

SEEDS OF OPPORTUNITY/FEAR
PROFITEERS

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

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I would like to invite my colleagues, the press, all those that might be interested in a press briefing that we are having at 11:30 this morning in room 1302 of the Longworth. That is 11:30, 1302, on fear profiteering.

Do we select our science and those stories that are going to justify what policy we want to pass and the decisions we want to make, or do we base our policy on the kind of real science that is going to make this country and the people of the world better off?

I have been doing a study on seeds of opportunity, which is in the biotechnology. In Europe, they have brought that scientific research to a halt. What is going to happen in this country, as we look at the alar in apples; as we look at organic foods?

We need to make sure we base our policy on real science.

Mr. Speaker, I submit the agenda on the 11:30 briefing on fear profiteers for the RECORD.

Introduction: Steve Milloy, publisher of www.junkscience.com

Speaking Order: Nick Smith.

Fred Smith, Competitive Enterprise Institute.

Bonner Cohen, Lexington Institute, Editor of Fear Profiteers.

Alex Avery, Hudson Institute.

HMO'S WANT \$15 BILLION FROM
CONGRESS

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, last year taxpayers spent \$3 billion more on people enrolled in Medicare HMOs than if they had remained in traditional Medicare. It cost the public more to pay managed care plans than to pay for the same plans financed through traditional Medicare.

I do not recall Medicare managed care plans offering to give back the excess dollars they were paid then. I do recall them unceremoniously dropping 200,000 seniors that year, claiming the Federal Government was underpaying them.

Now Medicare HMOs and Republican leaders are asking Congress to devote \$15 billion, three-fourths of the dollars set aside for Medicare funding increases this year, to Medicare HMOs. They serve 14 percent of the Medicare population; they want 75 percent of the money. They want \$15 billion.

That is \$15 billion that Republicans want to give to the managed care industry after they abandoned 900,000 seniors; not because these plans were going bankrupt, but because other lines of business were more profitable for insurance companies HMOs. It is in-

comprehensible to me, Mr. Speaker, that my Republican colleagues and the Presidential candidates are trying to sell the public on privatizing Medicare. It is a bad idea.

WASTE, FRAUD, AND ABUSE AT
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, our children are our most important and precious resource. We ought to make very certain that they have the opportunity to learn in safe and drug-free schools, to be taught by our brightest and best teachers, and to ensure that they have the highest possible opportunity to learn. And that is one thing we have been failing our children on.

Mr. Speaker, today the other thing I would note about our educational system is that our parents ought to know that when they send their education tax dollars to Washington that they are going to get spent on our children, on helping them learn at the fastest rate possible. This last week we learned of another blatant example of waste, fraud and abuse in Washington, and that was when \$2 million at the Education Department was siphoned off from two schools in South Dakota and spent to buy a Cadillac, an SUV, and a house in Maryland. It took a car dealer, a car dealer, who broke this story, because the Education Department did not know what was going on.

It is another example, Mr. Speaker, of why we need to get the education dollars back into the classroom, back to our school administrators, and our school boards and our parents so that they are being spent on our children and not in the Washington bureaucracy.

1030

ENERGY POLICY

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

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, the American people are being held hostage by foreign oil producers and American energy companies. We are now heading for our second cycle where we go from heating oil crisis to gas crisis, and now we are heading back for another heating oil crisis. At a time when oil companies should have been filling the reserves of Americans to keep their homes warm this winter, they were shipping refined No. 2 fuel oil overseas.

We need aggressive action from this administration: the release of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. We need to have weatherization funds. We need real conservation programs that have been blocked for the last 20 years since the Reagan presidency. We have had no

energy policy as far as conservation, alternative energy, energy conservation. We need to move on these things now or seniors and others will see their lives and their life savings threatened this winter for a shortage of oil.

We have made some progress. We have got millions of barrels in reserve, now gallons in reserve in Connecticut; but we need to do a lot more. We need the Senate to move the legislation that gives authorization for the heating oil reserve.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE
FOR SENIORS

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

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, time is running out for America's seniors. America's seniors are well aware now that many of them cannot afford the drugs that their doctors prescribe. If they in fact buy those drugs, we find that they are taking the medicine one every other day instead of one every day or three times a day instead of four times a day to try to extend the medicine at the peril of their own health. Time is running out for them because the Republican leadership refuses to bring forth a real prescription drug benefit.

Rather than use the prescription drug benefit to try to undermine the Medicare system as George W. Bush has or to undermine the Medicare system as the Republican leadership has—

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SUNUNU). All members are reminded that although the debate may criticize the policies of the President or the Vice President, or the nominees for those respective offices, remarks should avoid personality and, therefore, may not include personal accusations or characterizations.

The gentleman may continue in order.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I stand corrected, Mr. Speaker. It is George W. Bush's Medicare prescription drug benefit plan that undermines Medicare, not George W. Bush but his Medicare plan, so everybody is corrected.

He would undermine the system and put these seniors at the peril of the same HMOs that are canceling their coverage all over the country, put them at the peril of the insurance companies, put them at the peril of pharmaceutical companies. What we need is a prescription drug benefit as part of Medicare so that senior citizens can get the medicine they need.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4919,
SECURITY ASSISTANCE ACT OF
2000

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I