

struggling on fixed incomes and cannot afford pharmacy bills that can run several hundred dollars a month.

Republicans and Democrats need to set aside partisan politics and do the moral thing. We must work together to help the millions of Medicare recipients who cannot pay for their medication. By providing affordable prescription drug coverage for everyone, we want to make sure that no senior citizen or disabled American falls through the cracks.

#### ODE TO EARL

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

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I was proud to note yesterday the quick thinking and bold action of our colleague, the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. EARL POMEROY) when a threatening situation arose in the Committee on Agriculture, so I would like to this morning dedicate this Ode to EARL.

With a fellow named Earl in the room  
You had better not act like a loon  
Break bottles and cry  
I'd much rather die  
Burly Earl, he'll subdue you real soon.  
In the hearing he caused quite a scene  
This lunatic, he vented his spleen  
Threatened cabinet and staff  
Earl had him down like a calf  
So the committee could then reconvene.  
So if agriculture's your place  
And danger you ever should face  
Just throw caution to the wind  
Burly Earl we will send  
Let Pomeroy return you to grace.

#### PROTESTING WRONGFUL IMPRISONMENT OF 13 JEWS BY IRAN

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to add my voice to the many in protest of the wrongful imprisonment of the 13 Jews by the government of Iran on bogus charges of spying for the United States and Israel. The world community has unilaterally condemned this action by Iran, and our government and that of Israel have denied that these men were spies. Not only are the charges at best ludicrous, but should the 12 men and one teenager be found guilty, they will be executed.

Only yesterday, 8 of the 10 accused appeared before an Iranian judge and were coerced into a "confession." They have been denied their own legal representation. However, the only crime that these brave souls are guilty of is their faith in the face of a regime that allows no practice of religion that runs counter to their's. These men of faith have held true to their religious beliefs in the face of threats against them by the Iranian government.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the government of Iran to release them, and further, I urge our government to apply serious pressure on this repressive government and to work with the Iranian opposition to help bring about real reform and democracy in Iran.

#### PORKER OF THE WEEK AWARD

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

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, someone at the Department of Education has a lot of explaining to do. A contract employee, who was hired by the department to take care of its telephone and computer needs, recently admitted to carrying out a criminal plot that cost the government more than \$1 million.

The contractor illegally steered more than \$300,000 worth of equipment to an Education Department employee who was overseeing his work. The supervisor got a 61-inch television, cordless telephones, compact disk players, walkie-talkies, desktop and laptop computers, printers, digital cameras, computer scanners and Palm Pilots.

In addition to diverting the merchandise, the contractor routinely performed errands for the employee, such as picking up her granddaughter from school, all on government time. In exchange for his work, the contractor and his coworker walked off with more than \$600,000 in bogus overtime pay.

Good grief. Who is minding the store? The Department of Education gets my "Porker of the Week" Award.

#### MAKING SURE SENIORS GET AFFORDABLE PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE

(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, prescription drug coverage is an important issue for American seniors, and Republicans have a plan for those that need coverage to keep it and those who need it to get it.

This is in stark contrast to the President's plan. Democrats and the President willingly admit their plan will drive employers out of the market. To stop this, the Democrats bribe employers to keep the coverage they already offer. This just does not make sense. Rather than pay employers to do something they are already doing, I suggest we set the funds aside to actually get drug coverage to America's seniors. The Republican plan accomplishes that task.

Medicare beneficiaries deserve choices, not a one-size-fits-all program that wastes money. This Congress must take its responsibility seriously and make sure that seniors can get afford-

able prescription drugs when they need them. Now is the time.

#### CONGRATULATING SHERIFF CANTRELL OF SPALDING COUNTY, GEORGIA

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

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, if you look in the gallery, you will see a number of students from Spalding County, Georgia. They are part of the Junior Deputy Program, which has brought students to Washington since the 1960s. Leading this delegation is Richard Cantrell, Sheriff of Spalding County.

Sheriff Cantrell has not only worked hard to uphold the law in Spalding County, he has also worked to make the county a better place to live by working with the Boy Scouts, the Girl Scouts, Junior Deputy Program, and assisting handicapped youth through the American business club.

Sheriff Cantrell's father was confined to a wheelchair because of wounds suffered in World War II. Nonetheless, his father played an active role in his son's life. Sheriff Cantrell calls him "the most significant person in his life."

Mr. Speaker, it is people like Sheriff Cantrell and his father who are true role models for our youth.

Sheriff Cantrell is retiring at the end of this year after 30 years in law enforcement. The people of Spaulding County will miss the services of Richard Cantrell as Sheriff, but I am sure he will continue aiding those who need help and serving as a leader for our young people.

#### FLOYD D. SPENCE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2001

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS). Pursuant to House Resolution 503 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 4205.

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IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of 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, with Mr. BURR of North Carolina (Chairman pro tempore) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Wednesday, May 7, 2000, amendments