

working all day at the hospital or the school. We've always been a working class family. The thought of drawing welfare didn't set well with me."

Connie learned from her mother that "It's okay to take help when you absolutely have to have it, to help you get back on your feet. But she taught me that any honest work is noble, regardless of how little it pays. We have a responsibility to help ourselves."

Rose credits her mother for encouraging her to dream dreams and achieve her goals. "She's always told me I was smart and could do anything I wanted. That helped out a lot. When I was sitting at home doing nothing she told me I could do better. If not for her I don't think I would have tried. I didn't want to let her down."

Other boosts in Rose's self-esteem came from Holly Rivers, the CAP volunteer who tutored Rose, and from other CAP workers she met. "An organization like CAP has to be made up of people who care for people who want help. I came in here and expected, like anywhere else, to find snooty people who looked down on me. I always felt everyone was looking down on me, but everyone here treated me as an equal. They were friendly, and told me I could do it. After a while I saw that I could and knew I was as good as anyone else."

Wanda, Rose, Pete and Connie agree that the welfare system needs reform, but they all expressed concern about the elimination of benefits with the start of any work rather than withdrawing them slowly.

"Supplementation is a real key to welfare reform," Connie said. "You have to encourage people to at least try. If they're working a minimum wage job—obviously not enough to support a family—at least let them keep the medical card, something that encourages them to build up some self-esteem and some pride and not be so humiliated that they're taking handouts."

Connie said that capping welfare benefits is especially unrealistic in the rural area because of the lack of jobs. "If the jobs are not there to make a living wage, what choice do you have? We've had years and years of things the way they are that discourage people from trying. It's hard for a caring parent to give up a medical card and food for the children to go out and work minimum wage." A combination of jobs, education and better pay is crucial to meaningful reform, she said.

"I worry about people, but I know there are some people on welfare that are there just to be on welfare," Rose said. "I believe if they can work, they ought to. But it bothers me to think of people that are unable to get a job. I've got a brother on welfare that's not able to work. What's he going to do? Some people are not able to work and are on welfare to get by until they can do better; it's not right not to help them."

Wanda believes that the methods of welfare reform she's heard through the news media are unrealistic. "You're not going to be able to please everybody, and whatever you do, somebody's going to suffer. My overall view is that people should be able to use welfare as long as they need to, but let it be because you need to. Like the mother with the three kids, who knows that to go out and get a job at minimum wage is not going to do it. Fine, use the system as long as you need to, but after that let's look to doing better."

HONORING DOLORES A. KUREK

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 4, 1995

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of an educator, a mother, a wife, a devoted citizen, a woman ahead of her time, and a friend. Mrs. Dolores A. [Bodnar] Kurek. Dolores Kurek was a woman of great dedication in my community and throughout the Nation. On June 2, 1995, she passed away, much too young, at the age of 59 after a long courageous struggle with cancer. Her presence will be greatly missed by the thousands of lives she touched, and continues to touch.

Dolores Kurek was an exemplary leader in the field of science. She was the recipient of numerous awards including the engineering and math award in 1987, the exemplary women in science award, the teacher of the year award in 1991, and the Sears grant for science and engineering in 1993. However, for everyone who knew her, Dolores' greatest award was not one she received, but one she gave. Her illustrious teaching career spanned over 20 years of care, commitment, and devotion to spreading her personal love for science. Her commitment to advancing women in the sciences was unmatched. She personally organized Women in the Sciences Career Day for thousands of young women in high school throughout our region.

Even to the day of her passing, her personal quest for knowledge never faltered. Dolores Kurek was working on another Ph.D. this time in physics. She was continually learning for, and from, those around her. If the quote, "Read not to contradict and confute nor believe and take for granted, but to weigh and consider" ever had any one in mind, it might just have as well been for Dolores Kurek. She was a life-long learner.

She was a devoted wife of 38 years, a loving mother of six children, nine grandchildren, and a career educator at the high school and college level. The loss of Dolores Kurek is deeply felt throughout our community. It has been a personal gift and honor to have learned from her. I and all who knew her feel great privilege to have shared in her life and we express our gratitude for her life of dedication, commitment, and love. She will be missed.

DOES THE RIGHT HAND KNOW WHAT THE FAR RIGHT HAND IS DOING?

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 4, 1995

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I have been puzzled recently by Speaker GINGRICH's actions in certain regards. In particular, he seems to me to have been engaged in flirtations with some of the more extreme, unreasonable conspiracy theories that rattle around the right wing these days—for example, his support of the manner in which the Waco hearings were conducted and his refusal to accept the conclusion of several inde-

pendent investigators that Vince Foster was a suicide. We also have the erratic way in which the House is being run these days, with important legislation being considered in the middle of the night, with debate and votes separated, and with the general sense of discombobulation.

