

is the health care bill they are for. They really believe that they will get this big stack of health care bills someday, but only if they do not give people the freedom to choose their own health care.

So why are we being held up? Why for 44 days have we not named conferees on a bill with provisions that virtually everyone says they are for? Remember, all 100 Members of the Senate voted for it. The reason is that the Democrats do not want people to have the freedom to choose their own health care is because their real plan is not to make insurance portable and permanent and it is not one that would empower people to be efficient in buying health care through medical savings accounts. After all, that is what this bill and the House bill are trying to do. The bill the Democrats long to get back to is a bill which is represented by all of the bills that we wisely rejected last year. They want to get back to a bill where the Government, not the family, chooses.

The truly amazing thing is that Senator KENNEDY today had a press conference attacking Senator DOLE for holding up a bill that he, Senator KENNEDY, has been filibustering for 44 days. For 44 days, Senator KENNEDY has stood up and objected to naming conferees, and then today he attacks BOB DOLE for holding up an agreement?

But why has Senator KENNEDY objected? He has objected because he rejects the right of people to choose. He rejects the right of individual citizens to decide whether they want low-deductible health insurance or high-deductible health insurance. Further, he rejects the right of those who choose high-deductible health insurance to put the savings into a medical savings account which they can use to pay those deductibles tax free or which, if they do not use it for that purpose, is available to send their children to college, to make a downpayment on a new home, or to start a new business. Senator KENNEDY and the Democrats do not want people to have that right to choose, because deep down in their hearts, they want the Government to choose.

This is the health care plan they are for—it is not the health care plan that we debated this year. The Democrats know if we get medical savings accounts, if families have an incentive to be cost conscious, if families have the right to choose their own health care, that this will work, and it would mean that they never get the opportunity to have these health care purchasing collectives where Government would make the decisions.

So I simply want to remind my colleagues, when the minority leader or Senator KENNEDY stands up and objects to naming conferees, what they are really objecting to is freedom. They are really objecting to the right of people to choose—they do not want people to have a right to choose, because they want Government to choose.

That is what this debate is about. Do you want Government to run the

health care system, or do you want family choice to dominate the health care system?

To me, that is a very easy question to answer. And let me note the difference between what the Democrats are doing this year and what I did last year—just in case our colleague from Massachusetts should come over and say, “Well, here is PHIL GRAMM, he held up the Clinton health care bill in 78 days of debate.” Yes I did. It was God’s work and I expect to be remembered for it when I get to the golden gates, but I never denied it. I never stood up and said, “This is a great bill the President has proposed. These are wonderful ideas. I’m for it, but I’m just not going to let you pass it.”

I said over I am not going to let you pass this, except over my cold, dead political body. This is not what Senator KENNEDY is saying. Senator KENNEDY says he is for this bill, yet he is not allowing us to name conferees because he does not want people to be free to choose. He wants the Government to choose. This is what the debate is about—freedom—and I wanted to come over today to be sure that people understood with certainty what we are talking about. I want them to understand that the Republicans want families to choose, the Democrats want the Government to choose, and that this is about as big a difference as you can have in the world.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. THOMAS). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXTRA, EXTRA—“READ ALL ABOUT IT”

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, 2 days ago, I spoke proudly of my State’s 150th birthday celebration this year and also the Smithsonian Institution’s cooperation with that effort. By the way, the Smithsonian Institution happens to be 150 years old as well this year, and they are celebrating that anniversary throughout the year. But for 2 weeks, beginning on June 26, there is going to be a celebration of my State on The Mall. Specifically, though, on June 26 there will be a birthday party for Iowa from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Centennial Building on The Mall across from the Smithsonian castle.

I hope that Americans will come to see, over the course of those 2 weeks, demonstrations about Iowa industry, Iowa agriculture, Iowa education, Iowa history, culture—everything—that will be on display there.

I announced that I was going to speak a little bit and shortly every day on a certain aspect of Iowa.

I want to make reference to spreading the spirit of Iowa. As I talk about the Iowa spirit, I will talk about the role of weekly and daily newspapers throughout the history of Iowa, my State.

So it is time to say, “Extra, extra—read all about it.”

Mr. President, Iowa celebrates its 150-year-old heritage this year. And at the end of this month and during the first week of July, Iowa will participate at the Festival of American Folklife on our National Mall to showcase our folks and way of life. Billing the celebration as “Iowa—Community Style,” hundreds of Iowans and Iowa natives will pitch in to spread the sesquicentennial spirit to more than a million visitors.

