

and we should live up to their expectations that the Federal Government will ensure their health and safety at all levels.

Mr. Speaker, on that note, I would like to close by saying when we observe Earth Day this year, we should use it to make observations about how far we have come and what is at risk, and we should every day of every year work to protect the environment and health of the American people.

THE NEW LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentlewoman from Connecticut [Ms. DELAURO] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, today Congress returns from a 2-week break, and the Republican majority leader has announced what he calls a new legislative agenda for this Congress. But in fact it is the same old Republican agenda, dressed up with some new rhetoric. Their agenda still fails the fundamental test, which is helping working middle-class families cope with the challenges that they face in their everyday lives.

When I was home during the recent break, I met with constituents in my district who feel that this Congress is simply not doing the job that working families need.

Consider just two issues, health care and pensions. The House passed a health insurance reform bill that should have addressed, I repeat, should have addressed, the problems faced by the millions of Americans who cannot get health insurance because they suffer from a preexisting condition.

I have a preexisting condition. I am a survivor of ovarian cancer. There are not too many businesses that want to include me in their insurance policy because of my prior illness. It would raise the cost of premiums for everyone. So I understand this problem of preexisting condition.

Millions of Americans cannot get health insurance because they suffer from a preexisting condition, or they fear losing their coverage if they lose or they change their jobs. When Congress took up this bill, we had a real opportunity, a real opportunity, to help families in this country by modestly reforming the health insurance industry and meeting the needs of working families.

I was in Wallingford, CT, not too long ago, where I met with a group of construction workers. One of the gentlemen there said to me that he was very, very much concerned about the downsizing of businesses all over the country. He has a child with a terminal illness. He said, "I stay up nights worrying that if I lose my job, I lose my health care. What do I do about my child's illness and her health care?"

We had an opportunity, and, unfortunately and sadly, the bill that passed the House is a bad bill. It let the

American people down, and it will make the health care problem worse.

We had a bipartisan bill sponsored in the Senate by Senator KENNEDY and Senator KASSEBAUM, and in this body, in the House, by Congresswoman MARGE ROUKEMA of New Jersey, a bipartisan bill that took the first steps toward addressing these two very serious problems. Instead of passing that legislation as it is and as the authors thought it best, what happened was that under the banner of reform, the House passed the bill which includes extraneous provisions that raise costs, hurt consumers, and will increase the number of uninsured in this country.

For example, they added medical savings accounts, which are expensive, destructive and bad health care policy. Instead of helping working middle-class families, our Republican colleagues continue to cater to the special interests. The medical savings accounts are a creature of the Golden Rule Insurance Co., headed up by J. Patrick Rooney, who, not by my description, but by the description of a variety of others, including the Wall Street Journal, has indicated that he is the third largest contributor to Republican campaigns.

Medical savings accounts have been added to this bill, causing an enormous problem. Medical savings accounts will take the healthy out of the traditional insurance pool, provide them with a tax break, and leave the insurance pool with only those who are frail and sick, thereby driving up premiums for everyone else. With the rise in those costs of premiums, people will no longer be able to afford them, thereby increasing the number of uninsured.

The American Council of Actuaries, not a liberal group by any stretch of the imagination, indicated that there would be a 61 percent shifting of costs with the medical savings account to those who are now currently insured in a traditional insurance policy, a 61-percent shift in cost.

Working Americans know very, very well, very well, about cost shifting in health care. When people are not insured, that does not go begging, it does not fall into a black hole. Everybody else who is insured picks up the cost. We had an opportunity, and we missed it.

Watch carefully and listen carefully. Do not buy this new rhetoric. Understand what is going on here.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. There being no further requests for morning business, pursuant to clause 12, rule 1, the House will stand in recess until 11 a.m.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 10 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until 11 a.m.)

