

put forward his sweeping health care proposal which featured universal coverage and a mandate on employers to provide health insurance for their employees. But his plan was decisively rejected and led, in large part, to the change of control in Congress in 1994. The Clinton health care proposal was rejected because people felt it was too massive, too complex, and its consequences too uncertain. The bill was about 1300 pages in length.

Although the rejection of Clinton's proposal made both the Congress and the President wary of comprehensive health care reform, the issue did not die. Today, members of Congress are keenly aware of the intensity of their constituents feelings on health care. The public is demanding better care for less money. They do not like the high cost of health care or the restrictions on its availability. They know the shortcomings in today's system: too many Americans, especially children, do not have adequate health care coverage; long-term care for older persons is unaffordable to most Americans; and many feel that managed care plans focus more on holding costs down than providing quality care.

INCREMENTAL REFORM

On health care, as on many issues, Americans are more comfortable with incremental steps and skeptical of massive changes in one swoop. For the next few years, my guess is that the Congress will proceed with improvements in health care on a step-by-step basis. That's what it tried to do two years ago with the Kennedy-Kassenbaum legislation which mandated portability in most insurance plans, enabling workers to change jobs and not be dropped for preexisting conditions, and last year when it expanded coverage for children.

In the Congress, both parties are proposing plans to patch up managed care with such measures as expanding a patient's ability to choose a doctor and to receive emergency care and to appeal plan decisions to a neutral third party.

It is quite possible that the Congress will approve this year a sensible, but modest, health care reform package which I would expect to support. The elements of the package would likely include new opportunities for patients to appeal to a neutral third party when their health plans deny them care, give more information to help them select doctors and health plans, provide women the right to see a gynecologist, guarantee emergency room access without prior approval from managed care plans, protect personal medical information, and allow doctors to discuss with their patients a full range of medical options.

CONCLUSION

We are in the midst of major changes in health care coverage. A decade ago, the majority of Americans received health care through traditional fee-for-service plans. Today most Americans receive their health care through managed care, usually through HMOs. Lower costs and a wider array of benefits, including prescription drug benefits, are often seen as advantages of managed care plans. As the reform debate goes forward it is important to build on the success of what is developing into a more efficient health care system, while improving both the quality of care and patient satisfaction with their health care services. My guess is that health care reform will be on the agenda of the Congress for many years to come.

TRIBUTE TO LISA MENDOSA

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 15, 1998

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lisa Mendosa. Lisa Mendosa, an accomplished woman of the '90s, has added the title of Community Relations Coordinator of Borders Books to her credit. Having worked in numerous fields, Lisa Mendosa is in many respects, considered a renaissance woman.

Lisa Mendosa has had an impressive career, yet still has much of her life ahead of her. In 1987, she was named one of America's top 100 women in Communications/Hispanic USA. In the same year she also won an award in the Associated Press television-radio competition. In 1989, she was named one of America's top 100 junior college graduates. In 1995, Lisa Mendosa received an Emmy Award for her coverage of the Leer Jet crash in Fresno.

Lisa Mendosa has also published a number of books on animals and children. She has a great love for animals and has raised two dogs from the age of eight weeks and studied their development for more than 8 years. Lisa Mendosa spent 17 years working in TV news researching, writing, producing and presenting thousands of news stories. At Channel 24, Lisa went from management to producer. After winning her Emmy, Lisa was offered a position by Channel 30, which she took. Currently, she is a Community Relations Coordinator for Borders Books. Today, she works harder than ever to establish a close community relationship with the Borders Book's staff.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I pay tribute to Lisa Mendosa. Already being an accomplished woman of the '90's and considered a renaissance woman, Lisa Mendosa continues to be dedicated to her work. Her dedication and exemplary efforts should serve as an inspiration to all. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Lisa Mendosa continued success for the future.

CONGRATULATING THE PARK RIDGE ROTARY CLUB

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 15, 1998

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Park Ridge (New Jersey) Rotary Club on its 70th anniversary. This group of business men and women is a cornerstone of public service in our community. Their dedication and hard work have helped groups ranging from the Boy Scouts to the handicapped. They help keep alive the old-fashioned value of neighbor helping neighbor—the type of value that makes a community a community.

The Park Ridge Rotary Club was chartered November 19, 1928, and held its first meeting December 14, 1928, at the Masonic Hall in Park Ridge. Of the 25 charter members present at that meeting, one—Charlie Grey—is still active at age 96. There are 63 members in today's club, which serves the Tri-Boro area of Park Ridge, Montvale and Woodcliff Lake.

The Rotary had its beginnings in February 1905, when Chicago attorney Paul P. Harris called three businessmen friends to a meeting. He proposed a club that would kindle fellowship among members of the business community and by the end of the year, the club had 30 members. The name Rotary was adopted because meetings were rotated among the members' place of business. Rotary Clubs were formed in San Francisco, Seattle, Washington, Los Angeles and New York in the next few years. By 1921, the organization was represented on every continent and the name Rotary International was adopted in 1922. Today, there are more than 24,000 Rotary Clubs with a membership of 1.1 million in 167 countries.

At the international level, Rotary is involved in many humanitarian projects, including educational grants for overseas study, a \$200 million program to eradicate polio worldwide, youth and group exchanges between nations to foster international understanding, hunger and health programs in developing countries, and financial aid to disaster relief programs.

At the local level, the Park Ridge Rotary is involved in a wide variety of community service programs. The Rotary distributes annual holiday food baskets to the handicapped, sponsors a holiday party for the handicapped, sponsors the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards and an exchange student program. It supports the Tri-Boro Ambulance, Meals on Wheels, the Park Ridge High School and Pascack Valley High School Interact Clubs, the Park Ridge and Montvale Eagle Scout Awards, the Park Ridge Public Library and many other organizations, events and programs.

The Park Ridge Rotary Club has helped make Park Ridge—along with Montvale and Woodcliff Lake—a better place to live, work and raise a family for 70 years. I join with my colleagues in the House of Representatives to wish the Club and its members many more years of continued success.

PROMPT COMPENSATION ACT OF 1998

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 15, 1998

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss an issue that is extremely important, private property rights. All of us have heard from constituents in our districts who are frustrated with the process by which the government provides compensation to landowners for the private property it acquires. As you know, the federal government obtains private property for all types of reasons, from community and infrastructure development to environmental concerns. Unfortunately, it is common for this process to take several years, during which, the property owner is discouraged from conducting any type of development or improvement activity upon their land. It is for this reason that I will soon be introducing The Prompt Compensation Act of 1998.

Currently, the federal government has two alternatives available in acquiring private property. The first is termed as a "straight condemnation" procedure where a landowner receives notification that a federal agency has requested the Justice Department to file a complaint in condemnation in an attempt to