

QUENTIN YOUNG: "THE
CONSCIENCE FOR THE COUNTRY"

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2001

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, some of my colleagues have had the privilege of getting to know Dr. Quentin Young, a revered Chicago institution known for his unremitting commitment to health care, economic and social justice. Some of us know him because of his dedication to universal health care, under the banner he coined of "Everybody in, nobody out." Some of us know him because of his leadership in protecting public health. Some of us know him because of his dedication to ending discrimination and bigotry. I also know him because he is a trusted friend and my personal physician.

Dr. Young brought his years of activism, dedication, and enthusiasm to the House last spring, when he testified at the inaugural meeting of the House Universal Health Care Task Force. I share his lifelong goal of universal health care for all and agree that he is the "conscience of the country" on this issue.

Dr. Young's remarkable spirit and career are described in a December 9, 2001 article in the Chicago Tribune. It is entitled "The Patient Doctor," and chronicles the story of a remarkable individual who fights every day to improve people's lives and our nation, and I urge my colleagues to read the entire article, but I want to provide a brief sampling of Dr. Young's extraordinary.

Young was barely launched on his medical center in the early 1950s when he became a leading advocate—and one of the few whites—in the fight to end the discriminatory attitudes and practices at Chicago-area hospitals that led to minority physicians' being denied practice privileges at all but Cook County Hospital. In 1964, he co-founded the Medical Committee for Human Rights, a group of progressive physicians who provided medical care at civil rights marches and sit-ins and riots.

That role earned Young a prestigious position in the civil rights movement: He was Martin Luther King Jr.'s doctor when King lived in Chicago in 1966. His committee affiliation also got Young subpoenaed to appear before the House Un-American Activities Committee in October 1968 to answer questions about his and the medical committee's role during the riots at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago that year—an experience friends say was a high point of Young's career because he believed he got the best of verbal sparring with committee members.

Young and the late Dr. Jorge Prieto, former head of the Chicago Board of Health, were the primary forces behind the movement to establish neighborhood medical clinics in the late '60s. Their work led to the current network of 32 medical clinics throughout Cook County that will support the new \$500 million Cook County Hospital.

Even now, nearing his 80th year, Young cannot keep still. "I am impulsively an advocate," he says.

In addition to running an internal medicine practice in his native Hyde Park—as he has done since 1952—the indefatigable doctor is medical commentator for National Public

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Radio on WBEZ-FM and helps direct two organizations he founded to advocate for national health care (often referred to by critics as socialized medicine): Physicians for a National Health Program and the Health and Medicine Policy Research Group.

Last summer, he and other health-care activists marched for 15 days across 137 miles of northern Illinois to drum up political support for the Bernardin Amendment to the state constitution. Named for the late Cardinal Joseph Bernardin, who supported universal health care, the proposed amendment would guarantee health insurance for every Illinois resident.

Despite the long odds against any national health-care reform in a closely divided Congress, Young is optimistic about national health insurance being enacted, even after the war on terrorism put many domestic issues on the back burner. "I think very emphatically that the complications of Sept. 11 create a much more urgent need for national health insurance," he says. "Our current system is imploding. Even with our straitened circumstances economically, because of the incredible administrative waste in the present system, there's still enough money there to take care of everybody."

Of course, being at the forefront of divisive social and political issues can be risky, as Young learned in 1954 when as a young doctor he took a stand on an issue that cost him his job.

On Jan. 17, 1954, 15-month-old Laura Lingo was severely scalded when a vaporizer full of melted menthol oil overturned on top of her in her South Side home. The toddler's mother, Irene, rushed her to nearby Woodlawn Hospital, which no longer exists. Irene Lingo had little money and no hospital insurance.

After initial emergency treatment, officials at Woodlawn decided not to admit the baby because of the mother's inability to pay and sent them to Cook County Hospital. The baby died there the next day.

A coroner's inquest found Woodlawn Hospital negligent in the baby's death. Young, an attending physician at Woodlawn, was among several Chicago doctors who signed a letter published in one of the daily papers condemning the practice of hospitals' sending poor patients to Cook County. Not long after the letter was printed, Woodlawn revoked Young's privileges, putting the young physician and father out of work.

Neither that nor any other setback has slowed Young down. He has been doing his advocacy work, seeing patients in his Hyde Park office and getting his various messages out through press conferences, newspaper op-ed pieces and, until recently, his weekly radio show "Public Affairs" on WBEZ. The war on terrorism has given him new spins on his causes, such as the recent anthrax-by-mail cases, which he says underscored the need to correct serious shortcomings in the public-health system.

"We can end huge threats to human existence," says Young, a former president of the American Public Health Association, noting that public-health campaigns were able to defeat smallpox, polio and flu. "And we can help with our current problem if we make our public health infrastructure really muscular, by training more epidemiologists and computerizing our 3,000 county, city and state public health organizations."

