

coming down to visit with us tonight. This is a very important issue.

Ultimately, if we open up the markets and we allow American consumers to have access to prescription drugs at world market prices, I believe that this simple little amendment, once fully implemented, could save American consumers \$30 billion.

I may be wrong, it may be \$28 billion, it may be \$31 billion, but even here in Washington, that is a lot of money. If one is a consumer that needs a drug, like that lady with that ointment, and one can save \$1,200 a year buying the same drug that comes from the same manufacturer from the same FDA-approved facility simply by picking up a phone and making a \$2 phone call to Ireland, I do not think we as public policymakers should stand idly by and allow our own FDA to stand between American consumers, and particularly American senior consumers, we should not and cannot stand idly by and allow our own FDA to stand between those people and lower prescription drug prices.

I just want to close with a few other points. Some say a Medicare drug benefit will eliminate the need for importation and open markets. Mr. Speaker, if we think about that argument for even a moment we will realize that simply shifting high drug prices to the government only transfers these huge pharmaceutical bills to the American taxpayers.

Moreover, Medicare coverage will not help the millions of Americans who currently have no prescription drug benefit. So simply shifting the burden of \$300 billion, or whatever the number we ultimately come up with, and I support expanding the Medicare program. In fact, I think the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. GANSKE) has the best program in doing it through the Medicaid systems that every State already has in place.

But it is not an answer to just create a new entitlement funded by the Federal Government. If we do not get control of prices of prescription drugs, if we continue to allow what really amounts to unregulated monopolies, where American consumers, through the Tax Code, through the research dollars that taxpayers pay for and ultimately through the prices that they pay for, if we stand idly by and say, well, I guess American consumers have to pay for all of the research of all of the governments and all the other people of the rest of the world, then shame on us. Shame on us. We have an opportunity tomorrow to set the record straight.

We do not necessarily want price controls in the United States. We do not want a huge bureaucracy and more regulations. But we do want to have access to markets.

In a couple of weeks, we are going to have another great debate about free

trade. The President of the United States, I have supported giving the President what used to be called fast track trading authority. Now I think we have a somewhat different name, advanced trade authority or trade promotion authority. There is some other term for it.

Basically, I support giving the President more latitude to negotiate trade agreements. I support that idea. I support free markets.

However, Mr. Speaker, I support free markets when it comes to American consumers, too. We cannot just have free markets when it benefits large corporations, we have to have free markets when they benefit consumers, too.

This idea that we are going to stand idly by and allow American consumers to pay three, four, five, six, seven times more for the same prescription drugs in the Information Age, as they say back home, that dog will not hunt.

I do not know if we are going to win this debate tomorrow on the amendment or not. I do not know what is going to happen. We have given every good argument. We have talked about free trade, about safety, about prices, about how we can help American consumers.

I do not know whether we are going to win this amendment tomorrow, but we are going to fight a good fight. We are saying to the administration, it is time for them to decide, are they going to stand on the side of the big pharmaceutical industries? Are they going to defend an FDA bureaucracy which cannot even protect American consumers all that well from food-borne pathogens? Or are they going to stand with American consumers, stand with seniors?

I will say this, if the FDA decides that they want to take Grandma to court for trying to save an extra \$35 on a three-months' supply of coumadin, some of the people in this room are going to be there on the courthouse steps to meet them.

This is an important issue. It amounts to billions of dollars. It is the right thing to do. It is good policy, and ultimately, it means good things for American consumers.

Frankly, I think in the long light of history it will be good for the pharmaceutical industry, because it will force the Europeans to rethink their pricing structures. It will level the playing field. That is what we want to do, and we hope tomorrow, with the support of the Members of this Congress, we are going to get that done and send a clear message that we stand with American consumers, we stand with free markets.

It is time for us to say the subsidization of the starving Swiss must end.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FLAKE). Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I,

the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 45 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

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AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. FLAKE) at 9 o'clock and 49 minutes p.m.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of attending a funeral for a family member.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of official business in the district.

Mr. PUTNAM (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for June 25 and the balance of the week on account of attending the birth of his first child.

Mr. PAUL (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today and the balance of the week on account of a death in the family.

Mr. TOOMEY (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today on account of travel delays.

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today on account of travel delays.

Mr. WICKER (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today on account of travel delays.

Mr. CANNON (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today on account of family medical issues.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

The following Members (at the request of Mr. McNULTY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FILNER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MATHESON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. LANGEVIN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. RAHALL, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CUMMINGS, for 5 minutes, today.