Of course, Iowa’s story of community wouldn’t be complete without sharing a vital and continuing chapter integral to community life in Iowa. Iowa’s first newspaper started in Dubuque when the Dubuque Visitor issued its premiere edition on May 11, 1836. And Iowa’s longest running newspaper continues to roll off the presses each day in southeast Iowa. The Burlington Hawkeye’s first edition dates back prestatehood, to July 10, 1837. To this day, the local newspaper office remains an important hub of activity on Main Street in Iowa’s 99 county seats and surrounding communities. More than 340 hometown weekly and daily newspapers currently report local events in Iowa.

As you may know, Iowa consistently ranks at the top in literacy and other tests of scholastic achievement. Perhaps it’s no small wonder that my State also holds the highest per capita number of newspapers in the country. Just take one county in Iowa, as an example. Situated on the banks of the Missouri River in northwest Iowa, Sioux County has a population of about 30,000 people and boasts no less than seven published newspapers each week. Known to be well-read, Iowans are serious about keeping abreast of current affairs in our local, national and international communities.

In fact, an international venture between Iowa media outlets and foreign journalists started 3 years ago. The International Center for Community Journalism, based in Grinnell, IA, has helped to match journalists from the Ukraine, Russia, Georgia, Bulgaria, Mongolia, and Thailand with more than 30 newspapers in Iowa. Iowa families open up their homes for 2 or 3 months while the visiting journalist works at their local newspapers.

Many times, Iowa journalists and journalism educators will reciprocate the stay in the foreign country. This exchange of information, culture, and talent has helped to spread the Iowa spirit and a vital understanding of the importance of a free press in a democratic society. The program soon will

include journalists from Hong Kong, Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Vietnam.

Without a doubt, Iowans have grown to depend on their hometown papers for school news, high school sports coverage, business items, local government and politics, community announcements, and human interest stories. Typical of any endeavor in my State, be it enterprise, education or entertainment, newspapers in Iowa place great emphasis on quality. Combining news reporting and advertising, the local newspaper is a constant and reliable source for the community.

The Iowa Newspaper Association each year awards top honors to newspapers in Iowa for general excellence; for delivering the best editorial, front, sports, and feature pages; for best coverage of local government, agriculture, and education; and, for overall community service.

Merchants and shopkeepers on Main Street rely on the local newspaper to advertise upcoming sales and promotions. And readers pay close attention to the ads.

For sure, Iowa's hometown newspapers wouldn't miss this once-in-one-hundred-and-fifty-years-opportunity to help spread Iowa's spirit. Visitors to the cafe on The National Mall will find a grand newspaper stand displaying many of Iowa's hometown papers. You can discover for yourself a trove of Iowa's ink in the Herald, Journal, Gazette, Review, Leader, Express, Record, Bee, Chronicle, Register, Times, and Courier, just to name a few. I would encourage those who plan to celebrate with Iowa—community style, to stop by and "read all about it."

THE LEGEND OF KATE SHELLEY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, it may have started out like a normal day, but July 6, 1881, did not end in a typical manner. In the late afternoon, around suppertime, a terrifying storm struck central Iowa. It was a terror. Sensible people stayed indoors away from its wrath and fury. Creeks and streams became full to overflowing with the rainwater as the storm raged on.

Then there was a crash. It was heard by a family living close to one of the rain soaked creeks and the railroad bridge which crossed it. With that crash a young 15-year-old Iowa girl from Moingona stepped from obscurity into legend.

As H. Roger Grant wrote in "The Palimpsest," "the courage of Kate Shelley rightfully deserves to be remembered." For on that night she bravely faced her destiny.

Engine No. 11 was checking the Chicago & North Western Rail Road line for storm damage when it plunged into Honey Creek. The water was deep and the current was fast. The crewmen on that train needed help, and Kate Shelley knew she had to give that help. Putting all thoughts of personal safety

aside, she went out into the storm. As she later said, "The storm and all else was forgotten and I said that I must go to help the men, and to stop the passenger (train) that would soon be due at Moingona."