Right or not, he will always be doing something, friends say. Dr. Ida Hellander, executive director of Physicians for a National Health Program who has worked with Young for 10 years, took a sabbatical last summer to rest and study photography in Montana.

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Just before leaving, she turned to her boss and mentor and asked him, partly out of frustration: "Quentin, don't you ever think about what it'd be like to live like regular people—not be so aware of all the social injustice, all the suffering, all the great struggles?"

Young didn't miss a beat: "Yes, Ida," he responded. "I call it death."

**LETTER TO SECRETARY OF
DEFENSE**

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2001

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I respectfully submit the following correspondence for the RECORD.

DEAR SECRETARY RUMSFELD: We must consider the likelihood China is preparing a sneak attack upon the United States. The flashpoint will be Taiwan. Holding immense strategic value for the United States and Japan, as well as China, the stakes will involve more than Taiwan's 23 million people who have achieved a democratic form of government and freedom. They will involve the leadership and security of the United States.

Contrary to the belief of many analysts who think in terms of a Cold War balance of power and who would view China as a threat only as it increases its military power to a level equal to the United States, China's strategic military planning distinctly calls for seizing the initiative when facing a superior opponent such as the United States, taking advantage of special circumstances.

China plans to take full advantage of a surprise attack like the Japanese attack at Pearl Harbor. Its strategy is to conduct lightning warfare, or blitzkrieg, using ballistic missiles and information warfare to seize the initiative, letting the momentum of its attacks overwhelm its opponent. Surprise imparts immense tactical advantages, and its value should not be discounted. For six months after Pearl Harbor the Japanese ruled the Pacific.

China's ballistic missiles, which have achieved an accuracy within 50 meters, give it, contrary to a number of views, the ability to launch a surgical strike deep behind lines, attacking radar, communications, intelligence, and air and naval bases with a high degree of precision and confidence. U.S. ballistic missile defenses are non-existent except for the short-range Patriot.

China's information warfare capabilities, including capabilities against satellites or ASAT, will enable it to conduct strikes against U.S. satellites, communications, and computer networks. Its attacks on satellites may use a variety of weapons, ranging from high explosive and nuclear-generated electromagnetic pulse, to parasitic satellites, high-energy lasers and jamming and cyberwarfare against ground communication links.

China's strategy calls for dismantling the U.S. Revolution in Military Affairs, which relies heavily on satellites for intelligence, communications, navigation, and weather forecasting. China's ASAT could disable the effectiveness of U.S. forces in a sudden blow. This blow would go beyond immediate repair as satellites take years to build and launch into space.

In January 2001 the Rumsfeld Space Commission noted that, "U.S. Satellites are vulnerable to attacks in space and the government must step up efforts to protect them

and the critical services they provide." In February 2001 CIA Director George Tenet noted, "Our adversaries well understand U.S. strategic dependence on access to space. Operations to disrupt, degrade, or defeat U.S. space assets will be attractive options for those seeking to counter U.S. strategic military superiority."

The CIA Director added, "China is developing ground-based laser weapons and electronic pulse weapons that can blind or destroy U.S. satellites." In July 2000 the Chinese news agency Xinhua noted, "For countries that could never win a war by using the methods of tanks and planes, attacking the U.S. space system may be an irresistible and most tempting choice." This irresistible and tempting choice would prove highly effective against U.S. forces, as verified in the U.S. Space War Games held in Colorado Springs in January 2001.

In March 2001 Air Force General Ralph Eberhart, then head of the U.S. Space Command and promoted to Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, noted China is developing cyber-warfare capabilities that could put at risk the computer networks U.S. military forces increasingly rely on. His observation as Space Commander, in charge of the U.S. information warfare program, is especially pertinent.

China's strategy of nuclear deterrence plans to seize the initiative with inferior forces, believing that the threat of nuclear retaliation upon just a small number of U.S. cities will be sufficient to ensure deterrence, and prevent the United States from deep involvement with Taiwan. As recorded by Bill Gertz in his book *Betrayal*, in 1995 PLA General Xiong Guangkai told Charles Freeman, a former Assistant Secretary of Defense, that "In the end, you care a lot more about Los Angeles than you do about Taipei."

China's war planning will take advantage of its strategic alliance with Saddam Hussein. With Saddam as an ally, China will be able to threaten the flow of oil from the Middle East, and threaten Israel. Iraqi troops have infiltrated into Jordan. To further threaten the flow of oil from the Middle East, China has formed alliances with Pakistan and Myanmar, providing itself with access to the strategic strait of Malacca, connecting the Persian Gulf to the Far East.

China is preparing for direct military confrontation with the United States on its own terms. It plans to take advantage of the element of surprise, seeking to attack U.S. satellites, intelligence, communications, and forces in a sudden blow of lightning warfare, seizing the initiative. The effectiveness of China's strategy will be heightened by the lack of U.S. ballistic missile defense and China's corresponding buildup of ballistic missiles of all types—short, intermediate and long-range.

