

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

DRUG COVERAGE MEANS EXTRA COST

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 1999

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member highly commends this June 11, 1999 editorial from the Norfolk Daily News regarding President Clinton's plan for including prescription drug coverage under Medicare.

DRUG COVERAGE MEANS EXTRA COST

PRESIDENT HAS A PLAN FOR INCLUDING PRESCRIPTIONS UNDER MEDICARE PROGRAM

President Clinton believes he has a plan for including prescription drugs under Medicare coverage that is superior to the one suggested by the co-chairmen of his 17-member advisory commission. The latter plan advanced by Sen. John Breaux, D-La., and Rep. Bill Thomas, R-Calif., would provide the elderly participants under Medicare with a fixed amount for purchasing either a public or private health plan, which could include expenses for prescription drugs.

That had the advantage of simplicity, but a political disadvantage of not providing opportunity for presidents and members of Congress to get credit for periodic improvement of all kinds of health care benefits.

The Clinton plan, promised to be presented in detail later this month, proposes drug coverage for Medicare beneficiaries through the payment of an extra premium. It was predicted as being as low as \$10 a month and certainly less than \$25 a month.

In either event, it would be relatively cheap coverage, and appealing to those now covered by this government program where-by Social Security beneficiaries pay a \$45.50 premium for health insurance. Inclusion of drugs in the program will boost costs, though White House advisers claim they will be offset by reducing hospital admissions and nursing homes, and reduce the need for home health care. The question is: Who will pay?

Today's wage-earners should not be saddled with extra payroll taxes to provide this new coverage; neither should employers who are partners in paying the payroll taxes.

The problems with future solvency for the systems that provide Social Security retirement and Medicare arise from a political inability to fix benefit limits. Any expansion of benefits—especially for prescription drugs—must be accompanied by a sound program by which those who are served share the extra expense.

Using a federal surplus—which accumulates because Americans are already taxed too heavily—to expand government benefits is a politically devious way to resolve solvency problems of a program already destined for insolvency on its present path.

Better coverage will cost more; and those costs ought to be paid largely through realistic premiums for those who wish and can afford the extras.

COMMENDING TAIWAN'S EFFORTS TO ASSIST KOSOVAR REFUGEES

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 1999

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, the United States Department of State said on June 7 that it welcomes Taiwan's plan to offer the United States \$300 million to help Kosovar refugees and for reconstruction of Kosovo. I think Taiwan is most praiseworthy in its willingness to assist other nations. As a major economic power in the Far East, Taiwan feels that it must not shirk its responsibilities to help other countries in need. Taiwan hopes to set a good example for other wealthy nations in the world to extend a helping hand to all those displaced Kosovar refugees.

As a matter of fact, even though Taiwan is not a member of the United Nations, Taiwan has always committed itself to help other countries in the Far East and Africa. Taiwan's willingness to be a donor nation deeply reflects its people's firm commitment to protect and promote human rights and their humanitarian concern for the Kosovar refugees living in exile as well as for the war-torn areas in dire need of reconstruction.

I applaud Taiwan's people for their assistance to the Kosovar refugees and their President.

HONORING THE 1999 DUNBAR HIGH SCHOOL BOYS 4X100-METER RELAY TEAM

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 1999

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 1999 Dunbar High School Boys 4x100-meter relay team for bringing the gold home to Fort Worth. With a championship time of 40.30 seconds at the University Interscholastic League in Austin, the Flying Wildcats electrified the crowd with blazing speed and power.

But the path to glory didn't end in Austin for the Wildcats. Instead of hanging up their spikes for the summer they took their show on the road to the Foot Locker National Championship at North Carolina State University in Raleigh. The Wildcats were eager to show the nation what everyone in North Texas already knew: the Wildcats from Stop Six, Ft. Worth couldn't be stopped in Austin and weren't about to be slowed down in Raleigh.

At the National Championship last week, the Wildcats took their stellar performance to North Carolina State University and won the 4x100 and 4x200-meter relays. The winning effort showed the whole country what Texas and Ft. Worth already knew: Fort Worth is "Speed City."

Once again congratulations to Coach Tom Allen and the Dunbar Boy sprinters: Jerome Braziel, Jerrod Braziel, James Hall, and James Shaw.

