

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I hold in my hand a series of very thoughtful articles from my hometown newspaper about the devastating effects when HMOs deny doctors and their patients the right to see medically needed specialists or to receive special tests.

The problem is the Democratic Party and a handful of Republicans want to make HMOs accountable when they deny a specialist's care or special medical tests and that denial causes pain or injury or death to the person.

Right now if that happens, the patient who gets sick or dies, his family can sue the doctor, but they cannot sue the HMO who denied the test or denied the procedure that would have saved the person's life. The Republican Party will not allow HMOs to be held accountable.

We should ask yourselves, why? Why would the Republican party not allow HMOs to be sued or to be held accountable if the HMO's denial of a test or treatment caused the pain, injury, or death? In our society if somebody does something wrong to you, you can sue them. Why are they protecting the health insurance companies?

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#### THE PRESIDENT'S ENTOURAGE TO CHINA AND OTHER LOCATIONS

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to comment on the President's record-breaking trip to China.

The President broke every record imaginable in the size of the delegation he took with him to China and in the amount he spent on a foreign trip. His official entourage numbered more than 1,000. Its estimated cost was \$40 million, according to the International Herald Tribune.

"The Presidential entourage filled four passenger planes and several military transports." In addition, the retinue included six Members of Congress, five cabinet officials, who each brought almost 40 staff members, a chief of staff, a deputy chief of staff, a national security adviser, a deputy national security adviser, a press secretary, a deputy press secretary, five stenographers, two White House television crews, a valet for the President and a hairdresser for Mrs. Clinton, the President's private secretary and the White House staff secretary, speechwriters and rewriters, doctors and lawyers, snipers, commandoes, bomb-sniffing dogs, and of course, 375 reporters and photographers.

Vice President GORE must have felt like the kid in "Home Alone." They spent more in 10 days than Judge Starr spent in 3 years.

#### CONGRESS SHOULD PASS LEGISLATION HOLDING HMOS RESPONSIBLE FOR DENIAL OF CARE

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to share with my colleagues the story of one of my constituents, Sharon Crossley, from Wallingford, Connecticut. Last November Sharon was diagnosed with breast cancer. The day before her surgery her HMO canceled the procedure because it was scheduled for the wrong hospital. While Sharon was waiting to get on another doctor's schedule, precious days were passing by.

As a cancer survivor, I can tell the Members how frightening the diagnosis is and how essential it is to get quick medical attention. Every day of delay is another day that the cancer could be spreading through your body, threatening vital organs.

Sharon Crossley was one of the lucky ones. She called our office. We were able to convince her HMO to help her get emergency surgery scheduled immediately. But patients should not have to take that kind of a risk that Sharon had to take.

The American people deserve to have rights in the health care system. That is why we need to pass legislation today holding managed care plans responsible for the denial of care with real, reliable, and enforceable remedies.

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#### THE SONNY BONO SALTON SEA RESTORATION ACT

(Mr. HUNTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, in an hour or so we will have an opportunity to vote for the Sonny Bono Salton Sea Restoration Act. I would urge every Member to vote for this great, commonsense conservation project.

It will take the Salton Sea, which is some 360 square miles in size, and it will convert that sea or rehab that sea into a wonderful fishing resource, a great place for birders, for people that like all the water sports. It is within driving distance of about 6 percent of America's population. This is a great blue collar playground where people who cannot afford to go off for fly fishing on New Zealand on their holidays will have an opportunity to recreate.

The gentlewoman from California (Mrs. BONO) will be leading our efforts on the floor in just about an hour, along with the gentlemen from California, Mr. JERRY LEWIS and Mr. KEN CALVERT. I hope every Member votes for this great conservation project.

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#### GIVE CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE FOR AMERICA'S ECONOMIC SURGE

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, it is time to review a little recent history. What was the value of the Dow Jones Industrial Average on November 3, 1992, the day President Clinton was elected? It was 3252. The next question, what was the Dow Jones average 2 years later, when the President had been in office 2 years, when Republicans finally took over the Congress for the first time in 4 years? 3830. So it went basically from 3200 to 3800, about a 500-point increase.

What happened to the economy and the Dow Jones after the Republicans took over the House? The New York Stock Exchange has gone up over 9000 now, so it is an increase of about 5000. The liberals like to say that the economy turned around when the President was elected.

That is not what happened at all. It turned around when the financial markets and the American people were confident, when we had a turnover in the House of Representatives, not when the President was elected, a 5100 point increase. So let us let credit go where credit is due. It is important.

We want jobs, lower taxes. That is what this country needs, not higher taxes and not bigger government solutions.

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#### THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE 105TH CONGRESS

(Mr. PORTMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have heard a lot about the do-nothing Congress. I am getting kind of tired of it. The 105th Congress has been a very active Congress. The balanced budget we all know about, the first balanced budget in over 30 years, the first tax cuts in over 16 years, welfare reform that has moved people from dependency to dignity.

This year we continue to be busy. Later today we are going to hear from the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) and others on major environmental legislation called the Tropical Forest Conservation Act. It comes out of this Congress. We will be saving millions of acres of rain forests every year around the world through this legislation.

We just heard about the Salton Sea Restoration Act Congress is going to pass today. The IRS reforms, just last week the Senate passed historic IRS reforms. Since 1952 the IRS has not seen major reform. We are going to actually make the IRS work for the taxpayers, rather than the other way around.

A do-nothing Congress? It sounds more to me like a Congress that is doing plenty, in response to the concerns of the American people.