

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, one of the worst agencies in the entire Federal Government is the Food and Drug Administration. It is arrogant. It is abusive. It is bureaucratic. If people in this country wonder why medicine costs them so much, they need look no further than the FDA.

The bureaucratic rules and regulations and red-tape of the Food and Drug Administration sometimes cause needed safe drugs to be held off the market in this country for years, and sometimes it takes companies many, many millions of dollars to get approval and, as I say, only after years of paperwork and red-tape.

There are many safe lifesaving drugs and medical devices kept off the market in this country for years while they are being safely used, saving lives in countries around the world. I remember a couple of years ago reading a front page article in the Wall Street Journal about a device, a medical device used to detect breast cancer, that had been held off the market for years because this small company in Illinois did not bow down to the FDA sufficiently and they had gotten approval in every other country in the world in which they had sought approval, most of the time within just a few weeks.

One doctor was quoted saying that this had caused thousands and thousands of women to die from breast cancer because of the bureaucratic delays and dilatory and unfair tactics of the Food and Drug Administration.

So that is one reason why I read with such great interest a half page ad that was run yesterday in the Washington Times by a man named Jeffrey N. South of Arnold, MD. He had written a letter, an open letter to his Congressman, and he said this. This letter speaks adequately for itself, and I would like to read as much of it as time permits.

It says:

MARCH 4, 1996.

HON. WAYNE T. GILCREST,
U.S. Congressman,
Annapolis, MD.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN GILCREST: I have been a citizen of Maryland for most of my life and, until now, have never been moved to address any concern to my Congressman. I have witnessed something recently that deserves your attention.

On Monday, February 26, 1996, I attended a Food and Drug Administration Advisory Panel hearing in Gaithersburg, MD. A company called Biocontrol Technology, Inc. of Pittsburgh was presenting a medical device for the Panel's recommendation to the FDA for approval to market. This medical device reads blood glucose levels non-intrusively via light energy.

I am not a diabetic but I was exposed to the horrors of what it must be like to be diabetic for the first time in my life. I observed for the entire day a parade of dozens of those diabetics who cared enough to come to the Washington area to testify on behalf of being able to use this new technology towards improving the quality of their lives. Evidently insulin dependent diabetics must perform painful finger prick blood extraction tests numerous times a day in order to determine when they may need insulin. I was amazed to

learn that this is such an unpleasant process that over 40% (American Diabetes Association Estimates) of diabetics choose to avoid this painful testing procedure at great risk to their lives. I noticed that their fingers looked like raw hamburger from years of sticking their fingers and extracting blood. This medical device would end all of this.

I was amused by a diabetic woman who passed finger sticks to all the FDA Panel members as she gave her testimony challenging each member to experience the pain of just one prick and to imagine doing it many times a day for their entire life. And to imagine being a very young diabetic child that must do this.

After ten minutes or so into her testimony she had noticed that not one Panel member had mustered the nerve to perform the stick on their own finger. The entire room of some three hundred plus broke into a laughter of disgust.

Most of the day was composed of various questions and discussion between the panel members and the scientists and technicians of Biocontrol Technology. I was absolutely shocked and dismayed that the FDA had delegated decision making authority to this body which openly displayed and admitted to very limited, if any, knowledge of the science behind this new technology. Several of the panelists never even received, much less reviewed, any of the vital supporting material that Biocontrol Technology had provided the FDA over two years ago! It wasn't any wonder that, guess what?!—they could not reach a decision to make this technology available to the diabetic public.

As all of this day unfolded I watched the faces of the public and the technology developers to observe that they too were extremely disillusioned and frustrated as they witnessed this government body embarrass itself with its incompetence and aloofness. What a pathetic display it was of a bureaucratic process meandering in utter confusion.

On top of all this, a panel spokesperson disclosed that the FDA can and does exercise wavers for panel members that may have financial or other conflicts with companies whose products are under review. There were several on this panel that did disclose such conflicts and were still permitted to participate. Can you imagine!!!

