

vital to returning dignity to their lives.

In July, this House passed an amendment to allow U.S. pharmacists to buy medications at the same low prices paid for in other countries, 20 to 50 percent less for the same drugs, and then we could pass those savings on to our seniors. It makes sense.

But last week in the dead of night the Republican leadership twisted this amendment into a deal full of loopholes so big that they could drive a truck through them.

The deal does nothing for seniors. It only protects the pharmaceutical industry profits. This compromise artificially restricts access to safe and affordable drugs abroad. It gives the drug industry a veto over all imports.

Our seniors deserve better. They deserve the same medications at the same prices that people are paying for overseas. It is time for the Republican leadership to stop using empty rhetoric. We should have a pharmaceutical plan that works. We ought to have a prescription drug benefit through Medicare.

If there must be reimportation, then in fact let us be able to reimport those drugs at a price our seniors can pay for.

WELCOME TO NEWBORN JACK CHRISTOPHER LINDGREN

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I want to take a moment this morning to welcome into this world Jack Christopher Lindgren, who was born just a couple of weeks ago, on September 21.

I want to congratulate his proud parents, Gary Lindgren, chief of staff in my office, and his lovely wife, Susan. I know they are delighted with their handsome baby boy.

There is some good news for little Jack. Thanks to a Republican Congress, his parents will enjoy a \$500 tax credit for their new child. That will help buy diapers and baby food and some of the clothing that babies seem to grow out of in a couple of weeks.

But here is a dose of reality for young Jack. Because of the steadfast opposition of the Clinton-Gore administration, Jack's parents will be paying a penalty again this year to the Internal Revenue Service.

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Their offense? They chose to be married. When Congress tried to correct that inequity in the Tax Code this year, President Clinton said no. There is hope for all of those American families who work hard every day to pay their taxes and support their families. They will have a chance to reduce their tax burden by saying good-bye to the Clinton-Gore team.

Mr. Speaker, American working families deserve a break. Let us give it to them.

DRUG IMPORT PROVISIONS OF AGRICULTURE APPROPRIATIONS BILL

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, sometimes I wonder whether the Republican leadership of this Congress reports to the public or to the prescription drug industry. The public sends a clear message that they are sick of unjustifiably high and blatantly discriminatory prescription drug prices.

Seniors are particularly vulnerable to overwhelming prescription drug expenses. Democrats offer a proposal featuring an optional Medicare drug benefit, drug prices discounted to reflect a collective bargaining power of 39 million Medicare beneficiaries, and a strategy for undercutting international price discrimination, the ability to reimport prescription drugs.

Republicans refuse to even consider price discounts for seniors, they emasculate the reimportation proposal, and then they sunset those weak provisions before they even have a chance to kick in.

A phony watered-down drug reimportation bill is marginally better than no bill at all, but I do not want a single American to be fooled into thinking that Republican leadership has been responsive to the prescription drug crisis. The only constituency they have been responsive to is the prescription drug industry.

DATABASE PROTECTION LEGISLATION

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

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, this will now be the third Congress in which legislation protecting databases has failed to become law. Over the past years, the opponents of such legislation have done all they can to prevent legislation from moving forward and maintain the status quo so they may pirate the work of others due to the current gap in protection. They first claimed there was no need for legislation. Then subsequently, they admitted there was, in fact, a need as long as they could get a carve-out for themselves.

How selfishly convenient. This issue will not go away. Now, more than ever, America's database producers need sufficient protection to ensure the continued investment in developing these information products. Their vulnerability remains as the pirates still sail without fear.

Rest assured, Mr. Speaker, I will do everything I can next session to finally

pass legislation which benefits database producers and, therefore, benefits American consumers. Finally, Mr. Speaker, I want to express thanks to the many people who worked tirelessly to promote this legislation.

VOTING MAKES A DIFFERENCE

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

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, Monday evening I spoke to a college government class in my community, and a young woman commented during the question period. She asked, I just turned 18, I will be voting for the first time, can you tell me why I should vote? What difference does the government make in my life?

I gave her two quick examples, and I thought everyone listening to this might be interested in these examples. I said, first of all that, when I was elected in 1994, we had deficits of \$300 billion per year. The Republicans took over. We now have a surplus of over \$100 billion per year. That is a \$400 billion per year difference, and that computes to \$2,200 for every single taxpayer in this Nation. That does make a difference to you. You should vote this year.

The second example I gave is that the interest on the debt is going to cost her \$185,000 during her lifetime, even if we do not add another cent to the debt. This is equivalent to the cost of a nice house in my district. It does make a difference who is in control; we have started to pay off the debt. It does make a difference, and people should vote accordingly. I am very proud of what we have accomplished, and how we have put money back in the hands of the people, including this young 18-year-old lady. I hope that she does vote, and I hope that she does vote for the good of this country.

URGING OSHA TO STOP CORRUPT ERGONOMICS RULE-MAKING

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, just when we thought the Clinton-Gore administration could not sink any lower, they always figure out another way. I recently learned that OSHA paid for 35 posthearing comments for the record on its proposed ergonomics rule. In effect, OSHA bureaucrats paid for what they wanted the public to hear and did not allow real public comments to stand. To make matters worse, OSHA paid for these comments with taxpayers dollars.