RECOGNIZING ALAN EMORY

HON. AMO HOUGHTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 1999

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in recognition of Alan Emory. On June 7, Mr. Emory began his 53rd year with the Watertown Daily Times. He has spent more than 47 of those years reporting and analyzing news in Washington. A year ago he became the paper's senior correspondent, reporting on politics and Canadian-United States relations, in addition to writing two columns a week, one Op-ed in midweek, one in the Times' Sunday Opinion Weekly Section.

Mr. Emory's most recent work includes breaking stories on: the dispute over the John Kennedy assassination film between the Zapruder family and the government, the assassination review board's failure in its last report to end the theories of how the President died, the continued federal secrecy surrounding the late physicist Glenn Seaborg's diaries, the significance of the Supreme Court's ruling that a sitting President must answer civil suit charges involving pre-White House activities, the fact that the House of Representatives has never censured a sitting President, the saga of the Navy crew making the most daring air-sea rescue in World War II's Pacific fighting and the service high command's refusal to give the crewmen the medals they had been promised 54 years ago, and the word that the only New York City mayor ever to ascend to a higher political office in the state was named Clinton (DeWitt).

Two years ago President Clinton and Vice President GORE saluted Mr. Emory's 50 years with The Times, and last year my colleagues JOHN MCHUGH, Jerry Solomon, JIM WALSH and TOM DAVIS commended him on the House floor. Today I would like to echo their praise and thanks to Alan for his good work, and wish him well as he continues as the Johnson Newspaper Corp.'s (Watertown's) senior correspondent and Washington columnist.

THE HIGH COST OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS: THE STORY OF LUCILLE BRUCE

HON. RONNIE SHOWS

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 1999

Mr. SHOWS. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you and the American people today to address the high cost of prescription drugs. Over the last several weeks, I have had the opportunity to visit with many of my constituents to address this burdensome problem.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

As a matter of fact, I conducted a study, which conclusively proves that senior citizens in Mississippi pay outrageous amounts of money for much needed prescription drugs. Let me illustrate this by highlighting the story of one of my constituents—Ms. Lucille Bruce.

Ms. Bruce lived in Federation Towers in Clinton, Mississippi. She enjoyed all the freedoms and dignities that should come with being a senior citizen. That is until the cost of her prescription medicine forced her to move in with her daughter. She pays \$200 a month for prescription medicine and has a fixed income. Ms. Bruce told me that without her daughter she would have no money to stay healthy. She wonders how many senior Americans there are that don't have the family support she receives. She often feels she is a burden on her daughter, and recent hospital visits may result in more prescribed medicine and costs.

Mr. Speaker, I can think of no other issue that deserves being addressed more than the cost of medicine our senior citizens have to pay. That is why I cosponsored the Prescription Drug Fairness for Seniors Act. It is time to do right by our seniors and make them favored customers just like the large HMO's and Federal Government.

Mr. Speaker, schedule this crucial issue today for floor debate and a vote. Folks like Ms. Bruce need us.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE FAREWELL RECEPTION HONORING CHARLES N. DUNCAN

HON. EVA M. CLAYTON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 1999

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, friends, family and co-workers will gather in the Indian Treaty Room at the White House to honor a Son of the South, a Native North Carolinian, Mr. Charles N. Duncan.

Charles is leaving his position as Special Assistant to the President and Associate Director of Presidential Personnel. He will be greatly missed.

Since graduating from Howard University some two and a half decades ago, he has devoted his life to a career in public service and politics. Yet, Charles is more than a public servant. He is more than a political consultant as his resume presents him. He is an ordinary person who is special, and a special person who is ordinary. He has worked with those on the lowest rungs of the ladder. He has sat with Presidents and served the homeless. More than anything else, Charles cares.

Mr. Speaker, Public service and politics requires the best and brightest, the most dedicated and committed, the cream of the crop, the pick of the pack, the faithful, the loyal, the steadfast. Charles Duncan has reflected those qualities in all that he has done, over the years. It is hard to imagine a Democratic Administration or a Democratic political campaign, without Charles in the picture.

He represents what is good about North Carolina and our Nation. He understands that little happens when one stands alone. He works to ensure that the families and children of America have a future that is worthy of our past. In his deeds, Charles has always made

the right choice. The right choice between communities that are average and those that are exceptional. The right choice between individual comfort and functioning families.