I know now why health care costs have soared over the past several decades. Most medical technology developers have to spend millions upon millions of dollars over years waiting for this meandering, incompetent, and perhaps corrupt government process to wave its' magic wand.

I have enjoyed a healthy and carefree life and can only be thankful that I do not have to depend on such a system. I can only feel extreme sorrow for those who are not healthy and must fight a dreaded disease and wait for the workings of a federal agency the likes of which I witnessed. So very sad for those that forge on knowing that technology exists that could be of great value to them but they must gamble years of their life away waiting for some inept government agency.

I often hear some say that government is an evil entity and think of those that say it to be extreme. Now I think that they are far more insightful than most of us care to admit.

JEFFREY N. SOUTH.

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Mr. Speaker, in this country today, if some individual came up with a cure for cancer, he probably could not get it to market unless he sold out to one of the big drug giants. This agency is very

harmful to small business, and very harmful to the health of the American citizens.

UPDATE ON BOSNIAN DEPLOYMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HOBSON). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. SKELTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, the debate over the American deployment to Bosnia has ceased and in this, my third floor speech regarding that troubled part of the world, I wish to say a good word about the Americans in uniform stationed there.

From briefings that I have received and hearings before the National Security Committee, it is evident that the uniformed Americans are performing exceptionally well in this challenge called Bosnia. The Air Force is doing its duty flying above and flying into that country, delivering needed materiel. The Navy and Marine Corps stand guard in the Adriatic, ever ready to help if called upon.

But it is the foot soldier, stationed in the American sector—the northeast corner—of Bosnia, on which I center my remarks.

The Army is fully deployed, consisting of the 1st Armored Division and supporting units. To begin with, twin float bridges were built across the swollen Sava River. No other army has ever even attempted to bridge such a river, especially with the high water level. The first float bridge is the longest one in military history.

Junior soldiers and officers are performing at "levels far above any reasonable expectation, cheerful and willing under the most trying of circumstances, innovative, and hard-working to the extreme," according to the Army Chief of Staff, Gen. Dennis Reimer, who recently returned from Bosnia.

The conditions under which our soldiers live are difficult. The winter snows are up to 10 inches. When the snow melts, the mud is deep. And yet, morale is high and military professionalism is the order of the day.

The thousands of land mines in Bosnia continue to be a major problem for our troops. Since the peacekeeping mission began, NATO troops have reported 14 accidents involving mines. Five of these incidents resulted in injuries, including the death of one American soldier. At my urging, the Army has accelerated its program of mine detection under the leadership of the Army Vice Chief of Staff.

The flag officers have been interviewed and quoted at length in the news media, but it is the enlisted ranks and junior officers that are making this peacekeeping deployment a success. The late Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman once said: "We have good corporals and Sergeants, and some good lieutenants and Captains, and those are

far more important than good generals." General Sherman's words still ring true.

Our soldiers in and around the Tuzla area are reflecting the best of our American values. Their dedication and grit enable them to endure the challenges of land mines, deep mud, rock slides, and raging rivers. Their solid presence is winning the admiration and respect of the former warring parties. It is my hope that when their year-long deployment ends, they will be able to look back and see the valuable contribution they made in bringing stability to a sad and tragic corner of the globe.

I know that every Member of this body joins in wishing our troops continued success in this precedent-making deployment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. FOLEY] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. FOLEY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING PROGRAM WORKS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am here to talk about the future of our young people. I believe if we have any important responsibility in this Congress and in this Nation, it is to actually realize that we only hold a lease on this place, as we do this Nation and all of its freedoms and opportunities. We are in fact the leaseholders for our children, children who need education, children who need opportunity, children who need exposure to careers.

Mr. Speaker, I stood this morning imploring this Congress, this Republican majority, to begin to understand what real investment is all about. It is not a \$245 billion tax cut or a \$177 billion tax cut; it is focusing on priorities. I would like to draw our attention to a bipartisan approach to the investment in our children and our communities.

