

As we search for ways to secure and improve Medicare, it is appropriate to consider increasing the efficiency of the program through competition. Introducing competition into the managed care equation will achieve greater efficiencies, higher quality, and cost savings, and will enable Medicare managed care to live up to its promise.

Following is a portion of an interview from the May/June 1999 issue of Health Affairs by Princeton professor Uwe Reinhardt with HHS Secretary Donna Shalala which describes how different it has been to make progress on this simple, basic, free enterprise approach to health care:

THE CONTROVERSY OVER COMPETITIVE
BIDDING

Reinhardt: In my time, Medicare has been a pioneer in innovating with the DRG (diagnosis-related group)—based hospital payment system, which has been copied worldwide, and the Medicare physician fee schedule, which has been copied by private American payers. If we are ever going to really test managed competition by having health plans compete fairly for enrollees, only HCFA (the Health Care Financing Administration) can actually show the way, because the private sector has not yet done it so far. Do you share that view?

Shalala: I share that view, but the political system has to buy into it. For instance, we've announced a competitive-bidding demonstration in which we have some consensus among the experts as to where we ought to go and how to organize our experiment with managed competition. Phoenix and Kansas City are our two sites.

Reinhardt: HCFA has attempted such demonstrations in Baltimore and Denver but was forced to abandon both efforts by private interests that were opposed to them.

Shalala: Yes, in Denver we had bipartisan support to try it. But when we got specific and picked the places, we immediately had political opposition. However, Congress directed us (in the Balanced Budget Act [BBA] of 1997) to try again. We set up an advisory panel on which all of the political interests were represented. And now we're proceeding again.

Reinhardt: I suppose that we should never expect the managed care industry to voluntarily acquiesce to a competitive-bidding process because people instinctively don't like to compete. They prefer administered prices because such prices can be manipulated politically. Who is it, in general, that opposes competitive bidding?

Shalala: One source of opposition is the managed care industry. The companies in that industry believe that such a process will undermine their profits. So the private sector—the famed competitive marketplace—doesn't want competition. They keep saying things like, "Health care is different; we can't predict our costs." We have to have a system that is more nimble, more flexible. Managed care plans would not oppose a competitive-bidding process if they could modify the package of benefits. But if HCFA locks them into a benefits package, they want to be able to negotiate the price, rather than making competitive bids.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE INTERRO-
GATES REPORTER AFTER VISIT
TO AMERICA

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 1999

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, India has once again shown true nature of its democracy by grilling a reporter who visited the United States. Journalist Sukhbir Singh Osan has exposed the corruption and the atrocities of the Indian government in newspapers and through his website, Burning Punjab. He visited the United States, Canada, and Great Britain to cover the Sikh 300th anniversary marches and speak on human rights. He met with my colleague from Indiana, Mr. Burton, and with a minister in the Canadian government. Their pictures appear on his website.

Mr. Osan returned to his home in Chandigarh before Indian intelligence officers showed up at his house to interrogate him for 45 minutes, claiming they were acting on instructions from the central government in New Delhi. This is not the first time the Indian government has gone after Mr. Osan. He has received anonymous threats and has been denied a law degree that he worked hard to earn because he had written news stories that the Indian government didn't like.

Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, brought this to my attention. I understand that Dr. Aulakh has notified the Committee to Protect Journalists in New York of Mr. Osan's mistreatment.

What happened to Mr. Osan is not just an isolated incident. Other reporters have been threatened for reporting stories critical of the Indian government. Clearly, there is no press freedom in India despite its loud and frequent boasts that it is "the world's largest democracy."

Does a democratic country harass reporters for covering stories that the government doesn't like? Would a democratic country incite 17 freedom movements within its borders? India is a democracy only for the Brahmin ruling class. It is also anti-American, working with such models of democracy as China, Libya, and Cuba to undermine U.S. foreign policy. It approached China and Russia trying to build a triangular "security alliance" against America.

We should treat India as we do other violators of religious freedom. That will help to end the kind of abuse that Mr. Osan and his fellow Sikhs suffer and bring real freedom to all the nations and peoples living within India's Borders.

I am placing the Burning Punjab story on Mr. Osan's harassment into the RECORD for the information of my colleagues.

INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES GRILL SUKHBIR SINGH
OSAN

Chandigarh.—True to their anti-Sikh stance, the Indian Intelligence Agencies have again started harassment of innocents. Punjab based journalist, Sukhbir Singh Osan, who recently visited United States, Canada and United Kingdom for the purpose of participating in a human right convention to read a paper on the subject "Recent attacks on Christian community in India" and covering the 300 year celebrations of the Khalsa community was grilled by the intelligence sleuths for more than forty-five minutes at his residence on May 11. When Mr.

