

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

MAIL FRAUD

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 1997

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, too bad Dante isn't still alive. He would surely write a special place in Hell for the vultures who prey on seniors with false and alarmist mailings, demanding money to save the seniors from some phony threat.

A more immediate punishment would be fines and imprisonment for postal fraud by the U.S. Postal Service.

Following is a letter I have sent to the U.S. Postal inspectors regarding the recent mailings by United Seniors Association and the Seniors Coalition and their misrepresentation of the Kyl amendment issue.

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE INSPECTION
SERVICE, FRAUD DIVISION,
Washington, DC. October 27, 1997.

DEAR SIR: Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 1341 which reads, in part "Whoever, having devised or intending to devise any scheme or artifice to defraud, or for obtaining money or property by means of false or fraudulent pretenses, representations, or promises . . . for the purpose of executing such scheme or artifice . . . places in any post office . . . any matter or thing whatever to be sent or delivered by the Postal Service . . . shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than five years, or both"

I wish to report a postal fraud by United Seniors Association, 3900 Jermantown Road, Suite 450, Fairfax, VA 22030 and urge your immediate action to impose appropriate penalties.

Enclosed are two mailings from the United Seniors Association (USA) urgently asking for money on the basis of false pretenses and representations. The USA letter contains innumerable inaccuracies and errors of fact. It is so blatantly wrong that it cannot be a simple act of stupidity, but is a calculated scheme to frighten Medicare beneficiaries out of money. In particular, in the letter of September 22, 1997, the paragraph on the first page which reads "Here's what this appalling new law does: if you are a Medicare patient and you want to personally pay for a treatment which Medicare does not want to cover—it will be nearly impossible to do so."

This statement, repeated in numerous ways throughout the mailings, is false.

Medicare beneficiaries have always been able to contract privately with doctors for services which Medicare does not cover. Nothing in any law has changed that right. Under certain conditions, the new law actually extends that "right" to services which Medicare does cover—a new right to be billed more than the Medicare payment rate by physicians, which did not exist before. See enclosed memoranda.

I also urge you to investigate for fraud the enclosed recent Seniors Coalition mailing (11166 Main Street, Suite 302, Fairfax, VA 22030). This mailing calls for "an emergency contribution" to help fund a lawsuit on the private contracting issue. The cover letter is rather extraordinary in that it asks people

to send money to help fight something for which the writer has "no time to explain." The statements in the letter over Mary Martin's signature is false: "your health care will be rationed in a Clinton HMO." The enclosed news articles contain numerous errors and misrepresentations. I believe that this mailing may also be a mail fraud because it uses false statements in the cover letter and inaccurate or incomplete statements in the news articles to scare people into sending money to support plans for a lawsuit. I know of no such lawsuit or any grounds for it, and I ask your investigators to determine whether there is in fact such a planned use of the money bilked from the public.

Congressional offices report receiving numerous letters and calls expressing concern and confusion as a result of these two mailings and therefore I assume that a number of Medicare beneficiaries have been defrauded out of some money as a result of these alarmist misrepresentations.

Before additional harm is done to Medicare beneficiaries, I urge an immediate investigation and fines and/or the return of money to the beneficiaries.

The issue of private contracting and Medicare payment rates are complex and worthy of a rational debate. These two mailings are false, alarmist, and destructive to public debate while frightening beneficiaries out of money "by means of false or fraudulent pretenses, representations, promises" etc.

Thank you for your review of these mailings.

Sincerely,

PETE STARK.

THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HISPANIC INFORMATION CENTER OF PASSAIC, INC.

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 1997

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the momentous occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Hispanic Information Center of Passaic, Inc.

The Hispanic Information Center of Passaic was established in 1972 to identify, study, and articulate the human service needs of the Hispanic community in the city of Passaic. Today, through its different programs, the agency reaches out to the most at-risk populations. It contributes to economic and social stability by means of job placement and support to families, youth, seniors, the disabled, people suffering from addiction, and the homeless. Services are rendered with no regard to race, color, or national origin.

Each and every program at the center is administered with the utmost of professionalism and caring. The Community Service Program of the Hispanic Information Center strives to inform low- and moderate-income clients of the resources available that will help them develop and maintain economic self-sufficiency. In addition, the program assists in providing social service information and helps with so-

cial adjustment, job placement, emergency shelter, food referral, advocacy, translations, and referrals.