A recent column by Robert Novak in the Washington Post suggests some of the reasons—the Speaker, having benefited greatly from the energies of the very conservative elements that helped him take control of the Republican Party now is bothered by their insistence on his paying attention to their agenda. Since Mr. Novak has long been one of the in-house historians for the right wing in America, his discussion of the Speaker's rage at those on the right, and his frustration over his inability completely to control them explains a great deal. Because I think it is useful for people to be able to understand some of the puzzling things that have been happening in the House recently, which are otherwise inexplicable, I think it very useful that Mr. Novak's article be reprinted here.

ANGER AT THE DINNER TABLE

(By Roger D. Novak)

After spending three hours behind closed doors with the House Ethics Committee answering nuisance allegations by the Democratic leadership, Newt Gingrich last Thursday night erupted in anger at the dinner table—against his friends, not his enemies.

The speaker of the House was the guest at a dinner hosted by R. Emmett Tyrrell, editor of the American Spectator, and attended mainly by conservative journalists. The immediate cause for Gingrich's ire was my column that day suggesting that he and other Republicans were flinching on affirmative action. But his complaints were much broader.

For the first time in the 104th Congress, the speaker seemed at bay. His ill humor, his own aides said, was in no small part the product of fatigue. But beyond that, Gingrich is vexed with conservatives, inside and outside the House, who are crossing him on the highly charged issues of race and abortion. A major political leader is in grave danger when he assails his base.

Gingrich's aides, who had never seen him as out of control for so sustained a period as he was last Thursday night, attribute it to an unbelievably heavy work load. Republican colleagues in the House, at the point of exhaustion trying to enact their revolutionary program, wonder how their leader fulfills that schedule while also running a shadow campaign for president and promoting his best-selling book.

Fatigue can be cured by a little rest. Gingrich's bigger problem lies with the ideological heart of his party. His long-time supporter and sometime critic, conservative activist Paul Weyrich, worries that Gingrich is following the bad example of the Reagan White House in setting parameters of permissible conservatism.

In effect, the speaker is saying: Nobody can be to the right of me and be respectable. From the speaker's office come complaints that conservative congressmen want him to force passage of proposals that do not command a majority in the House.

At the American Spectator dinner, historian Gingrich compared the course of Republicans in Congress today to the way U.S. forces temporarily bogged down in France in 1944 after the Normandy landing. Democratic defenders of big government, he said, are fighting for their lives. This is a struggle of seven-day weeks and 16-hour days. But unlike his hero, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower,

Gingrich feels he is facing fire from his own troops.

His voice rising, the speaker pointed to journalists at the table and said they were acting like, well, like journalists. He was "infuriated," he said, by my column on affirmative action and asserted that I was wrong in saying his book, "To Renew America," does not mention the subject. (He cited a two-page chapter on "Individual Versus Group Rights" that never mentions affirmative action or quotas or proposes a specific solution.)

Gingrich went on to repeat what Jack Kemp said: that Republicans will rue a race-based campaign for president in 1996. He angrily lamented that black Republicans feel they are losing a golden opportunity to bring African Americans into the party. He described fears of such blacks as his Georgia congressional colleague and fighter for civil rights in the '60s, Rep. John Lewis, and warned against instilling apprehension about "resegregation."

Warning to his subject, Gingrich complained about conservatives bringing the party to ruin by opposing a rape-and-incest exception to federally financed abortions (another subject he avoids confronting directly in his book). He did not say so, but word has spread that he will cast a rare vote (the speaker usually does not vote) on the rape-and-incest exception.

In less than eight months, Gingrich has established himself potentially as one of the most powerful and effective speakers in the nation's history. He is unquestionably the most visionary and charismatic figure in the Republican Party. But the strain of "renewing America" is showing.

He seems more tolerant of the 25 or so House Republican moderates who oppose key elements of the party program than of some 200 conservatives who feel deeply about reverse discrimination and abortion on demand. That is not how the Republican majority was built, and it is not how it can be maintained.

HONORING DR. LONNIE BRISTOW
ON HIS ASCENSION TO PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 4, 1995

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Lonnie Bristow, a concerned physician, a constituent from San Pablo, CA., and a man with a heavy responsibility as we close out this century. Dr. Bristow was recently elected president of the American Medical Association. Dr. Bristow is also the first black president of the powerful medical organization.

I have worked with Dr. Bristow over the years as we have tried to find a solution to the many health insurance problems facing our country. Dr. Bristow and the AMA will be at the center of this critical and ongoing debate.

I wish Dr. Bristow many successes in his new position and I look forward to continuing to work together. I believe the article attached here from the Los Angeles Times captures the commitment Dr. Bristow has to his new position as president of the AMA and to pursuing health care policies that will benefit the entire Nation.

Attached, article from the Los Angeles Times, Tuesday, July 18, 1995 "He Might Have the Cure for Medicine's Ills".

HE MIGHT HAVE THE CURE FOR MEDICINE'S ILLS

(By Bettijane Levine)

It is oddly reassuring to spend time with Dr. Lonnie Bristow, small-town doctor and newly elected president of the American Medical Assn.—the first black president in the AMA's 148-year history.

