

Bob Dole, we increased it to 80 percent; making health care insurance more portable so you can take it between jobs; and no one can be denied coverage because of preexisting conditions. We also provide for medical savings accounts, an innovation that is working across this country. We want to improve access by making health care more affordable to Americans.

I think it is important today to note that it was 57 days ago that the U.S. Senate passed the health insurance reform legislation by a vote of 100 to 0. Every Member, Democrat and Republican, voted for that health care reform bill.

Both the House and Senate have passed health care reform, so what is the holdup? I think it is important today to point out that today is day 57 of health care reform being held hostage in the United States Senate. Health care reform is being held hostage by a small, narrow, extreme, left-wing minority of one who stands in the way of health care reform. Working families, small businesspeople, entrepreneurs, flower shops, local grocery stores, the people on Main Street—

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman suspend for one moment. It is not in order to cast reflections on the Senate or its Members, individually or collectively. The gentleman may resume.

Mr. WELLER. Working families, the self-employed, flower shops on Main Street, the backbone of our society, the little guys and gals are being punished because one Member is filibustering legislation to provide health care reform and make health care affordable.

This particular Senator is using medical savings accounts as his excuse for blocking affordable health care reform. The reason this Senator is filibustering health care reform is because he wants a Government takeover of our health care system.

Medical savings accounts are an idea which was discussed while I was in the State legislature.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman suspend. It is not in order to cast any reflection on the Senate or its Members and I ask the gentleman to refrain from doing so.

The gentleman may proceed in order.

Mr. WELLER. Medical savings accounts are an issue I dealt with as an Illinois State legislator. While I was in the Illinois General Assembly, we were successful in passing medical savings accounts. Since 1993, Illinois residents in the Land of Lincoln have been able to reap the cost-saving benefits of MSAs.

In fact, there are 18 States today that are leading the effort to provide for medical savings accounts. In fact, there are hundreds of thousands of employees of small businesses and corporations that have the opportunity to have medical savings accounts. Medi-

cal savings accounts work because they provide choice for working Americans, choice amongst their health care providers, choice amongst their physicians. They lower costs by rewarding cost-conscious consumers, and they also provide for portability between jobs.

Unfortunately one legislator stands in the way with his filibuster, and unfortunately that interest is blocking health care reform.

There is strong bipartisan support for health care reform in the House and Senate. It passed the Senate by 100 votes to nothing, it overwhelmingly passed the House, and if it is allowed to be voted on, it will pass.

Ladies and gentlemen, I ask the President to call on this one legislator in the other body to drop his effort to hold health care reform hostage.

Let us bring the bill up for a vote. Let us send it to the President with this bipartisan effort to make health care more affordable and become law.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind all Members again to not cast reflections on the Senate or its Members individually or collectively, or to urge particular Senate action.

SENATE WHITEWATER COMMITTEE MINORITY FILES REPORT

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

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, I hope what I am going to do today is going to be within the rules of the House, because I rise today to urge the American people to please read the minority report coming out of the Senate today. It is terribly important. It is the minority report being filed by the ranking member, Senator SARBANES, the summary of conclusions from the Whitewater Committee.

I think this is a very, very critical report. It was not leaked to the press, as the majority report was. As a consequence, many people are dealing without this factual base. We are into spin, if you can imagine such a thing in this town. Everybody is into spin control.

Let us talk a little bit about what is going on. First of all, this has been the longest running congressional investigation of any sitting President. If we look at the facts on Watergate, if we look at the facts on Iran Contra, this one has gone much longer than that.

I am very proud that the minority report was not leaked because in this highly charged political atmosphere I was hoping this could be an objective attempt, since it has gone on so long. If we do not count the meetings done by the Senate Banking Committee that

were held in 1994, let us just push those entirely out to the side, this Senate Whitewater Committee in 1995 and 1996 met for more than 300 hours in open sessions, took 10,729 pages of hearing testimony in 51 hearings and 8 public meetings. It also had 159 witnesses and took more than 35,000 pages of deposed testimony from 245 persons. Hundreds of thousands of pages of documents have been provided to the committee by different agencies, departments, and individuals.

If we look at all of this and then we look at the over \$32 million that has been spent on this, I think it is terribly important to say, what did we get out of this? What did we get out of this? We ought to be looking at the facts.

This was a very broad spread committee. It went on longer than anything. The facts ought to be what we are looking at. The bottom line should be, did President Clinton misuse the powers of his presidency? The other question was, did he use his official position in Arkansas to financially enrich himself?

If we read this committee report by the minority, they clearly conclude after sifting through all of this paper and all of this oral testimony that the answer to those questions is "no." And they are really rather surprised by the fact that, I guess the disappointment at finding the answer was "no," they had to go out and look for someone else to drop a net over, and so it really appears that they went after Mrs. Clinton with all the venom they could possibly go after. It is like they have this incredible sinister spotlight that they want to shine on her and make her the most evil soul that ever walked the planet.

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Mr. Speaker, this is not the person I know, and I think it is very interesting to look at the perspective that they have put on it. If you cannot recall precisely what you did 10 years ago, then they want to spin it that you are lying, you are disingenuous, you are part of a conspiracy, and so forth and so on. But basically what we should be doing, I believe by our charter under the Constitution, is we should be looking at elected officials and what elected officials did or did not do in the role of their public trusteeship. That is the issue.

Mr. Speaker, I think it has probably been very discouraging to many people who put a lot of time in, because I think, if anybody looks at the President we have, everybody knows he loves politics. And anyone who is in politics knows that politics keeps you busy 24 hours a day. There are never enough hours in the day to do all the things that you should do if you really want to be good at your profession. If anything, this President is probably guilty of ignoring his own personal financial background. He enjoys much too much being with people, talking to people, listening to people, doing

things with people, participating in events, thinking about policy issues to get involved with those details of how he pays his own bills.

