

INSULT SPEECH IS A CRIME IN THE NETHERLANDS

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in the Netherlands, it's against the law now to hurt somebody's feelings. Don't dare offend anyone or the speech police will cart you off to the courthouse and try you for the violation of the insensitivity laws.

Dutch lawmaker Geert Wilders made a documentary movie of real terrorist acts, real radical Islamic clerics encouraging violence in the name of hate; now, Wilders is on trial for insulting Islam. He is charged with discrimination and incitement to hatred.

The Dutch Ministry of Justice has stated, "It is irrelevant whether Wilders might prove his observations to be correct. What's relevant is his observations are illegal."

In Amsterdam, truthful insult speech is a crime. What kind of free society says truthful speech can be illegal?

Freedom of speech is a universal human right granted by God, especially if the speech is political or religious or truthful. All who believe in the human right of free speech should be offended and insulted by the insensitive words of the Amsterdam courts.

And that's just the way it is.

□ 1015

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. BACA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, American families in my district are struggling to make ends meet and pay for health care services. Unemployment is 16 percent. Foreclosure is the fourth in the Nation.

The proposal released by President Obama this week is a step towards a healthier future for families and small businesses. Health cost coverage should be a right, not a privilege for the few. That means no loss of coverage when you get sick; coverage for as many people as possible that is affordable; do away with unfair practices like discrimination of preexisting conditions and caps on coverage; lower drug costs for seniors and lower premiums for early retirement; and better access and stronger protection for women. Health care reform will create jobs and bring down the deficit.

In my State of California, Anthem Blue Cross proposed to raise their premiums with double-digit percentages. This must stop.

I urge my colleagues to work to achieve health care reform. Let's not work with piecemeal solutions that will go nowhere, but solve the problems once and for all.

WHITE HOUSE SUMMIT

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, instead of inviting Republicans to a conference table with a blank sheet of paper, the President's decided to introduce the same trillion-dollar Washington takeover of health care the public has already rejected. In Texas, we call that paying for the same real estate twice, and the American people aren't buying it.

They have been trying to tell the President in every way possible to stop the backroom decisions and secret deals. This week's so-called "bipartisan" summit is just more of the same.

Instead of pressing the reset button, the President's hosting a photo op. Using the illusion of bipartisanship as a political tool is wrong. It's not fooling anyone. If the President and Democrat leadership are serious about coming together on health care reform, then let's get out the of corral and start from scratch.

HEALTH CARE INSURANCE INDUSTRY FAIR COMPETITION ACT

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

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today the House is going to consider the Health Insurance Fair Competition Act. This bill will level the playing field by repealing the health insurance industry's unfair advantage and helping encourage competition by bringing down costs for families and businesses.

Everyone knows that competition drives our economy. Fair competition is what encourages innovation, ensures quality service, and drives costs down, and that applies to health insurance, too. Unfortunately, health insurance companies are exempt from these fair competition rules. This is like your neighborhood pharmacy calling up its competitor down the street and deciding to set all of their prices at the exact same amount. You can't do that. It's not fair to consumers, and no other business in the United States is allowed to act that way. What's fair for every other business in this country is certainly fair for the health insurance industry.

Today's bill makes commonsense changes, and I look forward to voting for it to make sure health insurance companies can no longer get away with price-fixing and other anti-competitive practices. Let's level the playing field.

HYDRAULIC FRACTURING

(Mr. FLEMING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, the same team that brought America the job-killing, tax-hiking cap-and-tax legislation appears to be at it again. Just last week Representatives WAXMAN and MARKEY began committee action aimed towards giving the EPA unprecedented power to enact oppressive regulations on hydraulic fracturing—the technology that allows producers to reach natural gas, which has been proven safe for over 60 years.

This action would have a far-reaching negative impact on energy producers and consumers alike, particularly in formations such as the Haynesville Shale in my district which depends on hydraulic fracturing. In 2008, the Haynesville Shale pumped \$4.5 billion into Louisiana's economy and created over 32,000 jobs.

Adding additional layers of regulations to hydraulic fracturing would not only result in sharp increases in costs to small and independent producers, it would dramatically decrease output and job creation. Production could grind to a halt and billions of dollars in Federal and State revenue would be at risk.

We need to get away, again, from this crazy scheme.

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, IS A GREAT CITY

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, recently Forbes magazine ranked what they called the most miserable cities in the country. Memphis, Tennessee, was third on that list. They considered certain issues but they didn't consider others.

They didn't consider the best barbecue in the United States of America; some of the greatest music; Beale Street; the great tourist center; gorgeous sunsets on the Mississippi River. They didn't consider the people of Memphis and the creativity that's emanated from there; Fred Smith and the greatest delivery of goods in the world, a system of freight delivery unrivaled; St. Jude's Children's Hospital that provides the gift of life and research into cancer and Nobel prize winners.

Opportunities for innovation are prevalent in Memphis. In music, Sam Phillips and Elvis Presley created rock-and-roll. And Willie Mitchell and Isaac Hayes and David Porter, and Stacks and Soulful.

I invite Chris Buckley, my friend, and Forbes magazine to come to Memphis and visit for themselves. Memphis has also got a great optometry school. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder. Maybe they'll leave with 20/20 vision.

