

Thailand stands as a model to other South East Asian nations as a bedrock of peace and stability in a region which has seen much turmoil.

Today, the Thais have much to be proud of in the robust development of their economic strength and their leadership in Asian commerce. The interdependence of our economies binds us even closer together and Thai-Americans have made strong contributions to American society and culture.

Mr. Speaker, it is a honor to recognize this 19th century treaty which serves as the foundation of a long and prosperous relationship. It is hoped that Thailand and the United States will continue their long-standing and mutually beneficial friendship which serves as a model of cooperation in the region.

REPUBLICAN HEALTH BILL WILL RIP-OFF SENIORS BY PERMIT- TING SALES OF BAD INSURANCE PRODUCTS

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 26, 1996

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, the health insurance bill that was approved by the Ways and Means Committee last week contains language that completely guts the laws against Medigap fraud and abuse.

The following letter from a consumer advocate explains why.

It is another reason the House should pass a simple, pure Kennedy-Kassebaum bill.

SENIOR HEALTH INSURANCE ISSUES,

Scotts Valley, CA, March 20, 1996.

Hon. BILL ARCHER,

Chairman, House Committee on Ways and Means, Longworth HOB, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ARCHER: I am very concerned about an Amendment by Mr. Collins that recently passed out of the Committee on Ways and Means on Duplication and Coordination of Medicare Related Plans. I have been a consultant on Medicare, supplemental insurance and long term care insurance for more than eighteen years to both state and national consumer groups. I was very active in a lawsuit brought by the Santa Cruz District Attorney against an insurance agency for overselling duplicative and overlapping coverage to seniors in 1989. We both testified repeatedly in both Houses on this issue prior to the passage of OBRA 90.

While there is a legitimate reason to carve out a narrow exemption for disabled Medicare beneficiaries who have purchased guaranteed issue major medical coverage that duplicates and coordinates against Medicare, the Collins Amendment does not even address that issue. The proposed amendment language rolls back all federal and state protections since 1980 against selling multiple and duplicate policies to seniors on Medicare. This Amendment would allow companies and agents to sell seniors any amount and combination of policies on top of their Medicare and a Medicare Supplement. This practice has a long and disgraceful public history that led Congress to take action several times over the last two decades.

Not only would the proposed language repeal all federal protections, it would repeal all existing state laws and prohibit the enactment of any future state laws to protect elderly consumers. In addition to allowing the sale of excessive and duplicative coverage, it would also allow companies to co-

ordinate those benefits against Medicare and other existing health benefits.

I find it very hard to believe that this Congress would allow these practices to resume and strip states of their rights to protect their own citizens from these abusive practices. Good public policy demands that seniors make the best use of scarce premium dollars and use any excess towards providing for their long term care needs, not the purchase of unnecessary duplicate coverage. I urge you to take a closer look at this issue.

Sincerely,

BONNIE BURNS,
Consultant.

SENIOR HEALTH INSURANCE ISSUES,

Scotts Valley, CA, March 20, 1996.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,

Speaker, The Speakers Office, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER GINGRICH: Enclosed are copies of letters I have written commenting on the recent proposed federal legislation on tax clarification of long term care insurance and on duplication of medical benefits for people on Medicare. I understand that both of these issues will be voted on the floor shortly in one or more bills related to health insurance reform. These legislative proposals are almost identical to language contained in the Budget Bill that garnered many of the same concerns. I hope you will consider the issues I have raised in my letters to the Chairs of the various committees and subcommittees. These are extremely important issues that have profound repercussions for older consumers.

Stripping states of their rights to regulate consumer protections within their borders for their oldest and most vulnerable citizens is not consistent with your desire to allow states more flexibility and choice. Is it your public policy position that overinsurance for health care costs in the oldest and sickest populations is a desirable outcome? I can't imagine that you want to see seniors using their scarce health care premium dollars that should be spent on long term care coverage used to purchase unnecessary and excessive health care coverage.

Please take a careful look at these issues.

Sincerely,

BONNIE BURNS,
Consultant.

IN HONOR OF CALIFORNIA RECLAMATION DISTRICT NO. 108

HON. VIC FAZIO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 26, 1996

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor California reclamation district No. 108, which is celebrating its 125th year of operation.

In 1868, the California State Legislature authorized the organization of reclamation districts to encourage residents to transform the State's swamps and flooded areas into arable land. One of California's oldest reclamation districts, No. 108, dates from September 1870. District No. 108 was organized by Yolo and Colusa County landowners for the purpose of slaving the tule lands that extended from the western bank of the Sacramento River to the Colusa Basin.