I want to applaud the Senate for recognizing that we are in fact leaseholders; that we have a commitment to ensure that the doors of opportunity are not closed. They in fact added back \$137 million to this year's budget for Head Start that was cut so drastically; \$60 million for the administration's Goals 2000 program, which will see, if it is cut, 40,000 teachers with pink slips this spring; it added in I think a cornerstone of a work ethic in this Nation, \$636 million for summer youth jobs. I did not say baby-sitting jobs, I did not say handholding jobs, I said summer youth jobs. Some \$200 million for Safe and Drug-Free Schools, \$182 million with the School-to-Work Program, \$90

million for colleges and loans, and \$10 million for technology programs.

This is an investment in our children's future. The tragedy is that because of the House Labor-HHS omnibus appropriations bill cuts, some 615,000 youth this summer will not be able to have jobs. They will not work or receive education assistance in about 650 communities across this country.

The funding for 1995 nationally was \$867 million. Houston, my city alone, would have received \$9.1 million. Again, not for baby sitting, but for an opportunity for our young people to work. The summer program helps generate economic growth. For each 1,000 kids employed the program brings between \$1 million and \$1.4 million to the community it serves. In the city of Houston, we had 6,000 positions for children to be able to be exposed to work, to understand responsibility. Now, in this Congress, we have nothing.

Recent history with the Federal Government shutdown has taught us the punitive impact on business that cuts in Federal revenue to our States and cities can generate. We ask that children care about people. We caution them to act in the best interests of their communities and protect those who are weaker than themselves.

The Government, through Congress' actions today, may send the wrong message by telling our youth we do not care, and that we will take from them because they are unable to defend themselves.

Listen to the story of LaQuista Stewart. This is a story of a young woman who at the age of 2 and shortly after her mother married her stepfather, the family was involved in a terrible car wreck that left her stepfather permanently disabled.

As a child her mother and grandmother would not let her do much, as much as some of her friends, and that gave her the courage and the incentive to aspire to bigger things.

As a result of this wreck, LaQuista was injured so severely that she lost her spleen and left kidney. At the time of her intake application for a summer job, there were family problems, and the stepfather was not in the home. She still lives at home and helps her family as much as she can, keeping only enough money for college expenses and personal needs.

She works in a summer youth job program. This program allowed her to work at Smiley High School, 1 year at Texas Children's Hospital, and as an assistant to the supervisor of the pulmonary laboratory, and as an assistant to council members in the city of Houston. She now is a member of National Honor Society, class parliamentarian, and the Future Business Leaders of America.

Mr. Speaker, Cynthia Rojas, 18, is in her third summer with Houston Works. When she was 15, another youth dropped out of the summer program which opened up a slot for her in the

academic enrichment portion for the last weeks of the program. Last summer she worked in the city of Houston's legal department doing general office work. This summer she is working for the city of Houston's Public Works Department in the real estate section. There she helps with filing, typing and keeping track of all the paperwork involved with closing real estate transactions. Cynthia is an exceptional student and graduated high school with a 4.626 average.

What about Debora Bundage, 18, in her second summer at Houston Works, having previously participated in an academic enrichment program.

These are the stories of young people who get summer jobs. I am proud to say that the Houston Works Program has exceeded its performance, exceeded 10 percent of the predicted employment rate for welfare recipients who have been on the job 13 weeks. They sponsor a summer job program where they are inviting the corporate community to participate.

We realize we must do this with the private sector, but this Government must invest in our young people. I do not want to have to go home and tell them there will be no summer jobs for young people who want to work.

Mr. Speaker, I implore this House of Representatives, support the summer youth jobs program; put our Young people to work; teach them a work ethic that will help them be providers for America.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. RIGGS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. RIGGS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Connecticut [Ms. DELAURO] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Ms. DELAURO addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

A REPORT OF FAILURE IN WAR ON DRUGS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. MICA] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MICA Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor this afternoon to talk about a report issued by one of the subcommittees on which I serve. I serve on the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight. The Subcommittee on National Security, International Affairs, and Criminal Justice has just released this report entitled "The National Drug Policy: A Review of the Status of the Drug War." I am here to tell my colleagues that this is the review of a trail of tears. This is a review of a trail