NEW ORLEANS' ZULU SOCIAL AID AND PLEASURE CLUB

(Mr. CAO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CAO. Mr. Speaker, today I continue to honor Black History Month by paying tribute to New Orleans' Zulu Social Aid and Pleasure Club. The Zulus were founded in 1909 and have been an integral part of the social organization of African American communities for 100 years. They are a foundation of New Orleans' cultural framework through their participation in Mardi Gras and their community service activities.

The Zulus' Mardi Gras parade is one of the largest attractions for the tribal costumes, the singing and dancing, and the famous, ornate hand-painted coconuts they distribute to onlookers. In 1949, the King of the Zulu parade was none other than New Orleans' own Louis Armstrong, one of the greatest contributors to African American history and culture.

In addition, the Zulus have contributed to the fibers and spirit of our community through their scholarship funds, Adopt a School programs, health fairs, Positive Male Models program, and other activities.

The Zulus are the "everyman's club," and I am proud to recognize them and their contributions to Louisiana's culture and history.

NATIONAL EATING DISORDERS AWARENESS WEEK

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

Mrs. CAPPs. Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to acknowledge National Eating Disorders Awareness Week.

Millions of Americans struggle with an eating disorder. We must do more to increase public awareness about diagnosis, prevention, and treatment. One critical step we can take is to promote positive body image.

As we all know, the media has a significant influence on girls' and young women's perception of the ideal body size and shape. Sixty percent of girls say they compare their bodies to fashion models, and a staggering 90 percent say they feel pressured to be thin from the fashion industry.

Just as we witnessed with cigarette advertisements targeted at young women, fashion advertising often portrays a twisted ideal of beauty.

I urge my colleagues to take this opportunity during National Eating Disorders Awareness Week to work together to promote positive body image to the girls and women in your lives and in your congressional district. Our support on this issue is vital to ensure the physical, emotional, and social health of all our girls.

START OVER ON HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, while I was flattered that the President chose to include seven parts of my bill, the Medical Rights and Reform Act, in his latest health care proposal, he left out nearly every major reform in our centrist health care legislation, including the Medical Rights Act guaranteeing decisions made with your doctor will be made without government interference, lawsuit reform, and granting the right of every American to buy insurance from any State in the Union if you find a plan that is less expensive for your family or your small business.

The White House proposal is based on a very expensive Senate bill with half a dozen major new taxes levied in the teeth of the Great Recession. The new proposal would tax retirement savings, cut Medicare for seniors, and adds to our long-term deficit.

I urge the President to start over, to invite key congressional leaders to Camp David—there we could find reforms that we all support, like covering Americans with preexisting conditions—and present a more modest set of reforms that we all could support.

DON'T ASK DON'T TELL

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

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to respond to Army Secretary McHugh and to share the substance of an email from an active duty soldier in Afghanistan. In response to an inquiry from his commanding officer related to the military's review of the Don't Ask Don't Tell policy, the soldier shared how he and his partner of 10 years have managed multiple deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan.

He explained that they survived like any couple does, except, because of the Don't Ask Don't Tell policy, his partner would not be informed in the event of his death and could not make any emergency decisions that would normally fall to a spouse. This situation is typical, even within his unit.

He learned that a fellow soldier was also gay only after he was killed by an IED in Iraq. The partner of the deceased's soldier wrote the unit to say how much the victim had loved the military, how they were his family.

As Admiral Mullen said, this issue is a matter of integrity. This immutable human trait—sexual orientation—like the color of one's skin, does not affect one's integrity, their honor, or their commitment to their country. Soldiers serving their country in combat should not have their sacrifices compounded

by having to struggle with an antiquated Don't Ask Don't Tell policy.

Let's do the right and honorable thing and repeal this policy.

ANTHEM BLUE CROSS SHOULD BE ASHAMED OF ITSELF

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

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, Anthem Blue Cross should be ashamed of itself for raising premiums in California by 39 percent. People in my district have complained of increases as much as \$2,400 a year. How can anyone afford that kind of an increase? This at a time when the insurance lobby has spent millions of dollars to defeat health care reform in America. This at a time when Anthem passed \$4.2 billion to the parent company, WellPoint, in profits alone. It's beyond my comprehension how any Members of the people's House can continue to defend this behavior.

It's time to demand an answer to a question asked many years ago by Pete Seeger, "Whose side are you on?" You're either with the American people or you're with the insurance lobby. You either stand up for those who want affordable health insurance, or you lay down with the corporate titans who continue to care less about the American people.

Whose side are you on?

WHITE HOUSE SUMMIT MEDIA EVENT

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

Mr. PENCE. Well, tomorrow the White House will convene a so-called summit on health care reform. It's supposedly an effort to find bipartisan agreement and consensus on reform. And frankly, if the administration and Democrats in Congress were willing to scrap the bill and start over with a clean sheet of paper, I would be all for it.

The American people long for health care reform that will lower the cost of health care insurance without growing the size of government. But that is not what's happening here. Instead of scrapping the bill, the President's actually produced his own bigger, worse version of the bills that passed the House and Senate and then were summarily rejected by the American people: more spending, more taxes, more government, and coverage for abortion.

Instead of starting over, Democrats in Congress continue to threaten to abuse the very rules of this institution by passing some version of their health care reform bill by a simple majority in the Senate—known as reconciliation.