

want to have insurance companies prohibited from not insuring folks for their preexisting conditions. But let me tell the Members, under the banner of reform, what the congressional majority has done to the health care bill.

Do not take my word for it, take the word of Consumers Union. Consumers Union produces the Consumer Reports that advise us on buying an automobile, an appliance, and not to buy a lemon. Let me tell the Members what they say about medical savings accounts, which is holding up the health care reform bill:

The inclusion of the Republican MSA proposal in the Kassebaum-Kennedy bill makes the legislation worse than a wash for consumers. It takes us backward in our efforts to make health insurance accessible and affordable.

MSA's are a time bomb. They turn the very principle of insurance on its head. Instead of pooling resources, they help healthy people accumulate wealth.

I ask Members to be on their guard and oppose the MSA's.

HEALTH CARE REFORM: COMMON-SENSE ANSWERS FOR AMERICA'S HEALTH CARE NEEDS

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

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to encourage our colleagues to join me in calling on the Senate to pass our commonsense health care reforms now. These are reasonable changes like portability, affordability, and most of all, accessibility.

Portability is within this Congress' grasp. And here our reforms can end job lock, giving tens of thousands of Americans the opportunity to maintain their health care coverage, without sacrificing their careers.

Second, by allowing individuals tax-free medical savings accounts, expanding the health insurance deduction for the self-employed and introducing tax incentives to promote long-term care coverage, we are helping people help themselves.

But finally, Mr. Speaker, this Congress has the opportunity to end the preexisting conditions exclusion, which keeps more than 20 million Americans from the coverage they need.

One of these is, in fact, one of my own family. They have a full time job and pay their taxes. Yet, because of a condition that they developed, they cannot secure the health care coverage that they need and want.

I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, that when we cast our final votes on this package, it will be these three commonsense reforms, portability, affordability, and accessibility, that will be foremost in the minds of all Americans.

GRANTING MFN TO CHINA NOT FAIR TO AMERICAN WORKERS

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I had planned to hold up a toy assault weapon when I spoke today on the House floor. House rules suggest I not do so.

This toy gun was made in China. It is only a toy. But the 2,000 assault weapons that the U.S. attorney in San Francisco found last month were not toys. They were the real thing, smuggled in by the Chinese Government or a company controlled by the Chinese Government. It is sometimes hard to tell the difference when you are dealing with a Communist country that uses slave labor.

The assault weapons in California kill people. Those toys made by the Chinese in Chinese slave labor camps kill jobs, American jobs. The trade deficit with China is \$34 billion a year and growing. Before long it will be greater than the deficit we have with Japan. MFN, most-favored-nation status, is not fair to American workers. Kill MFN.

THE NEA MUST GO

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

Mr. FUNDERBURK. Mr. Speaker, here we go again. The NEA insists on offending American families. Freshman Republicans tried to eliminate taxpayer funding for the National Endowment for the Arts, in part because taxpayers should not have to subsidize art which blatantly offends the religious beliefs and family values of most Americans. As Bob Dole puts it, most people know the difference between Mapplethorpe and Michelangelo.

Now the NEA has crossed the lines again with a debut this Sunday of the "Watermelon Woman" film at the New York Lesbian and Gay Video and Film Festival. The film is described in the Washington Times as "black lesbian quirky, steamy, and taxpayer funded." The Times goes on to quote Edmond Peterson, chairman of Project 21, an organization of conservative blacks, saying: "This is a classic example of the Clinton administration being in bed with the gay-lesbian movement and funding a project through tax dollars that cannot get funded any other way."

Mr. Speaker, it is a free country and people can make any kind of trash they want, but taxpayers should not have to pay for it. It is time we cut off funding for the NEA.

A MODERN-DAY HELEN OF TROY

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

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, Helen of Troy supposedly launched many ships with just her face. Today I

picked up the Hill and read that the Speaker of the House is giving me credit for launching the Republican budget with my face. I want to thank him, but I cannot take credit.

Everybody wondered how the Republicans got the last four votes on this Republican budget that they launched, because this Republican budget increases the deficit from this year, next year, and the next year. It is a disaster. It's a ship that should be sunk, not launched.

Mr. Speaker, when the Republicans counted the votes, they did not have them, so they had to keep the voting machine open for a very long time while they pressured their Members to change. The Speaker said he did not have to work at all, that their four changers very willingly came down here and changed when they saw my face. That is fairly incredible, because I was not here. I was one of the first to vote, went home, and was watching the vote on C-SPAN, so I have something over Helen of Troy. If the Speaker is right, they can beam my face right back in here from C-SPAN even if I'm absent.

MEDICAL SAVINGS ACCOUNTS ARE NEW APPROACH WITH PROVEN TRACK RECORD

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, medical savings accounts have become a focal point for this whole debate over the health care reform. MSA's are a new approach, but they do have a proven track record.

A recent study by researchers at Cleveland State University prove the effectiveness of MSA's. They studied 27 Ohio firms of less than 200 employees. The average employee had lower out-of-pocket costs—as much as \$1,355 per family. The firms themselves saved an average of 12 percent a year without passing on the savings to their employees.

Mr. Speaker, as of last year, 17 States have passed MSA laws, another 11 are considering them, and another 11 have called on Congress to enact MSA's. Even the United Mine Workers offers MSA's to its members. Let us join the trend toward serious, workable health care reform; let us follow the lead of the States and enact the kind of reforms that have a proven track record.

CALL GHOSTBUSTERS FOR AIRLINE SAFETY

(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, before the ValuJet crash, an FAA inspector said that ValuJet is an accident waiting to happen. It is so bad, she

said, that neither she nor her family would ever fly on ValuJet. But after the crash, a DOT spokesman said ValuJet is completely safe. It is perfectly OK.