One of district No. 108's earliest and most important responsibilities was flood control. Tens of thousands of acres of district land occupied low-lying areas of the Colusa Basin,

surrounded on three sides by water during flood periods. The district had the immense challenge of dealing with potential flooding. In order to handle this contingency the district helped fund and maintain the Knights Landing to Princeton levee on the west side of the Sacramento River, as well as other levees outside district boundaries.

At the turn of the century, the district purchased areas of Sutter and Colusa County land, which it used as outlet channels to relieve pressure on the west side Sacramento River levees. During the same period, district authorities supervised the construction of a back levee to protect district lands from northern and western flood waters.

As development of lands within the district grew, so did R.D. 108's flood control efforts. Eventually, the district's work at the Knights Landing Ridge resulted in the 1915 formation of the independent Knights Landing Ridge Drainage District. During the same period, the newly-created Sacramento River West Side Levee District assumed maintenance control of the West Side Levee between the towns of Knights Landing and Colusa.

The earlier flood control efforts undertaken by district No. 108 laid the foundation for the development of these newer entities. District No. 108 developed a strong cooperative relationship with these bodies which continues to this day. The entire lower portion of the Colusa Basin enjoys greater flood protection as a result of this cooperative effort.

In the early years of this century the district expanded its focus, moving into the realm of irrigation. In 1917 district No. 108 obtained permission to irrigate lands not adjacent to the Sacramento River. An intense effort was mounted to establish an irrigation and drainage system which would serve the entire district. This effort was completed with great success. Today, there are 118 miles of irrigation ditches and over 300 miles of drains operated and maintained by the district.

In recent years, reclamation district No. 108 has faced a variety of challenges. During the 1960's the district worked with Sacramento River Water users and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to formulate a supplemental water supply plan. Today, district No. 108 is bring together Federal, State, environment, and water administrators and landowners in an attempt to develop a feasible and cost effective method for protection of the Sacramento River's endangered fish.

CELEBRATION OF JAN PIERCE'S 40 YEARS OF PROGRESSIVE LABOR LEADERSHIP

HON. THOMAS J. MANTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 26, 1996

Mr. MANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Jan D. Pierce, the vice president of the Communications Workers of America, District One.

For the last 40 years, Mr. Pierce has worked tirelessly as a progressive labor leader in the communications industry and has been a leading advocate for rank and file unionism in the United States.

Mr. Pierce has been an active union member his entire working life, beginning with his

employment by the then Bell System in 1956. He then served as president of CWA Local 4320 in Columbus, OH. Following that, he worked with the CWA District One staff as area director, assistant to the vice president and beginning in 1985, as vice president of the largest CWA district in the country.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Pierce has stood by his word for the last 40 years by serving as an articulate spokesperson with a progressive point of view on major social, economic and political issues. In addition, he has involved himself in countless causes and struggles including civil rights, human rights, women's rights, political campaigns, demonstrations, picket lines and movements to improve conditions for the American worker.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize the achievements of Jan D. Pierce, and I know my colleagues join me in honoring him as we celebrate 40 years of progressive labor leadership with the Communications Workers of America.

HONORING JOANNE O'ROURKE
ISHAM, DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF
CONGRESSIONAL AFFAIRS,
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

HON. LARRY COMBEST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 26, 1996

Mr. COMBEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call special attention to the dedicated work of Ms. Joanne Isham as Director of Congressional Affairs at the Central Intelligence Agency. Ms. Isham served in this demanding job for 2 years, taking over the office in a period of controversy following the reprimand of several CIA employees for their handling of the Aldrich Ames spy case. She recognized that the CIA's relations with the Congress were badly damaged by the spy case and set about immediately to improve them.

Mr. Speaker, I witnessed a dramatic shift in the Agency's posture with the Congress following Ms. Isham's appointment. She initiated a series of reforms to ensure that the Intelligence Committees were kept fully and completely informed of significant developments at the Central Intelligence Agency. She accomplished this turnaround not with a heavy hand, but with fair and even-tempered management. Ms. Isham kept me fully apprised of significant developments in the intelligence community. She earned the committee's respect in a most difficult undertaking.

Ms. Isham has now been promoted to be Associate Deputy Director for the CIA's Directorate for Science and Technology. This is a new position that will enable her to capitalize on her strong relations with the Congress and many years of experience in the CIA to bring a strategic and more corporate management team to the CIA's Directorate for Science and Technology. We will miss her at Congressional Affairs, but look forward to working with her in this new capacity.