The center also offers a program of the youth counseling services which was created to serve individuals referred by schools, State agencies, or families. They work to prevent dropping out of school and provide individual and group counseling to help young people cope with family, school, and environmental problems through behavior modification. They also provide tutoring, pre-delinquent and family intervention, vocational and educational orientation, as well as recreation and field trips. This program serves as an advocate for youth in school, city, county agencies, and courts.

The Homebound Program caters to persons who are homebound due to age or illness with the goal of preventing institutionalization. Services are geared toward improving the quality of life and independent living within the heritage characteristic of a Latino culture. Services included but are not limited to case management, counseling, referral, translations, interpreters, recreational activities, and social events.

Other programs aimed at fostering family settings include the Host Program which is designed to assist children whose natural parents are unable to provide adequate care at home. Families are recruited in order to provide a temporary home environment. The goal of the program is to reunite the child with their family or to ensure that the child will have a safe and nurturing family environment. The program is founded on the premise that all children have the right to physical and emotional protection. Host parenting is not a lifetime commitment to a child but a commitment to make a meaningful contribution to a child's life. Additionally the goal of the Bridge Family Program is to provide a temporary placement for children ages 7 to 10 who have been adopted and the adoption was disrupted. Further, the Teaching Family Program is designed to help adolescents currently placed in residential facilities or being considered for such placement with alternative family settings within the community. The program provides support and guidance to assist them in their transition to a permanent family environment.

The Alcohol Outreach for Minorities Program was established to serve the needs of individuals suffering from the consequences of alcoholism. The program provides a 16-week treatment service and is the only Hispanic alcoholism treatment and referral service program in Passaic County which takes into consideration the cultural uniqueness of the Hispanic client.

The Immigration and Citizenship Program was established with the purpose of helping immigrants achieve social stability through immigration aid, which gives information and basic orientation to the immigrants that wish to become permanent residents or legalize their migratory status. The new citizenship project aids eligible permanent residents in completing naturalization forms, lending them the

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

service of fingerprinting, photos, and educational services to better prepare them for the test required by INS for naturalization.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me, our colleagues, the city of Passaic, and the people of north Jersey, in recognizing the momentous occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Hispanic Information Center of Passaic and its many outstanding and invaluable contributions made to the community.

A TRIBUTE TO CHANCELLOR
CHANG-LIN TIEN

HON. RONALD V. DELLUMS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 1997

Mr. DELLUMS. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a courageous and exemplary citizen, Chancellor Chang-Lin Tien. While there have been many educators, few have been as distinguished and dedicated as Chancellor Tien. Today, he will be the first recipient of the American Courage Award established by the National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium, and I take this opportunity to add my voice to that of the consortium. Dr. Tien consistently exemplifies America's highest principles of equality, fairness, and justice and the consortium's award recognizes and honors an individual who has lifted America to her ideals of freedom and justice.

Chancellor Tien is an outstanding educator, scientist, and administrator. He served as chancellor at the University of California, at Berkeley for 7 years, from 1990 to July 1997. The Berkeley campus must be one of the most challenging campuses in the world. Challenging not only because of its high academic performance, but challenging because of the mixture of students, faculty, and staff of the Berkeley campus. In the context of one of the most politically active communities in the United States, all of this combines to provide one of the more dynamic and sometimes, volatile, communities.

This politically sophisticated group considered him an exceptionally effective, competent and charming chancellor; a very rare accomplishment and one deserving of special recognition. One instance of his courage and leadership is in his highly vocal and visible opposition to the University of California's Board of Regents' abandonment of affirmative action policies of the university students, staff, and faculty.

Chancellor Tien was particularly sensitive to the needs of the city of Berkeley in which the university plays such a prominent and essential role. He executed with brilliance, grace, dignity, and effectiveness, the high profile position of chancellor. We have worked closely together on issues of importance and common concern to the university and to my congressional district.

Chancellor Tien was the first Asian American to head a major research university in the United States. Currently, he is the NEC distinguished professor of engineering at U.C. Berkeley. Chancellor Tien, was born in Wuhan, China and received his Bachelor's degree from the National Taiwan University. He first came to Berkeley in 1959 after completing his master's degree studies at the University of Louisville in 1957. He then earned a second

master's degree and a doctorate in mechanical engineering at Princeton University.

In addition to his numerous public service contributions, Chancellor Tien has achieved a remarkably distinguished record as a scientist and educator. Internationally recognized for his research in heat transfer technology, he received many honors, including the Max Jakob Memorial Award, the highest international honor in the field. He is a member of the National Academy of Arts and Sciences. At the age of 26, Chancellor Tien became the youngest professor ever to win the U.C. Berkeley's prestigious Distinguished Teaching Award.

