

again face flooding or other natural disasters. But the modifications have added an extra measure of safety to life in the Valley of the Sun.

At a time when Government-built dams are the target of criticism by some, I am encouraged that my colleagues in the House, and in the State and local government, have not lost sight of the many benefits that flow from multi-purpose projects like the Theodore Roosevelt Dam.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE TOWN OF ALTON, NH

HON. WILLIAM H. ZELIFF, JR.

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 1996

Mr. ZELIFF. Mr. Speaker, let me extend my sincerest congratulations to the town of Alton, NH, as it celebrates its bicentennial anniversary on June 16, 1996. It is a pleasure to commemorate such a milestone event and recognize this New Hampshire village.

The people of Alton have preserved the town's historic past and traditions. Located on the southern tip of Lake Winnepesaukee, the town of Alton offers a pristine and unmatched beauty that attracts both residents and visitors of New Hampshire to this area. Whether it is the shores of Lake Winnepesaukee or the surrounding mountains, Alton offers unlimited enjoyment for all people throughout the year.

Alton's original town limits consisted of sections from: New Durham, Gilmanton, Gilford, and Wolfeboro. Over the years Alton has developed into seven neighborhoods: Alton Village, South Alton, East Alton, West Alton, Alton Bay, Alton Mountain, and The Gore. These seven boroughs have established their own identity, while strengthening and propelling the town of Alton into a leading New Hampshire community.

Once known as New Durham Gore, Alton established the traditional town meeting format of government that is still being practiced today. It is refreshing to be associated with people, such as the Alton residents, who have not forgotten their past and traditions.

I have had the opportunity to work with the people of Alton on many different occasions over the years. Most recently, I visited to evaluate the damage caused by the devastating dam break. After this visit I have come to fully understand the love, generosity, and big-heartedness of this town. I commend their independence, character, dedication, and mutual respect for one another.

Allow me to wish the town of Alton a happy bicentennial, and I appreciate the opportunity to be included in its celebration. It is an honor to represent the town of Alton in the U.S. Congress.

NEW BRITAIN ROTARY CLUB ANNIVERSARY

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 1996

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and appreciation that

I rise today to congratulate the members of the Rotary Club of New Britain, CT, as they celebrate their 75th anniversary.

It was on April 20, 1921, that Leon Sprague, the Rotary's organizer and charter president, brought into being the first local organization of professional, industrial, and business executives to serve the community. From the very beginning, the members of the Rotary Club of New Britain have committed themselves to their creed, "service above self," by generously providing the community with time, money, and unselfish service in the important fields of education, orphanages, hospitals, civic amenities, and scholarships to needy students. I am so proud of the men and women of the Rotary who work tirelessly to assure that needs of citizens are met.

Today, I congratulate the Rotary Club of New Britain on its anniversary and I commend its members on their dedication and lasting contributions.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 1996

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 110, H.R. 956, conference report on product liability reform, while I was present on the floor and inserted my voting card, it appears that my vote was not recorded. I do want to note that I voted in favor of H.R. 956 when it originally passed the House.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HIPPOCRATIC OATH AND PATIENT PROTECTION ACT OF 1996

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 1996

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to say a few words about disturbing trends in contemporary health care, and to discuss H.R. 3222, The Hippocratic Oath and Patient Protection Act of 1996, which I introduced to halt those trends and protect strong doctor-patient relationships.

Mr. Speaker, more and more doctors and patients are enrolled with managed care and HMO's. The Wall Street Journal reports on the financial success of HMO's by stating it has left them "so awash in cash they don't know what to do with it all."

U.S. Healthcare, for example, is a major, corporate HMO with 2.4 million members. It makes \$1 million a day in profits. Its CEO, Leonard Abramson, walked away from his company's recent merger with Aetna with a personal profit of nearly \$1 billion.

Clearly, there is a built-in conflict between a for-profit HMO and the needs of a patient. The less money spent on providing care for the patient, the more money the company makes. It's that simple.

Obviously, Mr. Speaker, we must all work to control health care costs. However, we must also ensure that health care decisions are made by doctors using medical rationale with their patients' interests at heart, not insurance

administrators using financial spreadsheets with their own economic interests at heart. And most importantly, we must preserve the fundamental core of successful health care—the strong doctor-patient relationship.