□ 1100

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 11 a.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

As the rain nourishes the Earth, so may Your grace, O God, nourish us in the depths of our souls, our minds, and our hearts. We strive to learn and master new tasks. We absorb the facts and figures of today's world and we have all the resources of the intellect of the generations. Yet on this day we pray that we will heed the needs of our souls, strengthen our inner being in faith, preserve the hope and renewal of our hearts and by so doing walk in love and trust with You, our God, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Chair's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 335, nays 67, answered "present" 1, not voting 28, as follows:

[Roll No. 118]
YEAS—335

Allard	Bishop	Castle
Andrews	Bliley	Chabot
Archer	Blute	Chambliss
Armey	Boehlert	Chenoweth
Bachus	Bonilla	Christensen
Baesler	Bonior	Chrysler
Baker (CA)	Bono	Clement
Baker (LA)	Boucher	Clinger
Ballenger	Brewster	Coble
Barcia	Browder	Coburn
Barr	Brown (OH)	Coleman
Barrett (NE)	Brownback	Collins (GA)
Barrett (WI)	Bryant (TN)	Collins (MI)
Bartlett	Bryant (TX)	Combest
Barton	Bunn	Condit
Bass	Bunning	Conyers
Bateman	Burr	Cooley
Beilenson	Burton	Costello
Bentsen	Callahan	Cox
Bereuter	Calvert	Coyne
Berman	Camp	Cramer
Bevill	Campbell	Crane
Bilbray	Canady	Crapo
Bilirakis	Cardin	Cremeans

Cubin	Jefferson	Petri
Cunningham	Johnson (CT)	Porter
Danner	Johnson (SD)	Portman
Davis	Johnson, E. B.	Poshard
de la Garza	Johnson, Sam	Pryce
Deal	Johnston	Quillen
DeLauro	Jones	Quinn
DeLay	Kanjorski	Radanovich
Dellums	Kaptur	Rahall
Deutsch	Kasich	Ramstad
Diaz-Balart	Kelly	Rangel
Dickey	Kennedy (MA)	Reed
Dicks	Kennedy (RI)	Regula
Dingell	Kennelly	Rivers
Dixon	Kildee	Roberts
Doggett	Kim	Roemer
Dooley	King	Rogers
Doolittle	Kingston	Rohrabacher
Doyle	Klecza	Ros-Lehtinen
Dreier	Klug	Roth
Duncan	Knollenberg	Roukema
Dunn	Kolbe	Roybal-Allard
Edwards	LaHood	Royce
Ehlers	Lantos	Salmon
Ehrlich	Laughlin	Sanders
Emerson	Lazio	Sanford
English	Leach	Sawyer
Eshoo	Lewis (CA)	Saxton
Evans	Lewis (KY)	Scarborough
Ewing	Lightfoot	Schaefer
Fawell	Lincoln	Schiff
Fields (TX)	Linder	Schumer
Flake	Lipinski	Scott
Flanagan	Livingston	Seastrand
Foley	LoBiondo	Sensenbrenner
Forbes	Lofgren	Serrano
Fowler	Lowey	Shadegg
Fox	Lucas	Shaw
Franks (CT)	Luther	Shays
Franks (NJ)	Maloney	Shuster
Frelinghuysen	Manzullo	Skeen
Frisa	Martinez	Skelton
Frost	Mascara	Slaughter
Funderburk	Matsui	Smith (MI)
Furse	McCarthy	Smith (NJ)
Gallely	McCollum	Smith (TX)
Ganske	McCrery	Smith (WA)
Gejdenson	McHale	Solomon
Gekas	McHugh	Souder
Gilchrest	McInnis	Spence
Gillmor	McIntosh	Spratt
Gilman	McKeon	Stearns
Gonzalez	McKinney	Stenholm
Goodlatte	McNulty	Stokes
Goodling	Meehan	Studds
Gordon	Metcalfe	Stump
Goss	Meyers	Stupak
Graham	Mica	Talent
Green (TX)	Miller (CA)	Tate
Greene (UT)	Miller (FL)	Tauzin
Gunderson	Minge	Taylor (NC)
Hall (TX)	Mink	Tejeda
Hamilton	Moakley	Thomas
Hancock	Molinari	Thornberry
Hansen	Mollohan	Thurman
Hastert	Montgomery	Torres
Hastings (WA)	Moorhead	Torricelli
Hayes	Moran	Traficant
Hayworth	Morella	Upton
Hefner	Murtha	Vucanovich
Herger	Myers	Walker
Hinchee	Nadler	Walsh
Hobson	Nethercutt	Wamp
Hoekstra	Neumann	Ward
Hoke	Ney	Waters
Holden	Norwood	Watts (OK)
Horn	Nussle	Waxman
Hostettler	Obey	Weldon (FL)
Houghton	Ortiz	Weldon (PA)
Hoyer	Orton	White
Hunter	Oxley	Whitfield
Hutchinson	Packard	Wicker
Hyde	Parker	Williams
Inglis	Paxon	Wise
Istook	Payne (NJ)	Wolf
Jackson (IL)	Payne (VA)	Woolsey
Jackson-Lee	Peterson (FL)	Young (FL)
(TX)	Peterson (MN)	Zeliff

