

could provide housing assistance to 150,000 needy families.

Another report on a Bronx, New York, housing project uncovered ineligible and unnecessary expenses totaling \$258,000. The audit uncovered expenses totaling \$26,000 that was either unnecessary for the project's operation or not supported by adequate documentation, including \$13,000 for unnecessary telephone charges and \$10,000 for unnecessary cab fares.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development gets my porker of the week award.

PLIGHT OF THE IRAN 13

(Mrs. LOWEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the plight of the 13 Iranian Jews that have been held for over a year on trumped-up charges of spying for Israel and the United States. After months of incarceration, coerced confessions and show trials, the fate of these 13 will be decided this weekend by a revolutionary court judge who alone will make a decision whether these 13 will live or die.

The arrest of these innocent people was in itself an outrage, but the Iranian government has doggedly pursued these false charges, denying the defendants representation and visitation from their families, and using them as a pawn in the ongoing ideological tug-of-war of Iran's future.

We have read and heard that the so-called moderates are slowly eroding the power base of Iran's hard line clerical leadership, but I do not see the evidence. There is no religious freedom in Iran, there is no respect for human rights and due process in Iran, and anti-Semitic, anti-Western scapegoating persists in Iran.

A country like this has no place among the community of nations; and the United States, as the premiere defender of democracy around the world, should make no overtures to welcome Iran. I join my colleagues telling Iran that we are watching.

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

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

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, as co-chairman of the Generic Drug Equity Caucus, I would like to talk about generic drugs and how they make prescription drugs more affordable.

Currently, generics fill over 40 percent of all prescriptions in the United States and are extremely affordable, at only 10 to 15 cents per dollar spent on brand names. The Congressional Budget Office reported in 1994 that generic

drug competition results in a cost savings to consumers of \$8 to \$10 billion annually, while meeting the FDA's requirement on bioequivalence, meaning that generics have the exact same effect on the human body as brand names.

Too many of the brand name companies seek to extend their patents, thereby restricting prompt market access by generics and raising drug costs. Americans have a right to be concerned about the high cost of prescription drugs. The solution could be as simple as encouraging the use of generic substitutes and providing co-pay differentials between brand name and generic drugs, and preventing abusive marketing and regulatory practices.

INTERNATIONAL ABDUCTION

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

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, today I want to talk about Marcus Farina, one of the 10,000 American children who have been abducted to foreign countries. Marcus was abducted when he was 5½ years old by his noncustodial father, Sergio Farina. It is believed he was taken to South America.

Mr. Farina picked up Marcus on December 6, 1991, for his first court-ordered unsupervised visit and never returned. Marcus's mother, Patricia Rose Diggs, has been working diligently on this case since his abduction. Evidence came to light that Mr. Farina went to Brazil before he went to Uruguay. It is believed Mr. Farina left Marcus in South America and has traveled without him. He still has family who live in Uruguay, and they have all been interviewed by law enforcement to no avail.

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children has created a poster on the child, and it now includes an age-progressed picture of Mr. Farina. Mr. Farina is fluent in English, Spanish, and Portuguese and has many friends and contacts throughout South America.

Mr. Speaker, Marcus's mother and others like her need our help. Children deserve and need to grow up with both parents in their lives. I hope that my colleagues will continue to work with me to bring our children home.

GAS CRISIS

(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, the first summer of the new millennium is well under way. Americans have been looking forward to summer vacations with their families all year. Unfortunately, they are discovering that the temperature is not the only thing rising this

summer. Across the Nation, gas prices are shooting through the roof; and American families are feeling the pinch in their wallets.

But since the beginning of the gas crisis, the Clinton-Gore administration has been missing in action. In fact, Energy Secretary Bill Richardson even admitted that "we were caught napping." The response of the President's spokesman, Joe Lockhart, to the high prices was, "Prices tend to go up a bit this time of year."

Well, Mr. Speaker, it is high time that Secretary Richardson and the rest of the administration woke up. The Vice President, AL GORE, has long tried to increase gas prices and taxes on gas as a way to get us out of our cars and supposedly to clean up the environment. Well, he is getting his way.

Let us face it, we are not being gouged at the gas pumps, we are being gored.

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS NEEDED

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, yesterday we witnessed one of the biggest legislative shams of the 106th Congress. This Congress did not pass a prescription drug benefit to help our seniors; we passed an insurance policy.

From the Patient's Bill of Rights to education funding, my colleagues have used Democratic rhetoric to masquerade their bad ideas. They are using the same old strategy, watered-down legislation to ultimately secure its failure.

We did not even get a vote on an alternative. The Republican bill costs seniors more each year, but it gives them less. It was either their way or the highway. Well, our seniors see through this sham, and maybe in November they will give them the highway.

Today, I have seniors from my own district, from my home, visiting D.C. They are from the Magnolia Multipurpose Center in Houston. And I have to tell them that, yes, they now have a benefit; but only if their insurance policy decides to give it to them. And who knows how much it will cost.

Mr. Speaker, we should be providing lifesaving pharmaceuticals to seniors, not an insurance policy. We should be providing a secure, stable and reliable benefit instead of creating a bureaucratic nightmare. And we should be building up Medicare, not tearing it down. Our seniors deserve more than a voucher.

TRUCKERS SUFFERING DUE TO GAS CRISIS

(Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland asked and was given permission to address