Unfortunately, with the growth of managed care and the power of large insurance companies, serious problems are developing which, in my view, threaten the doctor-patient relationship.

Many HMO's use what are essentially "free-for-denying-service" systems, which pay doctors for denying care and penalize them for providing it. Doctors under some plans lose up to 50 cents of compensation for every dollar they order spent on emergency care. And according to a Mathematica Policy Research study, 60 percent of managed care plans in this country currently place their providers at some financial risk for the cost of patient care. This places doctors in very difficult situations, as they are asked to base their decisions on criteria that is contrary to what they were taught and swore to uphold.

You would have to be patently insane to sign on with an HMO you know is going to pay your doctor not to treat you. So some insurance companies are taking steps to make sure you don't know what they are doing. They keep their incentive plans secret from their customers, and in many cases keep both patients and doctors in the dark about the formulas used to approve or deny coverage. Therefore, doctors and consumers signing on do not know what they are getting themselves into, and insurers are free to make arbitrary decisions without outside scrutiny.

Further, many HMO contracts contain blatant gag rules that tell doctors what they can and cannot say to their patients. Last year, for example, Kaiser Permanente of Ohio told its doctors not to discuss any possible treatments with patients before checking with the company's consultants.

These outrageous clauses strike at the heart of informed consent and health care ethics—someone considering an operation should have all the relevant information to make their decision, and doctors must be able to provide that information.

These problems are serious enough that Massachusetts has already passed a law banning gag rules, while New York and several other State legislatures are considering bills to deal with these issues. Before recess, I introduced legislation that will take three steps to preserve strong doctor-patient relationships. My bill has already been endorsed by Consumers Union, the American Nurses Association, the Vermont Psychological Association, the American Psychological Association, the National Medical Association, and the Gray Panthers.

First, my legislation will ban outright incentives to deny appropriate care, and ensure safeguards are installed so doctors are not placed at substantial financial risk for patient care.

Second, my bill prohibits gag rules and other interference in doctors' communications regarding patient care. It is the only legislation that safeguards doctors' communications with their colleagues and the public as well as their patients.

Third, to ensure neither doctors nor patients are kept in the dark about what their insurer is doing, my legislation provides for open, honest discussion of practices key to patient care

by requiring disclosure of utilization review procedures, financial incentives for providers, and all services and benefits offered under the health plan.

That disclosure may be half the battle, because I think no insurance executive will be willing to stand up and defend these outrageous practices once they are out in the open.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE HONORABLE RON BROWN

SPEECH OF

HON. RONALD V. DELLUMS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 1996

Mr. DELLUMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a dear friend, a visionary, a dream-maker, and trailblazer; the Honorable Ronald H. Brown. Although I am deeply saddened by his sudden passing, I am inspired and encouraged by the legacy Ron has left for all citizens of the United States. Ron Brown was not only a personal friend, but a friend of our country.

Elected the first African American Chairman of the Democratic National Committee, he utilized his experience and successes, in reuniting the Democratic Party and ensuring a victory for President Clinton.

As the first African American Secretary of Commerce, Ron not only pursued the expansion of American trade opportunities, but also sought to extend the American Dream to improve the quality of life for all people throughout the world. His vision for the Department of Commerce included providing economic opportunities for all Americans, opening and expanding markets globally, and generating jobs through his national export strategy which allows U.S. companies—big and small—to maximize their export potential. In addition, he wanted to ensure an enhanced technology base and infrastructure and utilization and growth for the Information Superhighway. In doing so, he transformed America into an export superpower, creating over \$80 billion in foreign agreements for U.S. businesses. A champion of civil rights, he fought for diversity within the Department, as well as increased opportunities for minority-owned businesses.

Ron was a trailblazer. The list of accomplishments which inspires not only African Americans, but all working men, women, and minorities is commendable. He, as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was an effective communicator, a passionate civil rights advocate, keen political strategist, skilled negotiator, and compassionate bridge builder. A man of action, Ron Brown not only dreamt, but more importantly, realized his dreams for himself and others.

I will personally miss our heart to heart conversations and political discussions, Ron's enthusiasm for life, and most of all, his infectious smile.

