

holds FDA to the same performance goals for review times—it just keeps review times from getting slower.

The bill we are considering today contains another important advance for animal drugs. Under the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, FDA is required to review and act on generic animal drug applications within 180 days. Unfortunately, in fiscal year 2007, the average review time for generic animal drug applications was 570 days, and there was a backlog of 446 of these submissions. Without Congressional action, the proposed target for action in fiscal year 2009 is 700 days—nearly 2 years. This is an untenable position.

We all know that FDA is seriously underfunded. Like many of you, I would prefer that appropriations be used to fund the agency's activities. But that is simply not in the offing. An appropriated dollar is better than a user fee dollar, but a user fee dollar is better than no dollar at all. The Animal Generic Drug User Fee Act under consideration today would create a new program to fund the reviews of animal generic drugs. This program will lead to progressive improvements in performance, with the time for review and action on submissions decreasing each year.

If we do not proceed with this initiative, our farmers, ranchers, veterinarians and pet owners like you and me will not be able to capture the savings that result from generic animal drug use. I want to point out that even with the creation of this new user fee, the performance goals do not return animal generic drug review times to the statutory requirement of 180 days. By fiscal year 2013, the fifth year of the program, the proposed review target is 270 days. Once again, the best we can do is to keep things from getting much worse as quickly.

The bill before us today also includes a section expanding and streamlining the reporting of the amount of antibiotics that are used to treat animals that are sold annually and the label information about those antibiotics. This reporting language is a carefully crafted compromise between the farmer, rancher and veterinarian communities on one side and those who think the FDA has inadequate information to assess the potential public health impact of antibiotic use on the other. I appreciate the House Members and staff and outside groups who worked together to achieve this agreement.

Finally, this bill contains just two of several changes necessary to properly implement the Food and Drug Administration Amendments Act of 2007. As with any large piece of legislation, there are some technical corrections necessary to fix inadvertent errors in the law.

These technical corrections are critical to ensuring that key drug safety and transparency provisions in the bill

work as intended. I am disappointed that we could not complete agreement on a package in time to attach the package to ADUFA. I am even more discouraged that the House chose to cherry-pick just the technical corrections they wanted and attach those instead.

But given the approaching deadline for renewing ADUFA, we cannot afford to hold this important program hostage to unrelated provisions. I intend to continue pressing for passage of a full package of technical corrections. I appreciate Chairman DINGELL's commitment to continuing to meet and work on this, and I look forward to preparing a full package of technical corrections that can be accepted by both Houses and go into effect.

I thank my colleagues for their hard work on these proposals. We have some work still ahead of us, but the bill before us today contains much that is good. I strongly urge my colleagues to support final passage.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 6432) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

THE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the following items en bloc: Calendar Nos. 913 through 920.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senate proceeded to consider the bills en bloc.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bills be read a third time and passed en bloc, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating to these measures be printed in the RECORD.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CEECEE ROSS LYLES POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (S. 3241) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1717 Orange Avenue in Fort Pierce, Florida, as the "CeeCee Ross Lyles Post Office Building," was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 3241

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CEECEE ROSS LYLES POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1717

Orange Avenue in Fort Pierce, Florida, shall be known and designated as the "CeeCee Ross Lyles Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "CeeCee Ross Lyles Post Office Building".

DOCK M. BROWN POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 4210) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 401 Washington Avenue in Weldon, North Carolina, as the "Dock M. Brown Post Office Building," was ordered to a third reading, read the third time, and passed.

CHI MUI POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 5477) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 120 South Del Mar Avenue in San Gabriel, California, as the "Chi Mui Post Office Building," was ordered to a third reading, read the third time, and passed.

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS DAVID H. SHARRETT II POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 5483) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 10449 White Granite Drive in Oakton, Virginia, as the "Private First class David H. Sharrett II Post Office Building," was ordered to a third reading, read the third time, and passed.

CORPORAL BRADLEY T. ARMS POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 5631) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1155 Seminole Trail in Charlottesville, Virginia, as the "Corporal Bradley T. Arms Post Office Building," was ordered to a third reading, read the third time, and passed.

KENNETH JAMES GRAY POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 6061) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 219 East Main Street in West Frankfort, Illinois, as the "Kenneth James Gray Post Office Building," was ordered to a third reading, read the third time, and passed.

GERALD R. FORD POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 6085) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 42222 Rancho Las Palmas Drive in Rancho Mirage, California, as the "Gerald R. Ford Post Office Building," was ordered to a third

reading, read the third time, and passed.

JOHN P. GALLAGHER POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 6150) to designate the facility of the United States Postal service located at 14500 Lorain Avenue in Cleveland, Ohio, as the "John P. Gallagher Post Office Building," was ordered to a third reading, read the third time, and passed.

DESIGNATING SENATOR PRYOR AS ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I had the good fortune in the Senate of serving with David Pryor, the Senator from Arkansas. He was a member of the Finance Committee and other very responsible positions, including the Ethics Committee. He was, I believe, what the stereotype of a Senator should be. He worked hard and he is very smart. He was so easy to get along with. I do not think I have ever served with a better legislator in my life than David Pryor.