The United States needs to ask itself if it is ready for China's attack especially in a simultaneous confrontation with Saddam Hussein. We must prepare accordingly. Urgency is required.

Very truly yours,

BOB SCHAFFER,
Member of Congress
from Colorado.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO RUSSELL VIELE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute and recognize Russell Viele of Rifle, Colorado and thank him for his contributions to this nation. Russell began his service in the military in the 1950's, and served as a Marine in the Korean War. Upon his discharge, Russell had accumulated over eight years of service to the Marine Corps.

Russell joined the Marines on July 1, 1952 and attended basic training in San Diego. Following graduation, he went on to mechanical school in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. As a mechanical student, Russell graduated at the head of his class and was assigned back to California. It was from there that Russell left for the Korean War where he was assigned to a motor pool in Japan.

Russell's duty, while in the motor pool, was to maintain the large five-ton trucks that were crucial to troop and ration supply for combat units in the theater. He was stationed there for fourteen months, promoted three times, and left the country at the end of the war as a Sergeant. He finished his tour with the Marines in the Mohave Desert of California. Russell now makes his home in Rifle, Colorado.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to recognize and pay tribute to Russell Viele for his service to his country during the Korean War. He served selflessly in a time of great need, bringing credit to himself and this nation. Paul Russell is one reason that our country enjoys the freedom that we hold so high today.

RETIREMENT OPPORTUNITY EXPANSION ACT OF 2001

HON. WILLIAM J. COYNE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2001

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation, the "Retirement Opportunity Expansion Act of 2001," that would increase pension participation for workers without pensions, low-wage workers, and women. Joining me in this effort are Congressman CHARLES B. RANGEL, the ranking member of the Committee on Ways and Means, and Congressman ROBERT T. MATSUI, the ranking member of the Social Security Subcommittee.

Earlier this year the House passed H.R. 10, "The Comprehensive Retirement Security and Pension Reform Act." I saw that bill as a beginning, a first step, to improve retirement opportunities for workers in this country. But, at that time, I emphasized the need to do more to address the many gaps and shortfalls in pension coverage.

In March 1999, the Oversight Committee of the Committee on Ways and Means held hearings on pension issues. At those hearings, Teresa Heinz, in her capacity as Chairman of the Heinz Foundation Philanthropies,

testified that nearly 40 percent of women are dependent on Social Security for almost all of their retirement income because they have fewer opportunities to participate in the retirement plans provided by employers. This is but one aspect of the problems facing our country as the baby-boom generation begins to retire and younger workers lack adequate pension coverage.

I believe that steps must be taken to help employees to fund their retirement accounts, to assist small business owners to start and maintain pension plans for themselves and their employees, and to provide women with improved retirement income protections. To that end, I have included in this bill a refundable tax credit that is substantially the same as that provided for in the Democratic substitute which was introduced by Mr. NEAL in the 106th Congress.

Recently I ask the General Accounting Office (GAO) to look at the extent of pension coverage among American workers and the likely effects of increasing contribution limits in defined contribution plans, the type of pension plan that covers most pension participants. GAO identified what I believe to be disturbing trends in the degree of pension participation among lower-income and women workers. For instance, while 47 percent of all workers participate in some type of a pension plan, only 38 percent of workers earning less than \$40,000 per year participate in a pension plan. Fully 70 percent of workers earning between \$40,000 and \$74,999 participate in a plan. GAO also revealed that 56 percent of female workers do not participate in a pension plan.

The disparities in coverage are even greater when looking at defined contribution plans. In a defined contribution plan, the employee may provide all or a portion of the funds and decide how to invest the money. There is no guaranteed benefit amount or formula as there are in traditional defined benefit plans. Of all workers who earned less than \$40,000 per year, 28 percent participated in defined contribution plans. Only 32 percent of all female workers participated in defined contribution plans. Further, GAO found that only 8% of all defined contribution plan participants would likely benefit directly from increases in statutory contribution limits. Thus, it is clear that changes in contribution limits will do little directly to promote or extend coverage to workers lacking pension coverage.

Clearly greater effort is needed to encourage and facilitate pension participation, especially among lower-income workers and women.

After considering GAO's findings and revisiting the issues raised during our consideration of H.R. 10, I am introducing a pension bill which addresses the following issues: The expansion of pension coverage for workers without pensions; the expansion of coverage for low-wage workers; the improvement of pension coverage for women; and the creation of additional incentives for small businesses to provide pension coverage for employees.

These are the very issues I emphasized in May during our deliberation of H.R. 10.

Because the findings of the GAO and the research of other groups such as the Pension Rights Center and the Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement (WISER) demonstrate that