

With its signature stein collection, one of the largest and most interesting in the United States, the Student Prince offers its guests a unique dining experience. From the stained glass windows and original woodwork of the bar area, to the quaintness of the Heidelberg room, the restaurant evokes images of an earlier age. And whether you're enjoying such traditional German fare as Sauerbraten or sipping a boot of Oktoberfest, a visit to the Student Prince is always memorable.

Named after Sigmund Romberg's light-hearted operetta of student life, the reputation and lore of the Student Prince and the Fort continues to grow. In September, Rupprecht Scherff celebrated his 81st birthday surrounded by family and friends all of whom look forward to the restaurant's next 60 years.

Mr. Speaker, the face of downtown Springfield has changed dramatically in the last half century, but the Student Prince has thankfully remained the same. An enduring testament to excellence and tradition. On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives, I congratulate the Sherff family and the entire staff of the Student Prince and the Fort on their 60th anniversary. Ein prosit.

THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE YWCA OF WESTERN NEW YORK

HON. JACK QUINN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 1995

Mr. QUINN, Mr. Speaker, I take great pleasure in rising to recognize the outstanding achievements of the YWCA of western New York, which celebrates its 125th Anniversary on October 27, 1995.

The western New York YWCA has taken the lead throughout its history in supporting and fighting for the welfare of children. It was instrumental in working with the New York State Legislature for meaningful child labor laws. The YWCA also established some of the first well baby clinics in the area, and organized child care programs for working parents. Today, the YWCA operates the largest licensed after-school day care center program in western New York.

The YWCA was also in the forefront in working to improve women's health, establishing a health monitoring system for women as early as the First World War.

In the early days of this century, the YWCA established its International Institute to help foreign-born women learn the language and customs of their new homeland. The institute's programs taught them about America and assisted them in their search for employment, housing and education.

It can also boast of being the training ground, through its Institute for Public Leadership, of women who have developed outstanding careers in public service, including mayors, legislators and judges. Recognizing its importance, two Presidents of the United States from western New York, Millard Fillmore and Grover Cleveland, showed their appreciation and respect for the YWCA of western New York and its work by becoming life members. In fact, the YWCA's home in downtown Buffalo has long stood on the site of the residence of our Nation's 13th President, Millard Fillmore, a fitting location for an organization which has so ably served the people.

Mr. Speaker, there are many organizations which receive praise on the floor of the House of Representatives, but I know of few which can match the record of achievement and service shown by the YWCA of western New York. For 125 years this outstanding organization has been in the forefront of providing for the needs of the citizens of the region. I know my colleagues will join with me in wishing it a Happy 125th Anniversary and extending best wishes for centuries more of public service and outreach.

THE SKY IS NOT FALLING

HON. TOM DeLAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 1995

Mr. DeLAY. Mr. Speaker, as many scientists have long suspected, and despite the public scare campaign by environmental extremists, the reports of destructive global warming have been greatly exaggerated.

Paul Harvey, the sage of the airwaves, put it well when he commented on October 17, 1995, that the sky is not falling.

I wish to submit for the RECORD Mr. Harvey's remarks regarding the scare campaign on global warming.

The remarks follow:

THE SKY IS NOT FALLING

Many scholars and institutions secure grant money for research by scaring people. By producing bad news about population, about resources, about environment.

One recent-years bogey has been the claim by some academics that "the sky is falling." Specifically, these scaremongers argue that our use of fossil fuels is figuratively burning a hole in the sky, letting in too much sun, threatening global warming.

This year's Nobel Prize was awarded to three disciples of that theory—that chemical actions are breaking down atmospheric ozone.

Robert Balling, Junior, is director of the Office of Climatology at Arizona State University.

He says those peddling this pessimistic prognosis are false-alarmists.

And, he notes, the New York Times is parroting this apocalyptic view of the future, giving its front page to the theory of planetary temperature increases over the past 40 years, retreating glaciers, increasing sea levels and the increase in both drought and heavy rain.

In rebuttal this climatologist responds with satellite measurements. Rather than "global warming," this most accurate of all ways of measuring the Earth's temperature shows a slight "global cooling" since 1979.

The Arctic area, where most warming should be expected, has warmed not at all over the past sixteen years according to our satellite observations. According to the measurement of standard weather stations there has been no measurable warming over the past 50 years.

And, says, this climatologist, while some glaciers have retreated—others have advanced—including large ice sheets in Antarctica and Greenland.

Organizations within the United Nations, anticipating the inevitability of budget cuts, are desperately seeking to justify their existence.

The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (PCC) is composed of 2,500 scientists around the world.

Its recent book-length report, clearly labeled, "FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY. DO NOT DISTRIBUTE" * * * was nonetheless distributed.