Osan asked the DSP [Intelligence Bureau] as to why he was questioning him about his visits abroad, the said DSP replied, "Delhi wants to know all about it." When again asked whether there were any written instructions, he replied that "we have specific instructions from Delhi". However, nothing in writing was given to Mr. Osan.

A TRIBUTE TO LACKLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL; RECIPIENT OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL AWARD

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 1999

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my sincerest congratulations to Lackland Elementary School in San Antonio, TX, upon the notification of their receipt of the Blue Ribbon School Award.

Schools are awarded the Blue Ribbon School Award based on their performance in regards to several criteria, including: student focus and support; active teaching and learning; school organization and culture; challenging standards and curriculum; professional community; leadership and educational vitality; school, family, and community partnerships; and indicators of success.

Lackland Elementary joins three other schools in San Antonio and forty other Texas schools, all of which excelled in these areas and were rewarded with the Blue Ribbon School Award from the United States Department of Education.

To receive consideration for this prestigious award, schools must be recommended for national recognition by their individual state department of education or sponsoring agency. Nominations are then evaluated by a National Review Panel including the Department of Education, the Department of Defense, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Council for American Private Education and a select group of educators from around the country. The Secretary of Education then makes a final determination based on the recommendations of this panel.

In receiving this special recognition, I believe that Lackland Elementary School will inspire others to provide the level of quality education that this Blue Ribbon School Award merits. I am proud to represent a district and hail from a state that has clearly placed an emphasis on the education of our children.

TRIBUTE TO COLLIS P. CHANDLER

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Collis P. Chandler, Jr., a friend of mine and a true friend of the petroleum industry, who passed away May 5, 1999, at the age of 72.

Mr. Chandler was a man of good character who loved life, his family and the industry upon which he had such a great impact. In a

letter to her baby daughter describing grandfather Chandler, daughter-in-law, Anne, wrote eloquently telling her that many words described him, "loving, generous, thoughtful, caring, intelligent, gifted, unique, witty, genuine. He was a man who made a difference. He was a man that changed the world and that, in the end, is all that one can ask from life." I wholeheartedly support Anne's representation of Mr. Chandler.

He was born on October 5, 1926 to Louise and Collis Chandler in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. In 1948 he graduated from Purdue University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering.

Mr. Chandler joined Sohio Petroleum Company in 1948 working in Louisiana and Kansas. In 1954 he founded the first of The Chandler Companies—Chandler-Simpson, Inc.—in Denver, Colorado. He was Chairman of The Chandler Company and its subsidiaries: Chandler & Associates, LLC and The Chandler Drilling Corporation at the time of his death. His companies have drilled more than 1,200 test wells, resulting in oil or gas discoveries or significant field extensions that number more than 100.

Mr. Chandler was a past chairman of the National Petroleum Council and Natural Gas Supply Association. In addition, he also served as president of the Rocky Mountain Oil & Gas Association.

Over the past 30 years, he held an impressive record of leadership in the American Petroleum Institute. He served on the Board of Directors since 1965 and the Executive Committee since 1968. Mr. Chandler was a member of the Management Committee and has served on the Public Policy committee, and its forerunner, since 1978. In 1994, he received the American Petroleum Institute's highest award, The Gold Medal for Distinguished Achievement.

His numerous honors and awards are a testament to his lifetime of service to the oil and gas industry. He received the Secretary of Energy's "Distinguished Service" Medal; the Texas Mid-Continent Oil & Gas Association's "Independent of the Year" Award; the Rocky Mountain Oil & Gas Association's "Life Membership" Award; and, the American Association of Petroleum Landmen's "Distinguished Service" Award.

His business activities outside of the petroleum industry have included membership on the Board of Directors of the Public Service Company of Colorado and the Colorado National Bank.

Mr. Chandler gave generously of his time and talents to his alma mater, Purdue University, serving as a past president of the Purdue Alumni Association and as a member of the Board of Directors. He also served on the Board of Governors of the Purdue Foundation. He was currently serving on the Board of Directors of "Up With People."

He was a current member of Castle Pines Golf Club, Denver Country Club, Burning Tree Club, Bethesda, Maryland, and the Thunderbird Country Club, Rancho Mirage, California.