During those moments, you bathe in the aura of a kindly, assertive man who believes that the current crisis in American medicine is not a fatal condition, and that in his new capacity he can help to make it better.

If Bristow can be believed—and he admits it might require a leap of faith for some familiar with AMA history—the way to start curing medicine's ills is for doctors to rejoin the organization that a majority of them have abandoned in recent years. Only 40% of U.S. doctors now belong to the AMA, down from 70% two decades ago.

We are in an era when doctors are losing control of the care of their patients. Bristow says; when patients sense that the quality of care is diminishing; when some of the country's great medical institutions are endangered because of lack of funds and drastic cutbacks.

"We now have health care being controlled by MBAs rather than by physicians committed to the Hippocratic oath," Bristow says, referring to the corporations from which most Americans receive health insurance. "And once health care becomes corporatized, as it has, and once it goes on the open stock market, then its major commitment is to Wall Street and the stockholders to maximize profits, rather than to give the best possible patient care. Business principles are introduced that unfortunately put patient care second to corporate profits."

It is an uncharacteristically direct outburst for Bristow, 65, who has worked his way up through the ranks of the AMA, who appears to be the consummate organization man, and who speaks sincerely but cautiously during an interview.

His discretion has apparently been honed to a fine point during 30 years of participation in the AMA, considered by many to have been a racist organization.

For much of the AMA's history, black doctors were not allowed to join. Unit 1968, the organization permitted state and local branches to deny membership to black doctors simply because they were black.

The AMA also backed South Africa's medical society in international medical meetings, although the group supported apartheid until 1989.

Bristow, who has practiced internal medicine for 30 years in San Pablo, Calif., speaks in a soft voice unmarked by anger or agitation.

He acknowledges that when he joined the organization in 1958, after finishing his internship at San Francisco City and County Hospital, "There were parts of the country where black Americans could not join." But in San Francisco, he says, "there was nothing to it."

His philosophy regarding many tough issues, including racism, he says, "is that if you want to change something, you do it from the inside. You don't stand outside and complain about it."

He applies that reasoning to doctors who have broken away from what Bristow calls "the mother group," preferring to belong only to associations related to their own medical specialties. Cardiologists, radiologists, urologists and others have begun to think of themselves as specialists above all else, Bristow says.

Many have splintered into even smaller subgroups, he says, preferring to associate with those who are like them in the sense

that they support or oppose abortion rights, are Republican or Democratic, are fee-for-service or salaried.

Bristow's goal as president will be to "make all these doctors understand that we have much more to unify us than to divide us. What we have in common is much more meaningful than that which might pull us apart."

If the defecting doctors can be persuaded to "come back under the umbrella of the AMA," he believes, "we will have more leverage and a better chance to get the kind of medical care for our patients that most of us want."

"The entire profession of medicine, and the doctor-patient relationship we all respect and love, has sailed into harm's way," he says. "We have to pull together the way any family would in a time of trouble," to get medicine back on the right track.

Bristow, a tall, imposing figure in a charcoal gray suit, stops to ponder for a moment.

"It's hard for me to explain just how exhilarating and personally satisfying it is to make an impact on another human being's life in a positive way. Doctors share that, above all else. It is the reason we became doctors in the first place."

"That ability to make an impact, to help improve patients' lives" is being eroded by corporatized health care that is not run by doctors but by business people and that dictates what treatment, and how much treatment, doctors can prescribe, Bristow says. "It intimidates doctors into acquiescing," he says.

"That is a major reason for doctors to band together, no matter what their specialties or political beliefs."

"I don't expect all doctors to agree on everything. But on certain key issues, such as the sanctity of the doctor-patient relationship, the importance of freedom to choose which doctor to see, the importance of physicians being able to practice medicine the way they think is appropriate—those are issues which all doctors should be able to rally around."

He says that AMA will support a Patient Protection Act in Congress at the end of summer. It would guarantee, he says, full disclosure about all insurance programs, so potential subscribers will know the program's track record, whether previous users have been satisfied, and how much of the premium they pay actually is spent on patient care as opposed to dividends to stockholders and salaries for corporate managers.

The act would also mandate that physicians who contract with an insurance program may "not be fired without cause and without due process." Physicians are being threatened by insurance companies who vow to fire them from the group if they do not practice medicine the way the insurance company directs them to, Bristow says.

The AMA, he says, is working to get universal health-care coverage, to make health care portable, and to make it available to people with pre-existing conditions.

Bristow was born in Harlem to a Baptist minister father and a mother who was a nurse at nearby Sydenham hospital.

His interest in medicine began, he says, when as a boy he would go to the hospital emergency room to pick up his mother and accompany her on the walk home. There were medical workers of all races pulling together there, he recalls, and they were saving people's lives.

Bristow received his bachelor's degree from City College in New York in 1953, and his medical degree from the New York University College of Medicine in 1957.

He went to Northern California for his internship and residency, and has specialized in occupational health there since.