

October 12, 2000

and the Court, will continue for the foreseeable future. In addition, I am not aware of any suggestion or concern that the U.S. Supreme Court Police has misused its authority, or should not be entitled to such authority on a permanent basis.

In fact the evidence suggests that the U.S. Supreme Court Police has discharged its responsibilities in an efficient and cost effective manner. For example, the cost of the program has been minimal. The Supreme Court Police work closely with the U.S. Marshal's office to provide security for Supreme Court Justices when they travel outside the Washington, DC, metropolitan area. Over the past 4 years, there were 74 requests for Supreme Court Police protection beyond the D.C. metropolitan area at a total cost of \$16,855, or \$4,214 per year.

In light of continuing security concerns, and the Supreme Court Police's record of providing appropriate protection over the past 18 years for the Justices, Court employees, and official visitors, I support making the Supreme Court Polices authorization to provide security on and off Supreme court grounds permanent. As a result, I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

A TRIBUTE TO GAIL WEISS

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with my colleagues this evening to recognize the long, distinguished career of Gail Weiss. Gail, who serves so ably now as the Minority Staff Director on the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and before that as Staff Director of that Committee, had earlier served as Staff Director of our Committee on Post Office and Civil Service, chaired by my good colleague, the gentleman from Missouri, Mr. CLAY. Serving as the Ranking Minority Member of the Post Office Committee at that time, I had the opportunity to work closely with Gail. I found her to be a true professional and I appreciated the time she took to listen to our positions on various issues before our Committee.

We will surely miss having Gail's experience and institutional memory upon which to rely. Gail is one of a dwindling corps of staff who have the ability to put the measures before us into the perspective of earlier legislation enacted to address important issues. Her expertise on postal and civil service issues and those before the Committee on Education and the Workforce have helped us to develop legislative initiatives that address these issues in an effective manner.

I am certain that Gail will continue to be active in a number of areas that are of keen interest to her. I know that our colleagues will also continue to reach out to her for her thoughts on key matters that we deal with in the Congress. I've certainly become fond of both Gail and her husband Jack and wish them great success, happiness, and good health as they enter this new and rewarding time in their lives.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO ITALIAN GARDENS RESTAURANT

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a Kansas City, Missouri family tradition. Seventy-five years ago a small, family owned business established its roots in the heart of Kansas City. Today, the Italian Gardens Restaurant is a well established and celebrated Kansas City landmark and popular eatery.

The late John Bondon, Sr., first opened the Italian Gardens Restaurant in 1925 with his nephew Frank Lipari. It was a difficult time for the partners and most of the country as the economy collapsed and a world war became a reality. Despite these challenges Italian Gardens persevered and in 1933 the restaurant was able to move to its current location at 1110 Baltimore with the help of a \$1,500 loan from a waitress. John Bondon and Frank Lipari owned only one new pair of shoes worn by whomever was working with the public in the front of the restaurant. When America entered World War II, the Italian Gardens recognized the anti-Italian sentiments present at this time and was forced to temporarily change the name of the restaurant to "The Gardens." The restaurant was available for dinner only since many of the staff was working in the defense industry.

Over the past 75 years, the Italian Gardens has spanned five generations of family proprietorship and attracted a large and loyal following of patrons. The restaurant has attracted a diverse crowd of customers such as Joe Di Maggio, Katherine Hepburn, Frank Sinatra, Liberace, and the famed outlays Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow. For seventy-five years the Italian Gardens has been known by businessmen, artists, athletes, and neighbors to be a large community table and gathering place where everyone is made to feel welcome and part of the family.

Throughout their rich heritage the Italian Gardens Restaurant has been a significant charitable and civic contributor to our community, including lending the talents and expertise of its executives to critical boards and commissions benefitting the Greater Kansas City Area. The Italian Gardens family includes the now retired Carl DiCapo, John Bondon, president of the restaurant company, and great-nephew of the original co-founder, Bondon's mother, Carolyn Berbiglia, Bondon's wife, Vicki, and his daughter Bianca. The Italian Gardens is a Kansas City landmark that has served as a model of success in our community. It is one of the few longtime family owned operations still present in our region. This cherished local eatery has established a standard of excellence that will continue to be celebrated for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Italian Gardens Restaurant family as it celebrates seventy-five years of service to the Kansas City community.

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STARK CALLS FOR FURTHER FDA INVESTIGATION INTO ABUSE OF AVERAGE WHOLESALE PRICE SYSTEM

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I today sent the following letter to the FDA, in support of an investigation of how some of the nation's leading drug manufacturers are using false pricing data to distort the practice of medicine in America. The data in the letter is an indictment of the companies' abuse of the taxpayer and of the patient.

I submit the following letter into the RECORD:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 10, 2000.

Dr. JANE E. HENNEY,
Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration,
Rockville, MD.

DEAR DR. HENNEY: I am writing you to supplement my recent letter of October 3, 2000. I would request that any FDA investigation into whether certain drug companies have engaged in conduct that violates FDA rules or regulations take into account the following:

1. *The findings contained in the HHS-OIG report entitled Infusion Therapy Services Provided in Skilled Nursing Facilities (December 1999 A-06-99-00058) Exhibit #1.* The OIG's independent findings provide compelling evidence of the magnitude, cost and public health issues resulting from drug price manipulation of the Medicare program.

The following excerpts from the above referenced OIG report are particularly noteworthy:

"Our review of three infusion suppliers, for the period 1995 through 1998, showed they provided infusion therapy services to Medicare-reimbursed SNFs that were excessively priced and unnecessary." (Page #1)

"At the 22 SNFs, \$4.8 million out of \$9 million in claims reviewed (53 percent) were not medically necessary." (Page #1)

"In addition to the financial effects we noted above, overutilization and overpricing were potentially harmful to the patients. Medical reviewers who were part of our audit concluded that patients receiving unnecessary infusion therapy services were placed at undue risk for complications, including increased risk of infection, fluid and electrolyte imbalance, and medical reactions. Furthermore, in addition, infusion services are invasive procedures that are painful and, when unnecessary, reduce the quality of life."

"Based on a survey of infusion suppliers in Texas, we found that charges for infusion drugs varied widely, from as little as Average Wholesale Price (AWP), which is generally considered a reference price for drugs by the pharmaceutical industry, to more than 20 times AWP." (Page #6)

2. *The public health consequences of the drug pricing manipulation by certain companies for the IV antibiotic Vancomycin, the drug of last resort for many life threatening infections.* Exhibit #2 features an article from Hospital Pharmacist Report entitled Under Attack Vancomycin-resistant S. Aureus Hits U.S. Shores. "The widespread, and often unwarranted, use of antimicrobial agents, particularly vancomycin is a major contributing factor in the emergence of S. aureus with diminished susceptibility to vancomycin." Indeed, as stated in the article, the problem