The following Member (at the request of Mr. FLAKE) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:

Mr. SIMMONS, for 5 minutes, July 12.

The following Member (at his own request) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:

Mr. SMITH of Michigan, for 5 minutes, today.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 50 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until Wednesday, July 11, 2001, at 10 a.m.

OMISSION FROM THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD OF TUESDAY, JUNE 26, 2001

OATH OF OFFICE MEMBERS, RESIDENT COMMISSIONER, AND DELEGATES

The oath of office required by the sixth article of the Constitution of the United States, and as provided by section 2 of the act of May 13, 1884 (23 Stat. 22), to be administered to Members, Resident Commissioner, and Delegates of the House of Representatives, the text of which is carried in 5 U.S.C. 3331:

I, AB, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God.

has been subscribed to in person and filed in duplicate with the Clerk of the House of Representatives by the following Member of the 107th Congress, pursuant to the provisions of 2 U.S.C. 1825:

Honorable J. RANDY FORBES, 4th Virginia.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

2743. A letter from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Cranberries Grown in the States of Massachusetts, et al.; Establishment of Marketable Quantity and Allotment Percentage; Reformulation of Sales Histories and Other Modifications Under the Cranberry Marketing Order [Docket Nos. FV01-929-2 FR and FV00-929-7 FR] received July 2, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2744. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting the District of Columbia Fiscal Year 2002 Budget Request Act and Fiscal Year 2001 Supplemental Budget Request, pursuant to Public Law 105-33 section 11701(a)(1) (111 Stat. 780);

(H. Doc. No. 107-94); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

2745. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General James C. King, United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

2746. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Donald L. Peterson, United States Air Force, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

2747. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's revisions to both the Fiscal Year (FY) 2001 and FY 02 Annual Materials Plan (AMP); to the Committee on Armed Services.

2748. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's review of policy on payment of claims; to the Committee on Armed Services.

2749. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule—Resolution Funding Corporation Operations (RIN: 1505-AA79) received June 5, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2750. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule—Mortgage Insurance Premiums in Multifamily Housing Programs [Docket No. FR-4679-I-01] (RIN: 2502-AH64) received July 3, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2751. A letter from the Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Federal Housing Administration's (FHA) Annual Management Report for Fiscal Year 2001, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 9106; to the Committee on Financial Services.

2752. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting a copy of the Corporation's Annual Report for calendar year 2000, pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 1827(a); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2753. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations [Docket No. FEMA-B-7415] received July 2, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2754. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting the Agency's final—National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP); Clarification of Letter of Map Amendment Determinations (RIN: 3067-AD19) received July 2, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2755. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting the Agency's final—Final Flood Elevation Determinations—received July 2, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2756. A letter from the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Electronic Submission of Securities Transaction Information by Exchange Members, Brokers, and Dealers [Release No. 34-44494; File No. S7-12-

00] (RIN: 3235-AH69) received July 3, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2757. A letter from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, transmitting a report on the Cost Estimate For Pay-As-You-Go Calculations; to the Committee on the Budget.

2758. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, Planning and Innovation, Department of Education, transmitting Final Regulations—Federal Family Education Loan Program and William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program, pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 1232(f); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

2759. A letter from the Deputy Director, National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, Department of Education, transmitting Final Priority—Improving Vocational Rehabilitation Services for Individuals who are Blind or have Severe Visual Impairments and on Improving Vocational Rehabilitation Services for Individuals Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing, pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 1232(f); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

2760. A letter from the Deputy Director National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, Department of Education, transmitting Final Priority—Strategies for Promoting Information Technology (IT)-based Educational Opportunities for Individuals with Disabilities, Strategies for Promoting Information Technology (IT)-based Employment and Training Opportunities for Individuals with Disabilities, and Wayfinding Technologies for Individuals Who Are Blind, pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 1232(f); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

2761. A letter from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule—American Indian and Alaska Native Education Research Grant Program—received June 22, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

2762. A letter from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule—Federal Work-Study Programs, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant Program, and Special Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership Program—received June 25, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

2763. A letter from the Chairperson, National Council on Disability, transmitting the Council's Report entitled, "The Accessible Future"; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

2764. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Commerce, transmitting the third annual report mandated by the International Anti-Bribery and Fair Competition Act of 1998; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2765. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's report on the effectiveness of delivery of electronic records to consumers using electronic mail as compared with the delivery of written records via the US Postal Service and private express mail services, pursuant to Section 105(a) of the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act of 2000; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2766. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's