Kate put together a lamp with a wick made from an old felt skirt. Again in her own words, "(I) started out into the night and the storm, to do what I could, and what I thought was my duty, knowing that Mother and the children were praying to God to keep me from every harm." Kate's father, who had been an employee of the Chicago & North Western, had died some 3 years before.

Upon reaching the wreckage, Kate found that of the four-man crew, only two had survived. One clung to a tree and the other to tree roots as the deadly waters of Honey Creek swirled around them. Kate saw one of the men in the flashes of lightning. He shouted at her and she at him, but the noise of the storm was so great to be hearing each other was impossible.

Let me again turn to Mr. Grant's "Palimpsest" article,

Shelley (then) began the most perilous portions of her trek. Crossing the Des Moines River bridge, even in ideal conditions, was dangerous. The North Western had studded the ties along this 673-foot-long span with twisted, rusty spikes to discourage trespassers. And the ties themselves were spaced a full pace apart. 'I got down upon my hands and knees, . . . and guided myself by the stretch of rail, I began the weary passage of the bridge,' explained Shelley. 'I do not know how long I was in crossing, but it seemed an age. Halfway over, a piercing flash of lightning showed me the angry flood more closely than ever, and swept along upon it a great tree, the earth still hanging to its roots, was racing for the bridge and it seemed for the very spot I stood upon.' Added Shelley, 'Fear brought me up right on my knees, and I clasp my hands in terror, and in prayer, I hope, lest the shock should carry out the bridge. But the monster darted under the bridge with a sweeping rush and his branches scattered foam and water over me as he passed.

Kate Shelley made it across that bridge and to the station at Moingona. There she found that the North Western had already stopped the eastbound passenger train. But that was not the end of her perilous night nor of her heroism. Those two men were still clinging to life in the tumultuous waters of Honey Creek. A relief locomotive was sent with Kate as the guide. Engineer Edward Wood and brakeman Adam Agar were saved.

Kate Shelley is an American hero for the ages. She is as much of a role model for all of us today and for our children's children's children, as she was to her contemporaries.

Kate Shelley did not have to go out into that ferocious storm in the middle of the night in 1886. But she did. She knew that her actions would make a difference. Her actions would help people she did not know, but that she never the less cared for. Her actions would help to prevent destruction, injury, and death. Her selfless actions would save two lives. What an example for all Americans to follow.

Mr. Grant quotes several contemporary newspaper accounts of the night in his article. One states,

Ed Wood says he was well nigh overjoyed when he saw the light approaching the clearing near the end of the bridge, and that he will never forget the sight of Kate Shelley making her way over the twisted and broken trestle work to the last tie yet hanging over the wreck in the boiling flood below.

Another newspaper wrote Shelley crossed the Des Moines River bridge,

. . . with nothing but the ties and rails (with) the wind blowing a gale, and the foaming, seething waters beneath. Not one man in five hundred (would) have (gone) over at any price, or under any circumstance. But this brave, noble girl, with the nerve of a giant, gathering about her, her flowing skirts, and on hands and knees she crawled over the long weary bridge.

Yesterday I said that the Iowa spirit was almost too big to describe. It is. But I think that I can in all honesty say the spirit of Kate Shelley is the spirit of Iowa. And it is a part of the American spirit, the spirit of helping others in a time of need and danger without expecting something for yourself. I hope that all of us can learn from this brave young woman's example.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, for some time now, and on more than one occasion, there has been an effort to clear a number of judicial nominees that have been pending on the calendar awaiting action. As a matter of fact, there are now 17 such judicial nominations that are on the Executive Calendar. Some of them date back as far as December 1995. The latest group that was reported from the Judiciary Committee to the Senate came on May 9.

Now, on each occasion when there has been sort of an agreement worked out that one, two, three, or four judges could be cleared and moved, there have been objections to those. I know the majority leader would very much like to be able to move as many as possible of these judicial nominations. He said so publicly. He has been working on it today. I know he will continue to work to find what problems might exist and see if more could be approved. He will continue to do that. On his behalf, as the majority whip, I will do all I can do.

I feel like while it might be ideal under some conditions to some people to get them all done at once, under Senate prerogatives every Senator can raise concerns about a nominee for a variety of reasons—their qualifications for the job and other considerations. But I think if we cannot get them all done, we need to start moving down the road. You get as many as you can, and you come back and work some others.

I know there are a number of judges that Members of the minority party support and would like to get approved. Some of these that were recommended