This disregard for the mandated public comment period tells a story of the Clinton-Gore-AFL-CIO Labor Department. Mr. Speaker, this outrage bears

repeating. Instead of independent reaction from the public at large, OSHA filled the ergonomics public records with comments from its own paid witnesses. If you can believe it, the story gets worse.

When the public comment period was closed, OSHA allowed the ever-biased National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, NIOSH, to submit over 3 years of scientific literature more than 6 weeks after the deadline. This, again, shows OSHA is hearing what it wants to hear, not what small businesses and the average American wants it to say. I strongly urge OSHA to stop this corrupt ergonomics rule-making and start over with a clean, fair, and objective rule-making process.

CONGRATULATING JACK ST. CLAIR KILBY

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is Nobel Peace Prize time again, and I rise today to congratulate another Dallas resident, Jack St. Clair Kilby.

Mr. Kilby was awarded the Nobel Prize in physics. While you might not know him personally, his invention revolutionized the world. Shortly after joining Texas Instruments way back in 1958, Mr. Kilby conceived and built the first electronic circuit, microcircuit.

Without question, his development revolutionized the electronics industry, gave us such things as the cell phone and satellite communications. His invention allowed us to explore space, fly to the Moon, and develop sophisticated medical tools.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my heartfelt thanks and appreciation and congratulations to Mr. Kilby for his Nobel Prize award. He helped make America great.

ONE MORE TALL TALE FROM TENNESSEE

(Mr. SCARBOROUGH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, a few minutes ago, we heard from the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) telling us the tall tales of AL GORE, and the gentleman is right. There is a news article today about how AL GORE was a chicken farmer of over 10,000 chickens. This is a very versatile man.

He is also the inventor of the Internet, the man who brought us the dog pill story, the man who says he was the reason for "Love Story"; that was the first one to investigate Love Canal; that he was there when the Strategic Petroleum Reserve was invented, which he was not.

He has fought against big oil, and yet his family owes its fortune to Occidental Petroleum. He fought against Big Tobacco. In fact, in 1992, he said that on his sister's death that he swore he would fight the scourge of Big Tobacco for the rest of his life. Well, 2 years later he was telling tobacco farmers that he was one of them.

This is a man who at one time is a chicken farmer, the next he is a tobacco farmer, the next he is an enemy of Big Oil, the next he is a big protector of Big Oil. He is a very versatile man. I wish he would make up his mind and tell the American people exactly who he is.

ASKING ADMINISTRATION TO AGREE TO DEBT REDUCTION PROPOSAL

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

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, 29 days ago, this Congress sent President Clinton and Vice President AL GORE a proposal to lock away 100 percent of the Social Security and Medicare surpluses and dedicate at least 90 percent of the total budget surplus for debt reduction.

Mr. Speaker, 29 days and still no word from the Clinton-Gore administration. There will be an estimated \$268 billion surplus this fiscal year.

Our question is simple: Should it be used to pay off our national public debt and protect Social Security and Medicare, or should it be spent on more government spending? Republicans are for using the surplus to pay off the public national debt and protecting Social Security.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the President and the Vice President GORE to join us and put debt reduction and our seniors ahead of spending and agree to our 90-10 debt reduction proposal.

EULOGY TO THE HONORABLE OSCAR H. MAUZY

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

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, yesterday was a sad day for Democrats across the country, not only did our former colleague, Bruce Vento, die; but one of the finest Democrats in the State of Texas, Oscar Mauzy, passed away yesterday. Oscar served in the State Senate for 2 decades representing a district in Dallas. He served on the Texas Supreme Court, and he stood for everything that was good and decent in politics.

He stood for civil rights at a time when it was not popular in Texas. He stood for the rights of the consumer, and he blazed a trail that made it possible for progressive Democrats to be elected in Dallas County. First Jim

Mattox, then I joined Jim in Congress, John Bryant after that, and EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON following that. Oscar Mauzy will be truly missed by the people of the State of Texas.

TODAY'S MILITARY SMALLER, LESS CAPABLE, OVERWORKED AND LESS READY THAN 8 YEARS AGO

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

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, last week Vice President GORE mislead every American again. I am not talking about raising chickens. AL GORE claimed that our military is the strongest in history. Our military is the best in the world today, but it is simply not true that our military today is the strongest in history, not even by recent history.

One only has to look back to the 1980s to find a military force 40 percent larger, with a much more robust capacity that could easily have engaged two major threats on two separate fronts at once. Today, the Joint Chiefs tell us that fighting two fronts could only be accomplished with high risk and significant loss of life.

Looking back at World War II, the United States fielded an Army of over 8 million soldiers and airmen. The United States was fighting on three separate fronts in three separate geographical areas of the world, and we were winning all three.

It is laughable to consider today's force equal. If AL GORE believes today's military is the best in history, he obviously has not talked to thousands of soldiers, airman and Marines who are leaving in total frustration.

By any measure, today's military is smaller, less capable, overworked and less ready than it was 8 years ago. Anyone aspiring to be Commander in Chief should know that.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4205, FLOYD D. SPENCE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2001

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 616 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 616

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 4205) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2001 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2001, and for other purposes. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration