

and for life insurance and with the power of the Internet, those costs have come down significantly for those two products. We could have achieved the same type of success in the health insurance market if we were just clever enough to have the discussion and begin to negotiate how we would go about putting the protections in place so that people weren't taken advantage of in that situation, and that's well within our power to do that, Madam Speaker.

I again come back to the concept that Members of Congress were not willing to take the very insurance that they were requiring the American people to take. When you talk about hubris, that's one of the things I heard over and over again. The bill is too big; nobody knows what's in it. You haven't even read the darn thing and why won't; if it's so darn good, why won't a Member of Congress sign up for it?

We heard those same comments over and over and over again. And what did they tell us? It's a big bill. People are frightened of Congress' ability to actually deliver on a bill like this or ability to deliver on a promise like this. And if it is so darn good, then why aren't you willing to step up and take it yourself?

And that really distills the arguments that we heard during the month of August. Now, unfortunately, coupled with all of this—and we heard some of the comments in the last hour when the Democrats had the floor—you heard the comment made, Madam Speaker, that it's the right-wing talk radio crowd that's causing the objections to this health care bill, otherwise it would be done.

I submit to you the right-wing talk radio crowd is my crowd. They talk to Republicans. But it's only 177 Republicans in the House of Representatives. You have got 258 Democrats. The right-wing talk radio crowd doesn't talk to the 258 Democrats, and you can still lose 39 Democrats and pass almost any bill that you want out of the House.

So, please, it is not a Republican that is preventing you from doing this. Recognize what's happening here. It is the fact that you have not sold this bill to the American people. That's what's preventing this from being done.

Now, the other unfortunate thing this summer was the Speaker of the House took it upon herself and the majority leader took it upon himself to write a joint op-ed piece for USA Today where they vilified the American people. Well, you know, if you are trying to build a grass-roots consensus for what you are trying to do, for something as big as transforming the delivery of health care in this country, is it really a smart idea to vilify the very people whom you are trying to recruit to help you to do this project? I don't think so.

I mean, that's Politics 101. That's one of the first tenets. You don't, you don't, you don't irritate the very people that you are going to be asking to help you pass a bill of this magnitude.

I do believe it is possible, that it is reasonable for us to get down and work on some of these things that I have outlined tonight. I suspect there are others out there that people on both sides of the aisle might like to see. These are just mine that came up during my town halls.

I would like to see us have some serious discussions on this. I think the American people really do want to see this done in a bipartisan fashion.

Now, tomorrow night we are going to have a big speech here in the House. The President will come down; all of our friends from the Senate will be here. We may well have members of the Cabinet here as well to hear what the President is going to say.

Will there be something new brought up tomorrow night? I don't know. Will we simply see, hear a rehash of the same things? Will we hear criticisms of Republicans for not working with Democrats on this issue? We might.

I would just simply again offer that we don't have the numbers to stop anything; and when I made overtures to the other side early this year, in fact, even during the transition period before the President was sworn in on inauguration day, completely rebuffed by the chairman of my committee, by the President's transition team. No one seemed interested in any Republican input at that point.

We have got the votes, we won the election, we can do it all and so we shall.

Well, it's August. It was a hot month; things got a little heated at home. And now that we are back here in the fall working on this, perhaps it is time to rethink this.

I saw it on one of the Web sites the other day: maybe it's time for the President to hit the reset button. Maybe that's not a bad idea. This is a big, big change in the way things are being handled in America in regards to health care.

The benefits in this bill don't go into effect for 3 years' time. There is no rush to do this thing this month. There is time for us to get this right.

And, you know, like the old saying goes, if you don't have time to do it right when are you going to find time to do it over? Or as one of my surgery professors used to tell me years ago, this is so important, let's go slowly. We don't have time to be in a hurry.

Well, I think those are words that might serve us well as we continue to work on this legislation.

We are going to hear from the President tomorrow night. I, for one, am looking forward to what he is going to say. I would welcome the fact that perhaps we can all get back together and work on some of these things. My concept would be on let's keep it a little bit simpler so that we do build some trust back with the American people.

Certainly the President enjoys a much higher popularity figure, much higher poll numbers than any of us in the United States House of Representa-

tives have. But, on the other hand, that popularity is waning as well.

I think it's important that the American people see that we can work together on this, that we can produce deliverables for the country. And I, for one, would be happy to get on with that work.

With that, Madam Speaker, I am going to yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today and the balance of the week on account of recovering from back surgery.

Mr. RODRIGUEZ (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of travel issues.

Mr. TANNER (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today and September 9 on account of attending a funeral.

Mr. DREIER (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of events in the district.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. WOOLSEY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. HOYER, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MCGOVERN, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. POE of Texas) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. JONES, for 5 minutes, today, September 9, 10, 14 and 15.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today, September 9 and 10.

Mr. POE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today, September 9, 10, 14 and 15.

Mr. MCCOTTER, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, for 5 minutes, today and September 14.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER, for 5 minutes, today and September 10.

Mr. SOUDER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. INGLIS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas, for 5 minutes, today, September 10, 14 and 15.

Mr. BARTLETT, for 5 minutes, today.

SENATE BILLS REFERRED

Bills of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 713. An act to require the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to quickly and fairly address the abundance of surplus manufactured housing units stored by the Federal Government around the country at taxpayer expense, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.