As my friend, the Reverend Jesse Jackson so eloquently described him, "We must re-

member Ron Brown—freedom fighter, social servant, patriot, dream-maker . . . A monument to his success is opening the door for coming generations." We must always hold a special place in our hearts for Ron Brown. Ron was truly a man for all seasons who we will sorely miss. Thank you, Ron, for all you've done. We love you, brother.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE HONORABLE RON BROWN

SPEECH OF

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 1996

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, people from all walks of life, professional, personal, religious—friends, colleagues and strangers alike—found themselves binding together over the past 2 weeks in mourning the loss of Ron Brown, U.S. Secretary of Commerce, who died tragically in a plane crash in Bosnia. As could be expected, Ron was lost to us while on a mission of peace as he sought to repair the fabric of war-torn Bosnia.

Today, in honor of his memory, I would like to add my voice to those of hundreds of thousands—perhaps millions—of others who spoke of Ron Brown the man, the husband, the father, the friend of Democrats, the beloved advisor to President Clinton.

I begin by extending my personal condolences to his wife, Alma and their children, and to the families and friends of all others who gave their lives as well, and to assure them that they are in my thoughts and my prayers; may they be comforted by God's love and the outpouring of grief, love, and the many tributes coming from people throughout the world.

I also convey condolences to the family and friends of William Morton, a native of Huntington, WV, located in the district I represent, who was also aboard the doomed plane over Croatia. To them I extend my deepest sympathies and offer my prayers on their behalf that will always be comforted knowing that William died on a mission of peace, as a patriot of his country, doing the job he was committed to doing and doing well, at the side of his mentor, Secretary Brown.

I pay particular tribute to Ron Brown, Secretary of Commerce, for while he excelled in all aspects of every endeavor or job or position he ever held in public life, it was as Secretary of Commerce that he won my everlasting admiration and esteem.

As the Representative in the House of the people of the third district in West Virginia, one of my major goals is to do all that is possible to increase economic development opportunities and the job creation that follows such incentives, for my people. We live in the heart of Appalachia where unemployment in some areas still remains in double-digits, and where economic development is integral to our effort to create a stronger, stable economic base for all West Virginians.

Ron Brown won my heart by requiring his entire department staff to memorize a one-sentence mission statement that ought to be the mission statement of every person in government, and that sentence was: "Our mission is to ensure economic opportunity for every American."

Ron Brown, having achieved the American dream for himself, spent the rest of his life seeking to make it a reality for those bound over by poverty and despair. His life stands as a testament to the power of educating our people, to a sound work ethic meaning a willingness to work hard, and a dedication of ourselves to work for the common good of all.

In West Virginia, Ron will be remembered more for local economic development projects through the Economic Development Administration [EDA], and the Office of Economic Adjustment perhaps, then for his global view on trade initiatives between the United States and the rest of the world. He was a friend of towns and cities large and small throughout the Nation, and became the catalyst for change in social and economic circles that were long overdue, by reminding American capitalists that their prosperity was inextricably linked to the prosperity of all Americans.

Whether Ron was in an American city, the Middle East, or Bosnia, he believed that participation in economic success would go a long way in healing racial, ethnic, and religious differences.

Secretary Brown ran the Commerce Committee like no other Secretary before him—by actively involving businesses in securing jobs for Americans. He took a page from the investment strategy book of the Japanese Government whose economic growth excelled for many years because of the direct involvement of government in the Japanese business community, issuing a challenge to America's economic thinking.

Ron Brown learned from that, and he acknowledged the power and importance of businesses great and small in the United States, and encouraged greater investment in business and industry, rather than ignoring them as his predecessors had done. Under his stewardship, the American economy rebounded over the past 3 years, largely due to his personal involvement and the involvement of his department staff who had memorized the one-sentence mission statement: "Our mission is to ensure economic opportunity for every American."

Ron Brown was many things to many people, and he was remembered as having great charisma, of being able to walk into a room and energize it, drawing people to his side. He was known for his sense of compassion, his willingness to listen to both sides. He was also known for his sense of humor and, needless to say, for his outstanding political acumen, and his ability to make friends anywhere and everywhere he went, working on behalf of the America he loved.

That is Secretary Brown's legacy to us all, and we must not forget.