

government. There is little incentive for talented people to innovate, work hard and create business. What a terrible lesson!!

We pray you fight this movement!!

At the same time, we pray you will support keeping the United States safe in every way you can.

Sincerely,

EMMALINE P. HENN.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MORAN of Kansas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GINGREY of Georgia addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. REICHERT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. REICHERT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE HEALTH CARE BILL'S PUBLIC OPTION WILL DENY THE AMERICAN PEOPLE CHOICES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROUN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I came to talk about the health care problems here in America. I'm a medical doctor. I have practiced medicine for three-and-a-half decades. I'm an old-time general practitioner. I treat infants all the way to the elderly. My patients are like family. They're like friends. They are friends. They are family. And I'm very concerned about where we are going as a Nation.

Certainly health care in this country has become extremely expensive. In fact, I myself, prior to being elected to Congress, being a small businessman, could not afford a comprehensive

health care insurance policy. I had a catastrophic health care policy because that's all I could afford. There are many small businessmen and women all across this country that are in the same category that I was in. Now, since I have been elected to Congress, I buy into the government health care insurance program that all Federal employees can buy into.

We hear from our President that everybody in this country should have a public option, an option that they can buy into. Last night my good friend JOHN SHADEGG in a Special Order was talking about the draft of the bill that Energy and Commerce is going to be looking at next week. And during Mr. SHADEGG's discussion last night on this floor, he said that the public health care option is not an option at all. And, in fact, the American people, if I could speak to them, Mr. Speaker, I would ask them to look at what is being proposed and how quickly this major policy change is being brought to the forefront.

Next week on Tuesday, the Energy and Commerce Committee is going to start their process of looking at the health care reform bill. Tuesday they are scheduled to have opening statements by the members of the committee. Wednesday and Thursday they're going to have markup. And, Mr. Speaker, I don't think the American public quite understands that term. It's a term that we use, as you know, where the committee goes through a bill line by line, issue by issue, section by section, and amendments are offered, voted on, and are put in place in the final product.

Well, the chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee has decided to not go through the regular order process of letting the Health Subcommittee look at the bill. He wants the whole committee to do so. Why? Well, it's reported that the reason that he wants to do that is because he's concerned about the subcommittee's taking too much time and maybe not even passing out this bill.

The majority, Mr. Speaker, it seems to me, is trying to force this down the throats of the American people in a very expeditious manner. Why would they want to do that? Well, I think the American people, if they knew what was going on, Mr. Speaker, would understand that this major policy change is being hastened through the legislative process so that it can be put in place so that the American people don't have the light of day shed upon this bill so that the American people can say anything about it.

Over and over again, Mr. Speaker, in this House with these appropriation bills, we have seen a change, an historical change, of how regular order is carried out. Normally an appropriations bill is brought to the floor with an open rule. Both sides agree on amendments that are introduced. Both sides agree on time limits, and we can go through a regular order. But the

majority has declined to allow that to happen. Even leadership, some of the leadership on the other side, reportedly, would like to do so. But the Speaker and the chairman are declining to allow that to happen.

So we're getting bill after bill presented to the floor that nobody has had the opportunity to read. The public can't read it. The Members of Congress can't read it.

We've had thousand-page bills, such as the nonstimulus bill that was presented by the President and was introduced in the dead of night, and we voted on it on this floor where no human being anywhere had had the opportunity to read that bill. No one, Mr. Speaker, had the opportunity to read that bill. It was 1,100 pages. Our leader, Mr. BOEHNER, had that large stack of paper and dropped it on the floor. No one had the opportunity to read that bill.

We don't have a health care bill. I have not seen it. No member of the Energy and Commerce Committee has seen it on either side, Democrat or Republican, because it has not been produced. Though Tuesday morning they're going to start opening statements on that bill.

We here in Congress have not seen the bill. We here in Congress have no way to evaluate the bill. We here in Congress have no way to understand what the bill says in totality and how we can introduce amendments to the bill to make it better. Democrats and Republicans alike are being denied their opportunity to allow amendments to all these appropriations bills and to a lot of the authorization bills, such as the tax-and-cap bill, which is going to be a disaster economically for America. This process is blatantly unfair. It's unfair to Democrats. It's unfair to Republicans. But most of all, it's unfair to the American people. The American people should demand better.

Our Speaker, when she came to office in the prior Congress, said we're going to have a new era of openness and honesty, high ethics, transparency. Nothing could be further from the truth. That's what went on in the last Congress and is particularly going on in this Congress. And we are having this health care reform bill being put together by just a small handful of the committee leadership and the leadership of this House, Democrats. The medical doctors, health care professionals, at least on our side, aren't even being consulted. We have, I'm not sure, 10 or 11 of us on our side. Not the first one of us has been consulted about what my patients and all of our patients need in health care reform.

We are being shut out of the process, and that's not fair to the American people, Mr. Speaker. The American people should demand more. They should demand openness. They should demand transparency.

We've had resolutions where we wanted to have at least 72 hours of every bill being posted on the Internet