Charles has taken his tasks and won them well, no matter how large or small. And while unselfishly giving of his time and energy, he has never neglected those things most important—family and church. It is rare these days, indeed, when we find a person of talent and humility, one who is capable and modest, common yet exceptional. The White House is losing a person with a ready smile, a friendly disposition, a concern for all. I do not know what Charles Duncan will do next, but if he returns home, the Nation's loss will be North Carolina's gain.

TRIBUTE TO LAURIE A. GOMER

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 1999

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to congratulate Laurie A. Gomer, the Kentucky winner of the National 1999 Voice of Democracy Broadcast Scriptwriting Contest.

Each year the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its Ladies Auxiliary conduct the contest. The theme this year was "My Service to America." Ms. Gomer's winning essay creatively depicts a flight attendant describing different aspect of American patriotism to passengers during a flight into America's future. Ms. Gomer succinctly describes four different citizen forums dealing with education, community activism, participation in elections and the exhibition of national pride.

Ms. Gomer is the daughter of Larry and Mary Ann Gomer of Franklin, Kentucky. She is a senior at Franklin-Simpson High School, who has been highly involved within numerous student organizations. This well-rounded young lady will be attending either Center College, Emory University, Vanderbilt University or Georgetown University in the fall with hopes of pursuing a career in Pediatrics.

The VFW's Voice of Democracy Program is a National Audio/Essay Competition designed to give high school students the opportunity to voice their opinion on their responsibility to our country. The VFW and its Ladies Auxiliary became involved in assisting the National Association of Broadcasters in the 1950's and took over primary sponsorship in 1961.

The National Finals take place in Washington, D.C. when the finals judges listen to the fifty-four tapes representing winners from each of our fifty states, the District of Columbia, Pacific Areas, Latin America/Caribbean and Europe. This year's program involved more than 6,700 schools and 80,000 students participated while over 4,200 VFW Posts and over 3,400 Auxiliaries sponsored the program.

The VFW provides fifty-six fully-funded scholarships totaling \$132,000. The overall first-place winner receives a \$20,000 scholarship and all national finalists receive at least a \$1,000 scholarship. The total monetary value of scholarships, bonds, and awards provided by VFW Posts, Auxiliaries, Districts, County Councils, Departments and National amount to over \$2.6 million this past year. Ms. Gomer is a recipient of the \$1,000 scholarship.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Ms. Gomer for her impressive achievement and wish her the best of luck in the future.

CENTRAL NEW JERSEY RECOGNIZES EDUCATOR JEAN G. LARSON

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 1999

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Dr. Jean G. Larson, Ed.D., a member of the Freehold Township Schools' Child Study Team. Dr. Larson will be retiring this month after serving our public school system for 30 years as a teacher and learning consultant.

Dr. Larson's colleagues describe her as a "constant and tireless advocate for the children and for good, effective teachers and teaching methods." She began her career as a reading teacher, and went on to work primarily with elementary school children who have learning and/or other disabilities. In addition, Dr. Larson assisted in curriculum development as a consultant to other teachers within the district.

For the last 27 years, Dr. Larson has been on staff at Freehold Township School District in several capacities. During that time, she received her doctorate in education from Fairleigh Dickinson University. Her commitment to the district and to her students has been complete and unwavering.

Teachers are our nation's greatest commodities because of their instrumental role in shaping the future of America. Skilled and dedicated educators like Dr. Larson make it possible for students to succeed and become productive, knowledgeable citizens.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Larson for her many achievements and for her contribution to the education of our children. I wish her well in future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING SANDRA SOPAK

HON. AMO HOUGHTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 1999

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize a constituent of mine, Sandra Sopak. Sandy is the County Clerk for Chautauqua County, New York and recently won the National Genealogical Society's Award of Merit. It reads:

Sandra Sopak receives the NGS Award of Merit for her willingness to cooperate with the Chautauqua County Genealogical Society in order to make records more available to the public. Her latest efforts include arranging to have photocopies made of all county tax lists, many of which date from 1850 and before, so the Society's publications committee can extract, index, and ultimately publish this valuable historical information. The Society, in turn, donated a set of their genealogical indexes to aid the county clerk when she is asked for vital record information. This is a fine example of record-keepers and record-seekers working together for the benefit of both.