Yesterday, after a Three-Stooges-type soap opera, the Government, who has been speaking out of both sides of their mouth on the ValuJet incident, did the following thing. They grounded ValuJet as unsafe, and they threw the top safety man, Tony Broderick, to the wolves.

Beam me up, Mr. Speaker. It is evident after this soap opera that the only call the flying public can make is to Ghostbusters, because the FAA is out to lunch with a bunch and the DOT has gone for soup with the group. Think about it.

WHEN ARE WE GOING TO HEAR THE TRUTH ABOUT THE FBI FILEGATE SCANDAL?

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

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, in order to help me and the American people decipher the police state tactics of the FBI files scandal, I tried to figure out what an innocent bureaucratic mistake was. I thought it might help to look up the word "innocent" in the dictionary. Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary states that the word "innocent" has the following definition: free from guilt through lack of knowledge.

Mr. Speaker, this really did not help, because how could anyone realistically have a lack of knowledge that all of the names in the files in question were Republican White House personnel? Certainly the White House should know our former Secretary of State James Baker, who was on the list, is not really a security risk.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues and I ask just one thing of the Clinton White House with regard to the new FBI Filegate scandal. It is the same question we have asked with so many of the scandals down at this White House: When are we going to hear the truth?

ANOTHER REPUBLICAN DISMANTLING OF MEDICARE

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

Mr. OLIVER. Mr. Speaker, as Yogi Berra once said, it is *deja vu* all over again: another Republican dismantling of Medicare; a little smaller than before, but just as unnecessary, and still a bad policy. Doctors can charge thousands of dollars in bills that Medicare will not cover; hospitals are cutting even more than before, and these cuts, along with the Republicans' Medicaid cuts, will close many rural hospitals in districts all over this country. Seniors are still herded into managed care plans where they cannot choose their

own doctor. That means less choice and continually rising premiums.

Once again, Republicans demand that seniors pay more and more and get less and less. Once again, seniors will pay for the tax cuts for the well off. This plan was never intended to improve Medicare. As Speaker GINGRICH has already said, this plan is intended to see Medicare wither on the vine. It is still a bad deal for America's seniors.

□ 1015

PRIVACY RIGHTS AND FILEGATE

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, when the privacy rights of American citizens are in jeopardy, partisan politics has no place.

That is why I stood up to Members of my own party in fighting against giving the FBI more leeway to conduct warrantless wiretaps. I have opposed the so-called digital telephony scheme which would have expanded the FBI's power to eavesdrop on American homes. And I have taken on Members of my own party when I fought against the odious 1-800-BIG-BROTHER employee computer registry plan.

Thus, I am absolutely astounded by some of the political professionals in this town who have rushed blindly to defend the White House on this FBI file scandal. There is no excuse for White House operatives to rummage through the private FBI background files of political opponents. None. People who sacrifice all dignity in order to help the White House Stonewall and on filegate lose any right to call themselves civil libertarians. It is disgraceful and they should be ashamed.

DOLE'S ANTIENVIRONMENT RECORD

(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, Bob Dole's first campaign swing through California had a chilling message for every voter who cares about the environment.

Bob Dole endorsed Governor Wilson's Ward Valley nuclear dump, although the bankrupt developer has yet to build a radioactive waste facility without serious safety problems.

Bob Dole endorsed the \$2 billion Auburn Dam for Sacramento Valley developers, situated smack on top of an earthquake fault, ignoring a cheaper and more environmentally safe flood control alternative.

Bob Dole endorsed logging of a giant ancient, redwood forest in violation of the Endangered Species Act to benefit a giant timber corporation.

And Bob Dole embraced subsidized agribusinesses who refuse to share water with California cities, fisheries,

wetlands, and refuges. No surprise, because Bob Dole's campaign manager is a lawyer representing the biggest subsidized growers and polluters in our State.

This is Bob Dole's scorched Earth campaign for California's environment, designed by lawyers, lobbyists, and special interests. It will be rejected by California voters because Bob Dole is no friend of our environment.

WHAT IS THREATENING ABOUT MEDICAL SAVINGS ACCOUNTS?

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

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, taking power and influence out of the hands of bureaucrats in Washington and returning it to the American people is something the American people want and that the Congress is trying to provide.

Medical savings accounts, MSA's, are one way to return power and influence over health insurance to individuals.

With an MSA, you do not need anyone's permission to spend money on health care. It is your money to spend or save as you see fit.

With an MSA, you do not have to worry about losing your health care insurance if you switch jobs or lose your job—your MSA is yours and it goes with you. That is true portability.

With an MSA, you do not have to worry about the potential for ruinous out-of-pocket costs. Out-of-pocket costs are limited to the amount of the deductible; and catastrophic insurance kicks in with full coverage after that.

With an MSA, the power and influence over health care spending is in the hands of the individual Americans who choose to have an MSA to pay for their health care.

Why is this power and influence for individuals so threatening?

One person should not deny millions of Americans reform, including MSA's, that will make health insurance more portable and affordable.

TRIBUTE TO 1996 TOSHIBA/NSTA EXPLORAVISION AWARDS PROGRAM

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

Mr. BROWN of California. Mr. Speaker, this Friday, more than 40 students will come to our Nation's Capital to receive top honors in the 1996 ExploraVision Awards Program, sponsored by Toshiba and administered by the National Science Teachers Association [NSTA].

The ExploraVision Awards Program is the largest K-12 student science competition in the world. The competition asks students to work in teams to use their imaginations to envision what technology will be like 20 years from now.