Unfortunately for Arkansas and our country, he was taken ill. He had a very severe heart attack and decided not to run for reelection. He is doing well. He is healthy. I talk to him on occasion. Whenever I go to Arkansas, I see him. But what a wonderful man to know.

The reason I mention that, fortunately for the people of Arkansas, his son MARK has replaced him. MARK has all the same characteristics as his dad. He is a man with a lot of humility. He works very hard. He knows the legislative process. He was attorney general of the State of Arkansas. He is an outstanding lawyer.

There were a lot of reasons we were able to complete that most significant legislation last night, the Consumer Product Safety Modernization Act. But it is the most sweeping improvement of the law that has taken place since the law was passed some 40 years ago. It was done under the direction of Senator INOUE. But Senator INOUE gives credit to MARK PRYOR who worked so hard to arrive at the solution he did, which was a piece of legislation that passed overwhelmingly in this body.

So, Mr. President, with that brief background, I ask unanimous consent that Senator PRYOR be designated as Acting President pro tempore of the Senate for the purpose of signing the conference report to accompany H.R. 4040, the Consumer Product Safety Modernization Act.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, what is the parliamentary state?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senate is on the motion to proceed to S. 3001, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes.

Mr. HATCH. Thank you, Mr. President.

Will the Chair please let me know when 9 minutes has expired.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator will be notified.

UNITED STATES ECONOMY

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, yesterday the Government released the second quarter performance of the U.S. economy, and I am sorry to say the report looks dismal. I, along with the rest of Americans, am outraged that Congress will depart shortly for a 5-week recess without addressing the most pressing issue of this Congress: our ailing economy and in particular energy. During this past month, we have passed bills to provide \$50 billion for support of international programs to combat HIV/AIDS, for Medicare, and to improve FISA. This past week, we finally passed a bill that addresses a sector of our economy by revamping Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. I certainly believe we can and should have done more than that.

In November of 2006, my party lost the majority in Congress, in both the House of Representatives and in the Senate. The Democrats ran on a platform of change, what they called "A New Direction For America." The Democrats pledged to push forward a 100-hour agenda that touted a change in ethics, an increase in the minimum wage, and a rollback in subsidies for the oil and gas industry. Look where that "direction" has led us. The price of energy has skyrocketed, the housing market has deteriorated, and the unemployment rate is on the rise. Across the Nation, we are feeling the effects of the crumbling economy. Yesterday, Bennigans and Steak & Ale restaurants have filed for bankruptcy, and Starbucks has recently announced the closing of 600 stores across America. It is time for the majority to wake up and smell the coffee.

Viewing this chart, it is no wonder why the congressional approval ratings are at an alltime low, at 12 percent. Congressional approval: 12 percent. Congress has failed to act when Americans need it the most.

At the end of 2006, when the Republicans controlled Congress, the average retail price of regular unleaded gasoline, according to the Energy Information Administration, was \$2.59. Look where it is today.

In June of this year, the average price of regular unleaded gasoline hit an average of \$4.06. Our friends on the other side have done absolutely nothing to address the rising costs of energy, and we are going home without having done so. We have proposed increasing the supply off our coasts, extending the expiring energy tax incentives, and reducing our dependence on foreign oil by providing alternative energy resources. The majority refuses to provide any solid bipartisan solutions because they keep insisting on their perverse let's-grow-the-Government, pay-as-you-go rules and combating the oil and gas industry as though they are the evil cause of everything. The fact is the Government does not produce one drop of oil. It does not drill one exploration well. It does not refine even 1 gallon of gasoline, and it doesn't build 1 foot of pipeline. Somehow, though, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle think every answer to dropping gas prices is more Government—more Government moratoria on drilling, more taxes on energy companies, more regulation of the commodity markets, more moratoriums on the development of oil shale, where we have somewhere between 800 billion and 2 trillion barrels of oil that can be recovered. It is doable. Estonia has been doing it for the last 80 years. Brazil has been doing it for the last three decades. We can do it, but there is a moratorium that doesn't expire until September, and now the Democrats want to put another moratorium on it—just on preparing the rules pursuant to which we can develop these vast resources that would help bring prices down. It wouldn't happen overnight, but I tell you one thing, if we went and tried to do all these things and we announced we were going to do them, I believe gas prices would automatically come down quite a bit more than they are right now.

This past week, the majority leader brought a bill to the floor to curtail oil price speculation, and while this was a start, my party tried to amend this bill to provide real solutions, ranging from expanding offshore drilling to boosting oil shale production. We were prevented from offering these various amendments, which was an opportunity to increase energy supply and to send the rest of the world a message that we are going to get serious about helping ourselves instead of sending \$700 billion every year off some shore for offshore oil.

Across the Capitol, the House refuses to even bring up legislation involving offshore drilling. I do not know how I can return home to my home State of