

A TRIBUTE TO THE GENERAL MOTORS BALTIMORE ASSEMBLY PLANT ON THE UNVEILING OF ITS 12 MILLIONTH VEHICLE

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 25, 2000

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to an important member of Baltimore's manufacturing community and an institution central to the cultural and social life of Maryland. On Wednesday, September 27, 2000, the General Motors Baltimore Assembly Plant will unveil the 12 millionth vehicle assembled at this plant.

Production at the Broening Highway plant began in 1935, in the midst of this country's Great Depression. But the new plant, combined with a willing and capable work force, set new standards for quality production. Throughout the second half of the 20th century, the Baltimore Assembly Plant adapted to the changing needs of the American market. Renovations and upgrades to the assembly line and manufacturing process positioned the plant to remain productive. However, the competitive edge for the Baltimore Assembly Plant has been assured by innovative management and a highly trained and skilled work force.

The production of the 12 millionth vehicle marks not only a milestone in a great manufacturing tradition, but sends a clear signal that the Baltimore Assembly Plant is ready to meet new challenges. General Motors Corporation, management at the Baltimore Assembly Plant, the skilled workers, the unions, and Maryland's elected representatives have acknowledged that new products will offer this plant the opportunity to continue its legacy of fine automotive manufacturing. We look forward to, and accept the challenge of working together to secure the future of the Baltimore Assembly Plant.

I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing congratulations to all those associated with the great past, and a strong future of the General Motors Baltimore Assembly Plant, in Baltimore, MD, on this milestone date.

WELCOMING THE "ISLENDINGUR" IN CELEBRATION OF THE MILLENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF LEIF ERICSON'S VIKING VOYAGE ACROSS THE ATLANTIC

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 25, 2000

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I stand today to welcome Ambassador Hannibalsson and the "Islandingur" to the New Haven Harbor as many gather to celebrate the millennial anniversary of Leif Ericson's voyage from Iceland across the North Atlantic to the shores of North America. The center of a long historical debate, the Viking Sagas come to life with an outstanding cultural exhibit and the arrival of the "Islandingur"—a replica of the Viking Ship "Gaukstadaskip" that sailed 1,000 years ago.

For centuries, the Vikings did not record their history in books. Instead they passed their culture, traditions, and stories generation to generation in oral sagas. Much of our knowledge of these courageous people comes from the written records of their European neighbors which, unfortunately, recounts only a 200-year history as raiders and plunderers. It is only in the past century that archeological digs have brought credit to the stories of the Norse expansion across the Atlantic—bringing a new fascination and excitement for this rich culture.

The most recent archeological work has revealed important evidence of the Viking expansion. Uncovering settlements, complex trade networks, and well-preserved artifacts has given us tremendous insight into the lives of the Vikings. Remarkable mariners, without maps or navigational equipment to chart a course, Viking captains, like Erik the Red and Leif Ericson, relied on their knowledge of the stars, sun, and the patterns of nature to guide them across the seas. When we look at the incredible accomplishments of the Icelandic people, we see a group that displayed unparalleled courage—leaving everything they knew to discover and explore new lands.

Throughout history, we have witnessed a unique quality in the human spirit, a drive to explore beyond what we know and understand, to travel into the unknown in search of new experiences. The Vikings embodied this drive and it is this spirit that we celebrate today. I am honored to rise today and join the Icelandic Millennium Commission and the New Haven community in commemorating this very special era of our history. My congratulations and best wishes to all.

HONORING RICHARD A. ALAIMO

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 25, 2000

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my good friend, Richard A. Alaimo, as he is honored for his contributions to our community. Dick is founder and President of the Alaimo Group, Consulting Engineers, which is located in Mount Holly and Paterson, New Jersey.

As a Consulting Civil and Municipal Engineer, and a licensed Professional Engineer in several states, he and his five associated firms have served over 70 municipalities and public agencies through the years.

His staff of over 100 engineers, planners, architects and construction managers have completed numerous large state projects in addition to municipal design and reconstruction programs.

Established over 30 years ago, Dick Alaimo's firm has designed facilities with constructed values in excess of \$1 billion.

Dick is a member of many civic organizations, among them the South Jersey Port Corporation, which he serves as Director and Chairman; Burlington County United Fund; Mount Holly Rotary; and, Rutgers University Foundation Board of Overseers.

Through the years, he has been selected as recipient of various awards such as Out-

standing Young Man and Outstanding Citizen of the Greater Mount Holly Area; Longsdorf Good Citizenship Award; Distinguished Citizen Award; and, one of the Outstanding Young Men in America.

I am privileged and honored to recognize the accomplishments of Richard A. Alaimo, and to congratulate him on his service to the community.

ARE DRUG PROFITS NECESSARY TO RUN AN ONCOLOGY PRACTICE? NOT IN THE CASE OF ONE FLORIDA PRACTICE! ONCOLOGISTS PARTNERS HID \$2.6 MILLION IN DRUG PROFITS FROM OTHER DOCTORS—DIDN'T PUT DRUG PROFITS INTO THE PRACTICE

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 25, 2000

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, Medicare has delayed reducing the level of reimbursement for various chemotherapy drugs, because of lobbying by some oncologists and drug companies that the profits are essential to cover the cost of running an oncology medical practice.

Hmmmmmm.

Not in one Florida practice, where a lawsuit between several partners who are gastroenterologists and oncologists reveals how the oncologists pocketed millions in profits from drugs, didn't put the money into the practice, and (apparently) the practice was successful in more than meeting its costs.

I am happy that HCFA is going to review its reimbursement of the costs of administering chemotherapy drugs. I hope they will check out this court case, before they buy all the arguments of the industry.

The following excerpts from the court case were provided by an attorney from Florida and I submit into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

July 24, 2000.

Re Summary of Information that you may find Illuminating and Helpful in Understanding the False Drug Pricing Scheme that Generates Huge Kickbacks From Medicare and Medicaid to Oncologists; Medical Practice Partners' Litigation Between Gastroenterologists and Oncologists Over Profits from the Sale of Chemotherapy Drugs From Medicare, Medicaid and Private Insurance Being Kept Secretly by the Oncologist Partners and not shared with the Gastroenterologist Partners.

Dear Representative STARK: The original complaint in the *Chetan Desai, M.D., et al. v. Jayaprakash K. Kamath, M.D., et al.* case charges that two (2) oncologists made 2.6 million dollars in profits from the sale of chemotherapy drugs between 1993 and 1997 (page 4 ¶10). Additionally, the complaint charges that the two oncologists in 1997 overdrew their compensation by approximately \$385,000 (page 4, ¶11). By the time the Amended Complaint was filed, the feuding doctor partners and their lawyers had realized that a public fight in written documents over 2.6 million dollars in chemotherapy profits for two oncologists in four years' worth of practice may raise eyebrows of the court and law enforcement. Therefore, the