Finally, I want to note that, in recognition of her work, she was awarded the Contract With America's Distinguished Intelligence Medal by Director John Deutch on March 18, 1995, in recognition for her outstanding leadership and management of the Office of Congressional

Affairs. I want to thank her for her service to her country and her unstinting bipartisan work on behalf of the intelligence community.

SALUTE TO FAMILIA DIAZ
MEXICAN RESTAURANT

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 26, 1996

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute a family restaurant in my district that is celebrating six decades of success—a family restaurant that never forgot the importance of family.

Familia Diaz Mexican Restaurant, now a fixture on 10th Street in Santa Paula, was established in 1936 by two people who had just \$500 in savings and a dream in their hearts. Jose and Josepha "Pepa" Diaz opened their cantina, originally called "Las Quince Letras," and resolved that through hard work and determination they would succeed.

While Jose worked the front, making conversation with faithful customers who, over the years, would become almost as close as family, Pepa would be in the kitchen turning out her famous recipes, sometimes sending daughter Vickie to the corner store to buy the ingredients for a particular dish.

Word spread and the restaurant grew. In the 1950's, their son, Tony, came into the business and built on the progress his parents had made. For many years, Tony's wife, Cecilia, and his sister, Nora, almost single-handedly turned out the restaurant's famous tamales.

In 1980, when Tony was celebrating his 30th year in the restaurant, he was joined in the business by two of his children, Sandra and Dan. This was so very appropriate, because in Familia Diaz' 60 years of business, business has always been deeply rooted in family.

While the number of fast food restaurants turning out food that is precooked, prepackaged, and preheated continues to proliferate, it is refreshing to know there are still places to go where food is prepared, the way it is at Familia Diaz.

I would like to wish the Diaz family a sincere congratulations on this happy 60th anniversary and best wishes for the future. I know that as long as this restaurant maintains a healthy supply of its most precious commodity—family—it will continue to enjoy great success.

PROCLAMATION HONORING MRS.
AMANDA FRAZER DAWSON

HON. VICTOR O. FRAZER

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 26, 1996

Mr. FRAZER. Mr. Speaker, I insert the following for the RECORD:

A PROCLAMATION

Whereas, Ms. Amanda Blyden was born on April 7, 1906 in Tortola in a little Village of Cane Garden Bay to Celina and George Blyden;

Whereas, Ms. Blyden moved to St. Thomas in the early 1900s;

Whereas, she attends Christ Church Methodist in the Market Square where she has re-

mained an active member for over fifty years;

Whereas, Ms. Blyden married Mr. Albert Frazer on December 16, 1925;

Whereas, she had ten children, seven are presently alive and active in their communities;

Whereas, she is a proud grandmother and great grandmother to over fifty children;

Therefore, be it resolved on this the seventh day of April 1996, I, Victor O. Frazer, Member of Congress, join with family and friends to honor a great woman as she celebrates her ninetyeth birthday.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
148

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 26, 1996

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I came to Congress in January 1965, when questions about our escalating involvement in Vietnam were widely debated. Congress had passed the Gulf of Tonkin resolution the summer before, providing supporters of the war in Vietnam with a claim that Congress had authorized it. I took a stand against United States involvement in the Vietnam war. Supporters of the war used the near unanimous vote taken by Congress in passing the Gulf of Tonkin resolution to prove that I was out of line and even un-American for opposing my Government at a time of armed conflict.

This Taiwan resolution repeats the mistakes of the Gulf of Tonkin resolution.

For 24 years we have adhered to a One China policy to the point where we have declined to recognize Taiwan as an independent nation. Until we do, our policy has been as stated in the Taiwan Relations Act. Taiwan does not have a United States Embassy in the United States; neither do we have one in Taiwan.

Despite the diplomatic difficulties that this One China policy has caused, it has produced enormous prosperity in Taiwan, making it the 19th largest economy in the world. Today Taiwan is a major trader with the United States as well as with the People's Republic of China. It has won its right to the international trading table without dispute.

The Taiwan Relations Act states no commitment on the part of the United States to use our military force in case of threats by mainland China. It was carefully crafted to avoid this inference.

Today we are amending that act. This resolution specifically makes that pledge of military force.

I find it hard to support this resolution, despite the alarming and exceedingly provocative actions of the People's Republic of China, because it goes too far and changes the long-standing policy without any substantive debate and without discussion of all the ramifications of this change.

This resolution is a cold war style reaction to the current missile firing and military maneuvers by the People's Republic of China in the Taiwan Straits. A sounder resolution which deplored this provocation and urged that it come to a halt and commended the Government of Taiwan for their remarkable achievements, pledged continuing support and friendship, and congratulated them on their upcoming election would have been all that was