It was intended to be circulated among contributors for their further evaluation and further contributions.

Instead it was "leaked" to media people who focused on the summary section and sounded an alarm which has embarrassed many of the scientists who contributed to the study.

There is just enough "Chicken Little" in all of us so that the tabloids with the most gross headlines are the ones which sell best.

I promise, before the sky falls, to let you know.

COMMENDING OAK LAWN CHAMBER OF

—Continued E 2053

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 1995

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce on their resolution expressing support for Midway Airport which is located in my district. In their resolution, the Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce has stated their opposition to the development of a third Chicago airport or a metropolitan airport authority as both could have negative impacts on the future of Midway Airport. I support the efforts of the Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce and share with you, my colleagues, the following:

OAK LAWN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE RESOLUTION

Whereas, the development of a third major airport in the Northeast Region on the State of Illinois has been and is the focus of ongoing studies and debate; and

Whereas, the comprehensive planning of a third major airport must encompass the future of the existing metropolitan airports; and

Whereas, Midway Airport, strategically located on the Southwest side of the City of Chicago, is the major economic stabilizing force in the Southwest region of the metropolitan area of the City of Chicago; and

Whereas, the citizens of the Southwest side of the City and the citizens of many nearby Southwest suburbs including Oak Lawn depend on and benefit from the economic development generated by the operations at Midway Airport; and

Whereas, strong support for the continuation of commercial air operations at Midway Airport has been urged by the Southwest Conference of Mayors; therefore, be it resolved that the Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce is opposed to a proposed Peotone Airport and supports the existing Midway Airport, and

Whereas, we oppose the development of a metropolitan airport authority which would control the operations or finances of either O'Hare or Midway Airports.

IMPROVING AND PRESERVING MEDICARE

HON. STEVE GUNDERSON

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 1995

Mr. GUNDERSON. Mr. Speaker, over the past few weeks, I am sure we have all read

the scary headlines or heard radio and television news stories and commercials about Congress cutting Medicare. People are understandably confused. It is true that Congress is working to reform Medicare as we know it today, but the changes are to improve, not ruin Medicare. Let me try to explain what will be happening to Medicare as it affects beneficiaries in my western Wisconsin district.

First and foremost, there are no cuts of Medicare benefits and services received by beneficiaries. No Medicare beneficiary will receive less than they do now. In fact Federal spending for Medicare will continue to increase from \$170 billion in 1996 to \$244 billion in 2002, a 40 percent increase over 7 years. How is that a cut?

The confusion comes from the fact that Medicare payments will not increase as fast in the future as they have in the past. We, as a Nation, can no longer afford a Medicare program that continues to grow at 10.5 percent a year. If we maintain this double digit growth, we would face a dilemma of either increasing premiums paid by beneficiaries to an unaffordable rate, turn Medicare into a welfare program funded by general tax revenues, or worse yet, do nothing and bankrupt the Medicare system. None of these options is desirable or responsible public policy.

Most of us agree that Congress needed to find a way to control Medicare growth, update and improve services and maintain the system for today's and tomorrow's beneficiaries.

H.R. 2525, the Medicare Preservation Act Passed by the House of Representatives begins our effort to improve and preserve Medicare in a balanced, sensible way. It gives Medicare beneficiaries the right to stay in the traditional fee for service Medicare without an increase in copayments or deductibles. Beneficiaries also will be able to choose from private health care plans available in their community—managed care plans [HMOs], a new Medical Savings Account, or plans offered by new Provider Service Organizations [PSOs], a network of doctor and hospitals, especially important to an area like western Wisconsin where traditional HMOs are not always practical. Beneficiaries will not be forced to change to enroll in an HMO, MSA or PSO. Congress makes it an option that helps control costs.

For rural America, the House passed bill makes some of the most significant improvements to Medicare since the program was created in 1965. One provision in particular will do much to help establish and begin to make Medicare HMOs and PSOs a choice for beneficiaries throughout western Wisconsin. Pat Robert, chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, and I, as the Republican chairman of the Rural Health Care Coalition along with others negotiated an improved Medicare payment formula with the Leadership in the Adjusted Average Per Capita Cost [AAPCC] for each county. Improving the payment formula will actually allow for greater health care options and competition in rural America.

Right now, in my home county of Trempealeau, beneficiaries do not have the choice of selecting an HMO or PSO. Traditional fee for service is the only delivery system available for Trempealeau County Medicare beneficiaries. Many may be happy with the fee for service system, and it will remain available to them, but an update of improved health care delivery systems is long overdue. It is important that Congress provide Medicare

beneficiaries with health care options that are available to other Americans.

