

The Food and Drug Administration ensures that whether a consumer uses a drug by its brand name, such as Zantac, or a drug that goes by the generic name, such as Ranitidine, they will receive the same active ingredients and the same health benefits. To quote FDA Commissioner Jane Henney, "If the FDA declares a generic drug to be therapeutically equivalent to an innovator drug, the two products will provide the same intended clinical effect."

This is important, Mr. Speaker, because if we ever hope to bring health care inflation under control, we have to understand that brand drugs and generic drugs are truly interchangeable. Through greater use of high quality, less costly generic drugs, we can have truly affordable and effective medicine.

If we check our medicine cabinets, we find that there are more affordable generics available for many of these expensive prescriptions.

ADMINISTRATION HAS FAILED TO RESOLVE OIL CRISIS

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, first let me say the Federal Reserve has done a great job in keeping our economy strong and growing. Unfortunately, the Clinton-Gore administration's lack of a coherent energy policy threatens that very economic prosperity.

As I speak, fuel prices around the Nation and around the world are skyrocketing as the price of oil tops \$37 per barrel. Rising fuel prices affect every sector of the economy and eventually every American.

Airlines are increasing fares; truckers, who deliver our food, medicine, and virtually everything else are straining to meet their contractual obligations and pay for fuel that is now costing an average of \$1.62 cents a gallon. As consumer prices rise, consumer spending will decrease, leading to sluggish sales, larger inventories and slower growth.

So, Mr. Speaker, what is the administration's answer to the pending crisis? Well, instead of using the 8 years they had in office to develop an energy policy which would have prevented this crisis, the Clinton-Gore administration squandered those opportunities and now is only offering last-minute solutions, like begging Saudi Arabia to increase oil production.

For an administration that has not been ashamed to take all the credit for the current economy, I hope they do as much to solve this crisis than just admit, as they did in the spring, that they fell asleep at the switch.

BLUE RIBBON PANEL SHOULD BE FORMED TO PROTECT RIGHTS AND LIBERTIES OF ALL AMERICAN CITIZENS

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California asked and was given permission to ad-

dress the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, at the time that Wen Ho Lee was first arrested, I met with the Chinese-American Political Association of the greater San Francisco Bay area. Many in that community raised their concerns that he was the target of selective prosecution, of racial profiling, and prosecutorial abuse. As we now see, as that case has started to come to a conclusion with the plea bargain, in fact many of the concerns raised by the Chinese community turned out to be true.

All Americans should be deeply disturbed by the prosecutorial abuse that was raised in this case and used against Wen Ho Lee. This does not suggest that Wen Ho Lee did not have some serious transgressions of the current law and policy, but what his government did to him should cause concern by all Americans.

All Americans are entitled to an impartial review of the actions by all parties to that prosecution. Unfortunately, the congressional committees, the FBI, the intelligence agencies, and all the rest participated in the feeding frenzy at the time of the arrest.

I think maybe we ought to have a national, impartial blue ribbon commission to look at the Wen Ho Lee case and see how we can better safeguard the rights and liberties of all American citizens.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LINDER). Pursuant to the provisions of clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record vote on the Debt Relief and Retirement Security Reconciliation Act of 2000, together with such other votes as may have been postponed to that point, will be taken after the debate has concluded on that motion.

Record votes on remaining motions to suspend the rules will be taken later today.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 4919, SECURITY ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2000

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 4919) to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 and the Arms Export Control Act to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions under those Acts, to authorize the transfer of naval vessels to certain foreign countries, and for other purposes, with a Senate amendment thereto, disagree to the Senate amendment,

and agree to the conference asked by the Senate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York? The Chair hears none and, without objection, appoints the following conferees:

Messrs. GILMAN, GOODLING, and GEJDENSON.

There was no objection.

FHA DOWNPAYMENT SIMPLIFICATION EXTENSION ACT OF 2000

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (5193) to amend the National Housing Act to temporarily extend the applicability of the downpayment simplification provisions for the FHA single family housing mortgage insurance program, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 5193

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "FHA Downpayment Simplification Extension Act of 2000".

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF APPLICABILITY OF DOWNPAYMENT SIMPLIFICATION PROVISIONS.

Subparagraph (A) of section 203(b)(10) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1709(b)(10)(A)) is amended by striking "executed for insurance in fiscal years 1998, 1999, and 2000" and inserting "closed on or before October 30, 2000".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAFALCE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH).

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5193, the FHA Downpayment Simplification Extension Act of 2000 would extend existing statutory provisions in the National Housing Act that provides for the manner and method of calculating downpayments by new homeowners closing on mortgage loans insured by the Federal Housing Administration.

This simplification is merely a technical change that rewrites and clarifies downpayment requirements that, over time, have been amended in such a manner that are now unclear and difficult to understand. A simplified or streamlined method would provide savings to homebuyers and a calculation method uniformly understood by the mortgage industry and consumers.

This calculation method would reduce from a three-tiered approach to a two-tiered approach. Its effect would also decrease the amount of downpayments necessary. For example, this streamlined approach will save borrowers of a typical \$150,000 home loan approximately \$1,000 to \$2,000 at closing.

In the 105th Congress this body passed similar legislation. Originally,