to make health care more affordable and become law.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind all Members again to not cast reflections on the Senate or its Members individually or collectively, or to urge particular Senate action.

SENATE WHITEWATER COMMITTEE MINORITY FILES REPORT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentlewoman from Colorado [Mrs. SCHROEDER] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, I hope what I am going to do today is going to be within the rules of the House, because I rise today to urge the American people to please read the minority report coming out of the Senate today. It is terribly important. It is the minority report being filed by the ranking member, Senator SARBANES, the summary of conclusions from the Whitewater Committee.

I think this is a very, very critical report. It was not leaked to the press, as the majority report was. As a consequence, many people are dealing without this factual base. We are into spin, if you can imagine such a thing in this town. Everybody is into spin control.

Let us talk a little bit about what is going on. First of all, this has been the longest running congressional investigation of any sitting President. If we look at the facts on Watergate, if we look at the facts on Iran Contra, this one has gone much longer than that.

I am very proud that the minority report was not leaked because in this highly charged political atmosphere I was hoping this could be an objective attempt, since it has gone on so long. If we do not count the meetings done by the Senate Banking Committee that

were held in 1994, let us just push those entirely out to the side, this Senate Whitewater Committee in 1995 and 1996 met for more than 300 hours in open sessions, took 10,729 pages of hearing testimony in 51 hearings and 8 public meetings. It also had 159 witnesses and took more than 35,000 pages of deposed testimony from 245 persons. Hundreds of thousands of pages of documents have been provided to the committee by different agencies, departments, and individuals.

If we look at all of this and then we look at the over \$32 million that has been spent on this, I think it is terribly important to say, what did we get out of this? What did we get out of this? We ought to be looking at the facts.

This was a very broad spread committee. It went on longer than anything. The facts ought to be what we are looking at. The bottom line should be, did President Clinton misuse the powers of his presidency? The other question was, did he use his official position in Arkansas to financially enrich himself?

If we read this committee report by the minority, they clearly conclude after sifting through all of this paper and all of this oral testimony that the answer to those questions is "no." And they are really rather surprised by the fact that, I guess the disappointment at finding the answer was "no," they had to go out and look for someone else to drop a net over, and so it really appears that they went after Mrs. Clinton with all the venom they could possibly go after. It is like they have this incredible sinister spotlight that they want to shine on her and make her the most evil soul that ever walked the planet.

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Mr. Speaker, this is not the person I know, and I think it is very interesting to look at the perspective that they have put on it. If you cannot recall precisely what you did 10 years ago, then they want to spin it that you are lying, you are disingenuous, you are part of a conspiracy, and so forth and so on. But basically what we should be doing, I believe by our charter under the Constitution, is we should be looking at elected officials and what elected officials did or did not do in the role of their public trusteeship. That is the issue.

Mr. Speaker, I think it has probably been very discouraging to many people who put a lot of time in, because I think, if anybody looks at the President we have, everybody knows he loves politics. And anyone who is in politics knows that politics keeps you busy 24 hours a day. There are never enough hours in the day to do all the things that you should do if you really want to be good at your profession. If anything, this President is probably guilty of ignoring his own personal financial background. He enjoys much too much being with people, talking to people, listening to people, doing