He is survived by his wife, Patti, a son, Collis Chandler III of Denver, a daughter Mary Louise Henry of Lansing, Michigan; four stepdaughters, Mary DeSimone of Denver, Gerri Ann Bragdon of Arvada, Kathlyn Maureen

Woodard of Dallas, Texas and Paula Ann Novak of Pensacola, Florida; ten grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by two sons; Thomas Grant Chandler and Robert Chandler.

Mr. Speaker, it is men like Collis Chandler who have made this country great. Mr. Chandler helped shape America by being a good solid American citizen who worked hard to implement the right values. He contributed to society because he saw needs and filled them. Thank you, Mr. Chandler.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1141,
1999 EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL
MENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BARON P. HILL

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 1999

Mr. HILL of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, today the House voted on the Conference Report of H.R. 1141, the 1999 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Bill. I voted against this bill and would like to explain my vote.

Some of the spending items in this bill were bona fide emergencies. One emergency is supporting our troops currently deployed overseas in Kosovo. I have voted several times to support our troops and the NATO operation in Kosovo. When our generals say they need 6 billion dollars to support our troops in Kosovo, I believe that is legitimate emergency spending.

I spoke recently on the floor of this House about the emergency many American farmers are facing at this moment. Farmers need credit right now to plant their crops and pay their bills. I am a member of the Agriculture Committee and represent thousands of southern Indiana farmers. I believe that getting our farmers adequate loans and credit should be one of our top priorities. I believe helping farmers stay afloat is also legitimate emergency spending.

But this bill spends billions of dollars on items that are not emergencies. For example, today's bill spends almost twice what our generals say they need to meet our troops' needs in Kosovo. I am a member of the House Armed Services Committee and understand that our military has many pressing needs. One of our military's most urgent needs is giving our soldiers pay and retirement increases. I will support increases in defense spending during the regular budget process. I believe that fiscal responsibility requires us to consider measures such as these during the normal budget process, where we make the often difficult decisions about how we spend our limited resources.

It is not fiscally responsible to reach into the surpluses in the Social Security Trust Fund to pay for government projects that we should be finding ways to pay for in the normal budget process. We only have a budget surplus this year if we count the surpluses generated by the Social Security Trust Fund. We should not be using the money in the Social Security Trust Fund to pay for needs that are not emergencies.

One of my top priorities in Congress is making sure that the Social Security program will be solid and solvent for future generations. Our government does not have many more pressing needs than saving Social Security. I will not vote for spending our Social Security funds on items that are not emergencies.

Mr. Speaker, I did not vote for the Supplemental Appropriations bill because the original purpose of this so-called "Emergency" bill was lost somewhere in the process. It became a way to spend billions of dollars outside of the budget process we have set up to control our spending. The final version of this bill was not fiscally responsible and I could not vote for it.

CELEBRATING THE DEDICATION
OF THE LIMA FIREFIGHTERS
MEMORIAL MUSEUM

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 1999

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to add a few words of praise for the dedication of the Lima Fire Fighters Memorial Museum.

The Lima Fire Department has provided outstanding basic fire fighting and safety services to the Lima community since its formation in 1865. The museum built in Lincoln Park in Lima OH, will preserve the history of the Lima Fire Department as well as all the technological changes they have implemented over the past 133 years.

When the Lima Fire Department was first established in 1865, it was a volunteer organization consisting of seven men with their only equipment being six fire hooks. These hooks were used to pull burning thatch from the roofs of buildings. Over the years, however, the Lima Fire Department developed into a paid, highly trained force of 88 fire fighters and support personnel working in a three platoon system. They are housed at the Central Fire Station and four outlying stations. Equipment now includes seven pumpers, one aerial platform, two medic units and a staff car. Approximately 700 fire fighters have served the city of Lima as members of the Lima Fire Department.

More importantly, this museum will memorialize all fire fighters who have served the Lima Community and especially the four Lima fire fighters who have given their lives in the line of duty. They are John S. Wolf and John Fisher, both of whom died as a result of the Allen County Courthouse fire on January 7, 1929; Frank Kinzer, who died because of a fire on October 7, 1933, at the Ohio Music Company and Page Organ Company; and lastly, Cloyd R. Webb, who died as a result of the Marshall Sporting Goods fire on January 21, 1954.

I wish to offer my sincere gratitude to all who are serving or who served as Lima fire fighters. They perform a valuable and dangerous task for the Lima community during times of great need. I honor each and every fire fighter for their dedication, knowledge, and hard work and hope that the Lima Fire Fighters Memorial Museum will stand as a tribute to each of them for all time.