

His words ring very true to us, Mr. Speaker, as we again commemorate the Armenian genocide.

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

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

PROPOSED SETTLEMENT FOR TOBACCO CONTROVERSY

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

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, last summer, State attorneys general, representatives of health care groups, representatives from the White House, and the tobacco industry met to see if they could come up with a settlement of a tobacco controversy regarding teenage smoking.

After many hard hours of negotiation, and in fact, many days of negotiation, an agreement was reached, and the tobacco companies agreed that they would pay the sum of \$368 billion every 25 years forever. In addition, they said that they would allow and agree that a health care agency, a third party, would set targets to reduce teenage smoking by a certain percent each year. If that target was not reached, the industry would pay \$80 million for every one percentage point that the target was not met.

In addition, the industry agreed that it would pay \$5 billion annually into a trust fund to take care of any court judgments obtained against the industry. In addition, the industry agreed that they would allow the Food and Drug Administration to regulate the tobacco industry, going far beyond the FDA regulations proposed by former FDA Commissioner David Kessler, in fact, going much further than had ever been recommended before. They agreed also that they would waive their constitutional right to advertise their product.

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In addition they agreed, and this is really almost unheard of because every citizen in America has a right to petition the government, to lobby the government, but the industry agreed that they would also ban and eliminate the Tobacco Institute which was their lobbying arm.

They also agreed that, like today, any individual that is harmed by using a tobacco product would have the right to continue to sue the tobacco industry to obtain damages for any injuries that they suffered.

And so the health care groups, the State attorneys general, the White House, all of those groups received exactly what they wanted from the industry.

Now what did the industry want in return?

Well the industry said that they would simply like to have settled the 40 State lawsuits brought by State attorneys general under an innovative new legal theory of reimbursing States for Medicaid costs that they expended in treating Medicaid beneficiaries who received damages from using tobacco products, and that was agreed to. They said, "Okay, we'll settle these lawsuits, and some of the \$368 billion that the industry is going to pay every 25 years forever will go to the States."

And so everyone left that settlement, and President Clinton said it was a great settlement, Vice President GORE said it was a great settlement, the tobacco industries were satisfied, the health care industries were satisfied, and even FDA Commissioner Kessler said that it represents the single most fundamental change in the history of tobacco control in any Nation of the world.

But yet when the bill started moving through the Senate, the administration changed their views, the health care industry changed their views, David Kessler changed his view, and they became greedy, to put it very bluntly. They wanted more. They had this industry on the run; they wanted more. And so I think they lost sight of the original goal, to reduce teenage smoking. They now wanted to punish an industry.

And under the McCain bill the \$368 billion that the industry agreed to pay every 25 years forever went to \$506 billion every 25 years forever. If the industry missed the targeted reduction, instead of paying \$80 million per percentage point, they now under the McCain bill would be paying \$240 million. And then, furthermore, the one thing that the industry received from it, immunity from these State lawsuits, they lost.

So it is not surprising that the tobacco industry said we are going to walk away from this agreement, and who could blame them really, because if the goal is to reduce teenage smoking there was plenty of money there. There was plenty of money to initiate programs to help teenagers reduce smoking. But as I said, people became greedy and they wanted to punish this industry, and so the whole thing has fallen apart.

And I would suggest to you today that the real problem facing teenagers is more the use of illegal drugs than tobacco.

I hope that we can retain some common sense and approach this problem to solve it, and I look forward to working with others in that effort.

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

(Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin 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 Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. MORELLA addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

DO NOT FORGET ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

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

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, like many of my colleagues, I rise today to remember the Armenian genocide of 83 years ago. We are asked why it is so important that we come to this floor and remember. We must remember to make sure that it never happens again, and we must remember because there is an organized effort to force us and convince us to forget.

Let us look back at the historical record. The American Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire was an eyewitness in 1919, and he recounts his discussion with Turkish authorities. He says in his memoirs, "When the Turkish authorities gave the orders for these deportations they were merely giving the death warrant to an entire race. They understood this well and in their conversations with me made no particular attempt to conceal this fact."

He went on to describe what he saw at the Euphrates River, and he said, as our eyes and ears in the Ottoman Empire in the year 1919 as a representative of the American government, "I have by no means told the most terrible details, for a complete narration of the sadistic orgies of which they, Armenian men and women, are victims can never be printed in an American publication. Whatever crimes the most perverted instincts of the human mind can devise, whatever refinements of persecution and injustice the most debased imagination can conceive, became the daily misfortune of the Armenian people."

As other speakers have pointed out, the first genocide of this century laid the foundation for the second genocide, and as a Jewish American I can never forget that 8 days before he invaded Poland Adolf Hitler turned to his inner circle and said, "Who today remembers the extermination of the Armenians?" The impunity with which the Turkish Government acted in annihilating the Armenian people emboldened Adolf Hitler to carry out the holocaust of the Jewish people.

And yet today there is an organized effort to expunge from our memory this genocide, and the focus is on the elites and academia.

I am a proud graduate of UCLA, and I would like to tell you a short story about my alma mater, for earlier this year and late last year UCLA considered the offer of over \$1 million from the Turkish government, \$1 million to be used to study Ottoman history, and