Anchored in both American and Asian cultures, Dr. Tien is deeply committed to maintaining excellence and to broadening the democratic reach of education to all groups. He is involved heavily in his community, focusing on educational reform programs particularly in primary and secondary schools. Chancellor Tien has become a leader in enhancing communication between the East and West through worldwide engagements. He is a member of the Pacific Council on International Policy, the U.S. Committee for Economic Development, the Council on Foreign Relations, and serves on the boards of numerous institutions such as Asia Foundation, Wells Fargo Bank, and Chevron Corp. In addition, he is also chairman of the San Francisco Bay Area Economic Forum.

I am grateful that Chancellor Tien continues to reside in Berkeley. His work and his contributions which are immeasurable, continue to flow to our community and we are grateful.

IN RECOGNITION OF PETER
TILLES RECEIVING THE HUMANITARIAN
AWARD OF THE PEDERSEN-KRAG CENTER

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 1997

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with my constituents and the friends of the Pedersen-Krag Center as they honor Peter Tilles as the recipient of their Humanitarian Award on this their 40th anniversary. The Pedersen-Krag Center, founded in 1957 is a State licensed nonprofit outpatient mental health and chemical dependency agency offering a full continuum of services to Long Islanders of all ages.

Peter Tilles represents the true humanitarian who, despite significant business and family commitments, has always been able to devote considerable time and resources to serving a variety of communities in need of leadership and resources. In the area of building development, Peter has built and managed millions of square feet of office space on Long Island. Nassau Crossways International Plaza and the Big "H" Shopping Center in Huntington serve as examples of his expertise in this area.

Yet in the field of philanthropy and civic involvement, Peter has compiled an equally impressive record. He is an active trustee of the Long Island Jewish Medical Center, has chaired the golf tournaments of the March of Dimes, the Coalition on Child Abuse and Neglect, and the Tilles Center's Swing for Kids Program. In addition, he serves as a trustee of

the Planting Fields Arboretum, is a member of the advisory board of Title Guarantee and a committee member of Israel Bonds.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join with me and the Pedersen-Krag Center in saluting Peter Tilles. It is the goodwill and support generated by Peter Tilles that has helped countless patients of the center find the compassion and stability so necessary to enhance and fulfill their lives.

COMMON SENSE ON IMMIGRATION
FROM THE NEW BEDFORD
STANDARD TIMES

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 1997

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, the New Bedford Standard Times in the congressional district I represent is a newspaper which knows a great deal about immigrants. New Bedford has long been a port of entry for many immigrants, and the publisher, editors, and staff of the New Bedford Standard Times therefore know a great deal about the value of immigration to American society. On Tuesday, October 21, the Standard Times ran an excellent editorial about the cruelty and foolishness of much recent congressional policy on immigration. Coming as it does from a major newspaper in an area where immigration is a very significant fact, this editorial is entitled to a great deal of weight and given the debate that now rages in Congress over the wisdom of our immigration policy, I ask that the Standard Times excellent editorial be printed here.

TARGETING LEGAL IMMIGRANTS WILL RETURN
TO HAUNT CONGRESS

One must suspect that since a majority of the members of Congress voted to make ruthless cuts in the federal benefits available to legal immigrants, that most of them live in districts where immigration is not experienced first-hand. Either that, or there are enough members of Congress who simply don't care what happens when they pull the rug out from under people to pass regulations that most people would find abhorrent.

Welfare reform provided a convenient window of opportunity for immigrant-bashers to set out on a scorch-and-burn campaign. On the one hand, hundreds and perhaps thousands of legal immigrants who must resolve paperwork processing difficulties are being forced to return "home" to work through various U.S. embassies rather than stay in this country while the problems are straightened out. For many, it means leaving families here and going back to countries where they have no roots, no job, no families, no connections after many years away.

In other cases, ruthless border agents have been banishing to five years' exile many people who had been visiting here legally for many years on such things as business trips. There are ever-growing files of such people being detained for hours, questioned and humiliated before being deported. Yet the new rules strip virtually all due process; there is no right of appeal, sometimes not even an inkling what has gone wrong. Vast discretionary power has been put in the hands of individual border agents, and they take that power very seriously.

Closer to home, though, what is proving intolerable in state after state is the relentless cutoff of such things as Medicaid and food