

& Sons Company for being a leader in minority business development by entering a multiyear master service agreement with All Printing and Graphics Incorporated, a certified minority business enterprise headed by Mr. Hoyett Owens.

This agreement goes beyond the ordinary tier one vendor relationship and creates a new model that encompasses the spirit of minority business development. This alliance enables an important minority-owned business in Chicago to draw on R.R. Donnelley's manufacturing, information technology and product development resources, making All Printing and Graphics one of the leading minority-owned printing companies in the country.

R.R. Donnelley is a premier, full-service global print provider and the largest printing company in North America. It was founded 140 years ago and serves the largest companies in the world through a comprehensive range of verifiable printing services and market-specific solutions.

All Printing and Graphics provides award-winning graphic design and imprinting services. Under the leadership of Mr. Hoyett Owens, it developed from a small printing company to a multimillion-dollar business that was selected by Chicago's Civic Committee of Inner City Business Development and the city of Chicago for a unique program connecting strong minority companies with large corporations.

The relationship between R.R. Donnelley & Sons Company and All Printing and Graphics, Incorporated, can serve as an example of a possible solution to the problems facing small businesses.

There are an estimated 25 million small businesses in America. They employ half of our workers that account for half of our gross domestic product and create three out of every four new jobs. Small businesses have and will continue to pull the U.S. economy out of recession. They anchor our neighborhoods, employ and train our workers, and take care of our families. They are the reason that the United States economy has consistently been known as the strongest in the world.

Despite all of their contributions, they still have many problems and face many barriers, access to capital, opportunity for new markets.

The agreement between R.R. Donnelley and All Printing and Graphics is an example of something called BusinessLINC, where a major business links with a smaller business in order to provide not only resources but also technical assistance and open markets for the smaller unit.

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And so I commend R.R. Donnelley and All Printing and Graphics as an example of how to strengthen and develop small business enterprises in this

country and make sure that small businesses continue to grow, thrive and develop.

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take the time of the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRBACHER).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Minnesota?

There was no objection.

DRUG PRICES IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to talk about an issue that is not new to this Congress and certainly is not new to the American people, and that is the price that Americans pay for prescription drugs relative to the rest of the industrialized world.

I started this pilgrimage about 5 or 6 years ago. Many Members do not know how I got involved in this, but the issue that got me involved was the price of pigs. Because about 5½ years ago, the price of live hogs in the United States collapsed. It dropped from about \$37 per hundred-weight down to about \$7 per hundred-weight. So these farmers started to call me and say, Can't you do something about this, Congressman? And I said, Well, I don't know what we can do. They said, At least can you stop all these Canadian pigs from coming across our border making our market even more difficult?

So I did what any good Congressman would do, I called the Secretary of Agriculture, I called the Secretary of Commerce, and essentially I got the same answer. And the answer was: Well, that's called NAFTA. That's called free trade. We have open borders. I said, You mean we have open borders when it comes to pork bellies but not open borders when it comes to Prilosec? And the Secretary of Commerce literally said to me, Well, I guess that's right. I said, Well, that doesn't sound right to me.

So I got some charts and started comparing what Americans pay for drugs compared to Canada and Europe, and I started bringing these charts down to the floor of the House and talking about those differences and saying essentially that if we are going to have open markets that our farmers have to compete with, then the big pharmaceutical companies ought to have to compete as well.

Last year, I had a chart from Germany, and we have some relationships now with some of the pharmacies around the world, and they give us regular prices in terms of what they are

charging for the drugs. Last year, the difference between Germany and the United States, depending on how you look at it, about a 40 percent difference.

Over the last year, the price of the American dollar has declined by over 20 percent relative to the Euro. So when we got these charts, I was afraid the differences would have all but evaporated. Lo and behold, the prices are even more exaggerated today than they were a year ago. In other words, prices here in the United States, the differential is even greater today than it was a year ago, even though the value of the dollar has declined by 20 percent.

Let me give a couple of examples of drugs people might recognize. One is the drug Nexium, the new purple pill. At the local pharmacy in Rochester, Minnesota, a 30-day supply of Nexium, 20 milligrams, is \$145. You can buy that same package of Nexium at the Metropolitan Pharmacy in Frankfurt, Germany for \$60.25.

Norvasc, 30 tablets, \$54.83 in the United States, \$19.31 over in Germany.

But here is one that really got our attention: Zocor. In the United States, \$85.39; in Germany, \$23.83. What is interesting there is we negotiate and get good deals for Federal employees. The Federal copay right now for Zocor is \$30. In other words, you can buy it walking in off the street with a prescription in Frankfurt, Germany, cheaper than you can the copay for Federal employees.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to serve notice tonight that this issue is not going to go away, I am not going to go away, and the people of not only my State but people all over the country are only demanding we get fair prices. We as Americans subsidize the pharmaceutical industry in three separate ways. First of all, we pay for a big share of the research. This year we will spend about 27 billion taxpayer dollars to fund basic research and research in drugs and chemicals and so forth to determine what might work. And many of those things are given to the pharmaceutical industry, essentially, and then they patent those drugs. So we do subsidize a big part of their research.

Second, we subsidize them through the Tax Code. Literally, they write off all the costs they have for research. In fact, in some cases they get tax credits, research and development tax credits.

Finally, we subsidize them through the prices we pay.

Now, I believe in patents, and I do not believe anybody should be stealing other people's patents. And I do not believe that we as Americans should escape paying our fair share for the cost of these drugs. I think it is fair we pay our fair share. I think we should subsidize the people in sub-Saharan Africa, for example. But I do not think Americans should be forced to continue to subsidize the starving Swiss and the