

Mr. PETE GEREN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, from 12:30 to 2 in the Canon Caucus Room, Members of the Congress will gather with the VA-National Medical Musical Group for the first Congressional Flag Day Prayer Concert.

VA-NMMG will be joined by singers Judy Collins, Wintley Phipps, Detra Battle, and Naoko Okada, and by various Members of Congress who will narrate the program with patriotic and inspirational readings. NBC's Tim Russert and Adrian Cronauer, the military broadcaster who inspired "Good Morning, Vietnam," will act as masters of ceremony.

The program, which will focus on prayer for our troops in Bosnia and for peace in the Balkans, was developed by the VA-NMMG, a highly-acclaimed chorale and symphony group made up of doctors, nurses, scientists, veterans, and students. These individuals come from veterans' and other medical centers and medical schools across the United States. VA-NMMG, which formed in 1983, has performed at the Reagan, Bush, and Clinton White Houses and for such dignitaries as Pope John Paul II and members of the United Nations.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join us today, join us in this occasion of prayer, join us in this celebration of Flag Day.

FBI FILES IN WHITE HOUSE

(Mr. HEFLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, this morning's New York Times features an editorial that is highly critical of the Clinton administration in its involvement in raiding the FBI files of former Republican White House employees.

Let me just quote some of the questions raised by the New York Times, "There are deeper questions here. What, for example, were the Attorney General and the F.B.I. Director doing while their control of their agency was being usurped? If Bernard Nussbaum * * * was out of the loop, why was his letterhead weighty enough to unlock hundreds of confidential files at an agency not under his supervision? * * * The FBI and the Secret Service have always been at the center of the review and documentation process. Why suddenly was a temporary employee from the Department of Defense given the task of security vetting of White House staff and visitors?"

The Times concludes by saying, "These are executive questions of a historically important nature. We would think the current Chief Executive would be first in line demanding answers."

MARGE SCHOTT AND THE CINCINNATI REDS

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, most Americans agree that the statements of Marge Schott, owner of the Cincinnati Reds, were crude, rude, repugnant, ignorant, and disgusting, to say the least.

Mr. Speaker, was Marge Schott wrong? Yes. Do baseball owners have the right to be upset? Yes. Do baseball owners have the right to sanction Marge Schott? Yes.

Do baseball owners have the right to strip Marge Schott of the ownership of the Cincinnati Reds? I say absolutely not. The baseball owners can fine her; they can sanction her; but, by God, they cannot take her ownership of the Reds away.

We may disagree with what she says, but she has the right to say it. The fact is, I believe that Marge Schott is more of a threat to sobriety than she is a threat to our society. Think about that one.

I yield back the balance of any ownership. There is still a Constitution around here.

PATENT PROTECTION

(Mr. ROHRBACHER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, next week this House will have a chance to vote on H.R. 3460, the Moorhead-Schroeder Patent Act, which I believe should be entitled the "Steal American Technologies Act."

Members of the Committee on the Judiciary yesterday were given inaccurate answers to questions, and this bill passed right through that committee and will be heading toward this floor next week.

The bill mandates, mandates that every patent application that is made to the United States Patent Office be published after 18 months, whether or not the patent has been issued. Do my colleagues understand what that means? That means every new idea our people come up with, whether or not they have been issued the patents, it will be published for the entire world to see. It is an invitation to steal every new American technological idea. It is an insane mandate, and it is in this bill.

The bill also obliterates the Patent Office and resurrects it as a quasi-independent corporation, like the post office. Only with that, congressional oversight is limited and patent examiners are stripped of their right of civil service protection.

It is an invitation to steal American technology. H.R. 3460 must be defeated.

FAILURE ON BUDGET RESOLUTION

(Mr. DOGGETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, yesterday this failed Congress failed to act on the national budget resolution. Appar-

ently the budget resolution advanced by the Gingrich leadership was so bad that even some of our Republican colleagues could not stomach it.

In fact, I quote from a leaflet that one of them sent out, Do we want the deficit to go back up, the budget resolution conference report shows the budget deficit going back up again, reversing the gains made in the past 3 years.

He could have added, under President Clinton. And he is exactly right. Their resolution increases the budget deficit, and he urges the House to reject the conference report.

These are the same Republicans who in the name of deficit reduction said they were willing to cut Medicare, the same Republicans who in the name of deficit reduction shut down the Government with their antics of last year. Yet now that we have an election coming along, they are willing to let the budget deficit soar.

Those of us who backed the conservative coalition budget have a better way. Balance the budget now without unbalancing the budgets of American working families and without wrecking Medicare.

ROBERT J. DOLE

(Mr. TIAHRT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, yesterday Senate majority leader Robert J. Dole became a private citizen. He left us in Congress a legacy of integrity, honesty and character. Character is something that you develop when no one is around, as Senator Dole did in his service to his country during World War II and the 39 months that followed as he struggled to regain his ability to walk. Honesty is something that he has provided to the American public even when it was unpopular. Integrity is something Senator Dole has undergone with three decades of public scrutiny and three presidential campaigns. He has worked hard throughout that time to do the right thing.

Mr. Speaker, we will miss Senator Dole on the Hill, but we will welcome him with open arms as he moves into 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, yesterday this House sent to conference committee a health care reform bill and hopefully we will see a bill come out. But the one that was in conference committee now allows for what is called MSA's, for most folks medical savings accounts.