NAYS—67

Abercrombie	DeFazio	Gephardt
Ackerman	Durbin	Geren
Baldacci	Engel	Gutierrez
Borski	Ensign	Gutknecht
Brown (CA)	Everett	Hall (OH)
Brown (FL)	Fazio	Hastings (FL)
Clayton	Filner	Hefley
Clyburn	Foglietta	Heineman
Collins (IL)	Frank (MA)	Hilleary

Hiiliard	Olver	Tanner
Jacobs	Pallone	Taylor (MS)
Klink	Pastor	Thompson
LaFalce	Pelosi	Torkildsen
Latham	Pickett	Velazquez
Levin	Pombo	Visclosky
Lewis (GA)	Pomeroy	Volkmer
Longley	Rush	Watt (NC)
Manton	Sabo	Weller
Martini	Schroeder	Wynn
McDermott	Sisisky	Yates
Menendez	Skaggs	Zimmer
Neal	Stark	
Oberstar	Stockman	

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—1

Harman

NOT VOTING—28

Becerra	Gibbons	Riggs
Boehner	Greenwood	Rose
Buyer	Largent	Thornton
Chapman	LaTourette	Tiahrt
Clay	Markey	Towns
Dornan	McDade	Vento
Farr	Meek	Wilson
Fattah	Myrick	Young (AK)
Fields (LA)	Owens	
Ford	Richardson	

□ 1127

So the Journal was approved.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. BALLENGER] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BALLENGER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 16, 1996.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
The Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of the certificate of election received from the Honorable Bill Jones, Secretary of State, State of California, certifying that, according to the semi-official returns of the Special Election held on the 26th day of March, 1996, the Honorable Juanita M. McDonald was elected to the Office of Member of the Congress from the Thirty-seventh Congressional District of California.

With warm regards,

ROBIN H. CARLE.

SWEARING IN OF THE HONORABLE JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD, OF CALIFORNIA, AS A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER. Will the Member-elect from California, the Honorable JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD, present herself in the well along with the California delegation and raise her hand?

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD appeared at the bar of the House, and took the oath of office, as follows:

Do you solemnly swear that you will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that you will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that you take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion, and that you will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which you are about to enter. So help you God.

The SPEAKER. Congratulations, you are a Member of the House.

A WELCOME TO THE HONORABLE JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD AS A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE

(Mr. BROWN of California asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BROWN of California. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor and privilege this morning, on behalf of the California delegation, to introduce the newest Member of Congress from the State of California. I hope that she will be the first in a series of new Members that will be elected from California.

But before I yield briefly to the minority leader, I would like to note that Gus Hawkins is present to participate in this great activity, and before we begin to praise JUANITA, may I just say about Gus Hawkins, my dear friend for the last 40 to 50 years, that he is the dean of all elected officials in the State of California, having served for 56 years continuously, half in this body and half in the State legislature, of course.

Again, more appropriately, he is the first African-American to be elected from southern California, and this is the latest African-American to be elected from southern California. And I think it is appropriate to note in such a brief period how much history has changed in California.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the minority leader for any introductory remarks he may wish to make.

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, thanking Mr. Dean, Members of the House, I rise this morning on behalf of all of my Democratic colleagues and all of my colleagues to welcome the newest Member of the House of Representatives, JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD of California.

Many of our colleagues have begun their careers in local and State, city, town government and built their understanding of their districts and their communities from the bottom up, from the grass roots. But in the gentlewoman from California [Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD], we have gained a colleague who has already used her talents as a State lawmaker to become a national leader.

A former school teacher, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD has been an innovator on education policy, pushing for creative reforms in California's inner-city schools, such as better English instruction, tougher standards and