So I hope that everybody looks at this minority report and we get the facts out. We have paid a lot of money for this. Let us not do spin. Let us do facts. Let us try and look at this thing objectively and not politically.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEARNS). According to Jefferson's Rules of the House, on page 176, even when Members characterize a report from the Senate—this is on page 176: Except as permitted in clause 1 of rule XIV, it is out of order to characterize the position of the Senate, or of Senators designated by name or position, on legislative issues.

FILEGATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. MICA] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, Shakespeare said, "Something is rotten in Denmark."

Mr. Speaker, I say something is rotten in the White House. I am talking today about the case of Filegate, which has raised so many eyebrows, which has raised so many concerns. Each day a new revelation comes out on this matter. Each day I continue to be shocked and the American people become more concerned about what they learned. First we heard that the FBI had turned over to the White House had obtained 330 names to peruse. We understand the list went from "A" to "G." Then we heard the number raised to 341 names. Recently we heard the FBI state that requests were made for more than 400 files. I learned today that one file was returned on June 10. I learned also today that 71 files were turned over on June 17. What is shocking is I learned today, too, that the White House still has 17 of these files.

Mr. Speaker, the more we learn about this situation, the more I become concerned. Mr. Freeh, the Director of the FBI, said that the FBI was victimized. I think the FBI was victimized. Even the Washington Post, one of the administration's most ardent supporters, now feel in their editorials yesterday and today that they were victimized.

Mr. Speaker, this all came about because the committee on which I served, Government Reform and Oversight, requested files. We requested files for almost 2 years, and what did we get? We got stonewalled. It got so bad that we had to issue this contempt report to John Quinn, counsel to the President, requesting this information after our preliminary investigation saw the mis-

use and abuse of the FBI and the IRS in the Travelgate fiasco. That is how this came about.

The more questions that we see being raised, the more questions we have. We do not know how many files were obtained. We do not know how many files were copied. We do not know how the files were used. We do not know whose civil rights or privacy rights were abused. Filegate came to light because of our investigation.

Most disturbing to me as a member of the committee that was investigating this, Government Reform and Oversight, is that the FBI files of three of our subcommittee staff directors were obtained by the White House. To me, this is a clear and direct violation of the firewall which has always existed between the legislative branch, the executive branch, and the chief Federal law enforcement agency of our Nation.

The Committee on Government Reform and Oversight is charged with investigations and audits of the executive branch of Government. Our committee has been stonewalled in repeated requests for documents relating to travelgate during the past 2 years. Only after we took this drastic step of threatening to issue a contempt citation of Congress did we receive one-third of the documents requested. It was through these documents that we discovered the unbelievable tale of the misuse of FBI files in the manner we have heard described, the manner we see here.

Mr. Speaker, in light of what has been revealed, I believe it is incumbent upon this Congress to move forward immediately and issue this contempt citation to Mr. Quinn and the others. It is not sufficient for the White House and Mr. Quinn to suspend Mr. Livingstone. It is now absolutely critical that the Congress obtain all of the 2,000 missing documents, the documents that have been withheld from this Congress, withheld from our subcommittee, and that we conduct a thorough and complete investigation and review of this matter and this entire sorry chapter in this administration.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Will the gentleman yield for a question?

Mr. MICA. Yes, I would be glad to.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, does the gentleman believe that it is possible that the White House received all of these files from the FBI and that perhaps they were just trying to look into one or two people in those files that they really wanted to get, and that the rest of those files were just a cover against, a vendetta against individuals that they do not want to admit who they are?

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I do not know. We do not have the 2,000 documents we requested, and I call on the Congress to issue the contempt citation.

CHURCH ARSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May

12, 1995, the gentleman from South Carolina [Mr. SPRATT] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, in the last 18 months, 40 churches have been burned to the ground, 5 of them in my State. And despite mounting concern, eight churches have burned in the last 2 weeks, four within the last 2 days.

It is time, past time, for Congress to say, "In America, we don't burn churches, synagogues, or mosques, or let anyone who does, escape with impunity."

Today, we have such a chance, because today, we take up a bill called the Church Arson Prevention Act.

We all know that this law will not bring these heinous crimes to a sudden halt. But this law will put the authority of Federal Government, the BATF and the FBI, into the investigation, prosecution, and punishment of every church that's burned.

This bill attempts to justify its purpose under the Interstate Commerce Clause, which I think is unnecessary. I think that under the 1st and 14th amendment, Congress not only has the power but the duty to prohibit any restraint on the free exercise of religion, and we not only have the power but a special duty to see that crimes of hate, aimed at African-Americans because of their race, are prosecuted and punished. And that is critically true when the hatred is visited on churches, the vital beating heart of African-American communities.

I feel certain that the Church Arson Prevention Act will pass this House overwhelmingly. But that is not enough. It must be backed by the unstinting authority of the Federal Government until every miscreant who would commit such a crime knows that he will be pursued relentlessly, prosecuted swiftly, and punished severely.

OUR NATURAL RESOURCES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. GOSS] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about some good news today. Over the last 20 years, we in this country have made measurable good progress in protecting our natural resources. Our air and our water are cleaner than they were in the 1970's, and we have reversed the decline of several of the endangered species. This is a good record. It is an admirable record. We all know there are still many areas where Federal attention is required today, but we also know that you cannot write thousands and thousands of pages of Federal regulations without some problems developing along the way. It is just common sense to take a look at current regulations and decide what works and what does not and look for ways to make a cleaner, safer, healthier environment for everyone and at the same time, of course, excise those unworkable and