It would be a Federal tax deduction for someone who can afford to buy a high deductible insurance policy, \$4,000 or \$5,000 deductible a year.

This Congress removed the deductibility for health insurance premiums, for the average working stiff in the 1980's. The average working stiff who pays it by the month will not be able to deduct their premiums. Yet we are going to give it to the wealthiest who can afford \$5,000 a year.

As my colleague from Ohio says, beam me up. We are going to let the wealthy, are helping the wealthy more by the \$5,000 deductible buy MSA's, but we are not letting the average person who pays their health insurance by the month deduct it. We ought to do both in this Congress.

MORE ON FBI FILES

(Mr. STOCKMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. STOCKMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have a confidential file here that somehow ended up on my desk. I do not know where it came from or how it got here.

The President came to Houston a little over a year ago and he had the courage to admit he raised the taxes too much. Mr. Speaker, he is coming again to Texas and Houston, June 21. It is my hope that he will have the courage to apologize for taking these files on individuals and bringing them back to his office.

My fear, Mr. Speaker, is that there will be a lot less courage but maybe one day we will see some convictions.

POLITICS OF INSENSITIVITY

(Mr. MILLER of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, all Members of this House should be saddened today by the remarks yesterday of majority leader DICK ARMEY in his criticism and his remarks about the President's visit to South Carolina today to dedicate the new chapel at Mount Zion A.M.E. Church, a church that was firebombed and burned to the ground, 1 of 49 black churches burned to the ground in this country.

For the majority leader to turn this into politics is exactly the kind of politics that we do not need in this country: the politics of insensitivity, of extremism and of race.

The President is doing what any President of this country must do, and that is to bring us together to heal this Nation and to get us to face this national horror.

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The President is doing what any President must do to bring the full force and effect of law enforcement against these crimes, against these bombings. The President is doing what any President of this nation must do, and that is to get this Nation to challenge, to challenge us against these horrible crimes. The gentleman from

Texas [Mr. ARMEY] is doing what no majority leader should do, and that is to make politics out of a national terror.

ABUSE OF POWER AND INVASION OF PRIVACY UNCOVERED IN THE WHITE HOUSE

(Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, potential abuse of power and invasion of privacy have been uncovered in the Clinton White House. The White House requested, and received, highly confidential FBI files and records of former Reagan and Bush appointees, suggesting the formation of an enemies list.

Mr. Speaker, there are a lot of unanswered questions in this latest Clinton administration blunder. The American public, especially those citizens whose privacy rights were violated by having their personal files searched, deserve an honest explanation, not more excuses and coverups.

It is time for the President to come clean on his administration's activities. Tell us the truth about the FBI file search.

TRUST FUND SCARE ONE OF BIGGEST SCAMS EVER PERPETRATED ON AMERICANS

(Ms. VELÁZQUEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, we have heard a lot of rhetoric from Republicans this year. However, the current trust fund scare is one of the biggest scams ever perpetrated on the American people.

Republicans in Congress are using the Medicare trust fund report to justify their extreme proposal to slash Medicare. The trust fund report is simply a smokescreen for the real reason they want to cut Medicare: tax breaks.

If Republicans were truly interested in saving Medicare, they would reduce their huge tax breaks to the rich, not by slashing this vital program with cuts that will devastate seniors, close public hospitals, and burden working-class families.

Medicare is a program that should provide health care services for seniors, not a piggy bank for wealthy corporations and the privileged few.

300 FILES A BUREAUCRATIC MISTAKE?

(Mrs. SEASTRAND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SEASTRAND. Mr. Speaker, they say that nothing ever stays the same, and I suppose that applies even to Bill Clinton's beliefs about how personal FBI personnel records are.

When the American public was concerned in 1992 about Governor Clinton's military record, or lack thereof, the Washington Times filed a Freedom of Information request to check on discrepancies between Clinton campaign statements and his letters to ROTC officials.

At that time, the Clinton campaign said "It's a personal file. He's not going to [release the records]. [Clinton] just doesn't have to disclose every shred of his personal life, and the American people don't expect him to."

Apparently, Clinton did not expect that same sort of privacy for other citizens. He has raided the personal files of Reagan and Bush political appointees, yet it was only a bureaucratic mistake. A misplaced paper or misfiled form may be a bureaucratic mistake, but the personal files of over 300 people?

Clinton once thought those 300 files were personal. The American people, and the people whose privacy were violated by this administration deserve an explanation.

MEDICAID REFORM

(Mr. STUPAK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, after U.S. Governors earlier this year announced a plan to reform Medicaid, I looked forward to working in a bipartisan fashion to create a quality piece of legislation.

However, there have never been any bipartisan negotiations on the current bill. The result is a new blueprint for block-granting that may be ideologically perfect, but is socially destructive.

The proposed legislation removes the guarantee of health care for the elderly and disabled. It allows each State to define the scope, amount, and duration of any Medicaid payment.

It will require impoverished seniors to pay high deductibles or copays that they cannot afford. It will force spouses and children around the country to contribute a disproportionate amount for nursing home care for their parents or grandparents.

This bill would be devastating to rural health care, because it does not require benefits provided by each State's program to be provided equally to all parts of a State.

Medicaid was created in the first place because States did not provide for those who needed care. Let us not turn back the clock and create 50 new federally funded experiments that use our grandparents and children as guinea pigs.

HYPOCRISY IN THE WHITE HOUSE

(Mrs. CHENOWETH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks ago Bill Clinton and his liberal partners held a stand for children.