What does an increased AAPCC payment formula mean to beneficiaries in Trempealeau County? Currently, the Trempealeau County AAPCC payment is \$231 a month per beneficiary. Generally, managed care providers will consider offering a Medicare plan when the monthly payment reaches \$320 per beneficiary. The current payment of \$231 in Trempealeau County is not attractive enough for an HMO or PSO to offer health care coverage. Under the provisions we negotiated, the Trempealeau County payment will jump to \$300 in 1996 and a minimum of \$320 in the following year. Below is a chart demonstrating that this new payment formula is beneficial for western Wisconsin as well as other rural communities and efficient markets. Given this payment increase, a managed care provider might actually find it economically viable to set up shop in western Wisconsin.

HEALTH PLAN CONTRIBUTION LEVELS [SIMULATIONS] BY COUNTY UNDER H.R. 2425, THE MEDICARE PRESERVATION ACT [MPA]

County	Current 1995 AAPCC pay- ment	1996 Update per- cent- age	1996 AAPCC payment
Barron	\$258	9	\$281-\$300
Buffalo	238	9	259-300
Chippewa	271	9	295-300
Clark	273	9	297-300
Crawford	245	9	267-300
Dunn	241	9	262-300
Eau Claire	306	8	330
Grant	251	9	273-300
Jackson	246	9	268-300
La Crosse	266	9	289-300
Monroe	225	9	245-300
Pepin	265	9	288-300
Pierce	254	9	276-300
Polk	274	9	298-300
St. Croix	297	9	323
Trempealeau	231	9	251-300
Vernon	211	9	229-300

Note: These figures are simulations, which do not include the service index. The actual results could differ, but probably only marginally. For 1997, all counties will achieve a funding floor of \$320 or higher.

Some may paint a picture of doom and gloom suggesting that Medicare reform is bad, but nothing could be further from the truth. Working to reform Medicare does not destroy Medicare. Earlier this year the future of Medicare was uncertain. Today because of House passage of the Medicare Preservation Act the future is brighter and more secure. My support of this legislation helped to guarantee Medicare's survival. I hope you will agree with me that Medicare is worth saving.

PAJARO VALLEY WATER LEGISLATION

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 1995

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to resolve a major water resource problem in the Pajaro Valley of Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties, CA.

My bill would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to enter into any contracts or agreements he deems necessary to assist the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency to implement the provisions of their Basin Management Plan for the resolution of the groundwater overdraft problems currently being experienced in the area.

Mr. Speaker, the Pajaro Valley is one of the most important agricultural regions in this Nation. Agriculture is the foundation for the local economy. The Pajaro Valley is one of the Nation's major producers of strawberries and other vegetable and fruit crops. Last year, the valley produced crops with a value in excess of \$460 million.

For over 30 years, however, residents of the area have struggled to find a publicly acceptable solution to the problem of groundwater overdraft. Groundwater is the only major source of water for more than 30,000 acres irrigated in the valley. In 1984, the California State Legislature, and the citizens of the area, authorized establishment of the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency. The agency was directed to develop a comprehensive plan for the elimination of the groundwater overdraft problem and to find a long-term, stable water supply to preserve agriculture in the valley.

In November, 1993 the Agency finalized the Basin Management Plan which presents a comprehensive strategy for solving the groundwater overdraft problem in a manner acceptable to local residents. The plan—or BMP—is a comprehensive and thorough document. It examined every viable option and provides a reasonable set of solutions acceptable to local residents.

The BMP doesn't look to someone else to finance or solve the problems of groundwater overdraft. Rather, it presents a series of near- and long-term measures to correct the problem.

Further, the local resident will not send the bill to someone else. The BMP authorizes locally-imposed fees and other charges in order to finance implementation of the preferred alternatives. The local residents are committed to solving this problem, including paying their share of the costs.

There is, however, one major impediment to successful implementation of the BMP. The Secretary of the Interior currently lacks authority to enter into contracts or other agreements to implement various aspects of the BMP. As a result, the agency is not able to take advantage of its entitlement to 19,000 acre-feet of water from the San Felipe Unit, Central Valley Project. Without a contract, it will be difficult, if not impossible, to secure the financing needed to build the facilities outlined in the BMP.

Mr. Speaker, it is absolutely vital that the groundwater overdraft problems of the Pajaro Valley be resolved as soon as possible. The future of the local economy is based on continued supply of high quality groundwater for the production strawberries and other valuable crops.

The local residents have done their part. They have established a local water district, developed a sensible and cost-effective solution, and they are willing to pay for it themselves.

Now it is time for the Federal Government to do its part.

We should authorize the Secretary of the Interior to enter into such contracts or agreements as he deems appropriate to help the local residents solve this critical problem.

Mr. Speaker, I urge prompt passage of this important legislation.