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Up until just recently, the sole focus of the majority's agenda has been to make sure that these people are left out of the 2000 census. But there are signs of hope. Call me a starry-eyed optimist, but I think the Republican leadership may be coming to its senses.

They have finally agreed with us on one census problem and will not shut down the government this June 15 as they originally planned. The emergency supplemental appropriation which passed last night contained a provision eliminating that artificial deadline. It also included almost \$45 million in additional money the Census Bureau will need to conduct the census using old methods. That, too, is a hopeful sign. I welcome these signals of a new spirit of bipartisanship on census issues.

Let me just add that I hope it continues through the fiscal year 2000 appropriations process, as we are about to begin it.

Mr. Speaker, last week Democrats were accused of trying to politicize the 2000 Census.

A Dear Colleague letter was sent out which implied that the Democratic party, organized labor, and the Census Bureau were involved in a conspiracy to somehow undermine Republicans through the Partnership programs being organized to support the 2000 Census.

This claim would be laughable if it weren't so destructive.

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From Fortune 500 companies, to the AARP, to the NAACP to the National League of Cities—organizational support for the largest national peace time mobilization in our nation's history is essential to the success of the 2000 Census.

The claim that it is Democrats who are politicizing the census is also ironic, coming as it does almost two years to the day after the Republican memo which began the blatant politicization of the Census.

And so I rise today first to set the record straight and share with you some of the history of the Republican attempts to politicize the Census, but also to commend some recent moves by the Speaker which indicate that a more bipartisan spirit may be prevailing over this issue.

On May 20th 1997, two years ago, the GOP began their blatant attempts to politicize the 2000 Census with a memo to Republican State Chairs.

In it, the Chair of the Republican National Committee said that the 2000 Census was "an issue of unusual importance to the future of the Republican Party," and that "At stake is our GOP majority in the House. . . ."

In that memo was nothing about the importance of counting all Americans, regardless of race, or age, or income.

Nothing about impact of the census on the lives of real people—about how state and local governments use census information to plan schools and highways, about how the federal government uses it to distribute funds for health care and other programs, and nothing about how businesses use it in making their economic and marketing plans.

Instead you find only cynical, partisan rhetoric about how to make sure the 2000 Census benefits Republicans.

That was just the beginning.

In June of 1997, Republicans tried to ban statistical methods for the Census on a disaster relief bill for the flood victims in the Midwest.

Then in September of 1997 the majority put language in the Commerce, Justice, State appropriations bill to ban the use of statistical methods.

They tried again in 1998 to kill the use of statistical methods and failed.

Then they turned to the courts. In January, they lost that battle too when the Supreme Court ruled that the Census Bureau could not use statistical methods for apportionment, but that they are required to use it for everything else, if feasible.

The majority has done everything it can to prevent the most accurate census possible in 2000.

They have recently begun throwing up legislative obstacles to an accurate census here in the House, and have also begun a campaign at the state level to prevent the use of accurate numbers.

The 1990 census had an error rate of over 10 percent. There were 8.4 million people missed, and 4.4 million people counted twice.

The 1990 census missed 1 in 10 African American males; 1 in 20 Latinos; 1 in 8 American Indians on reservations; and 1 in 16 rural non-Hispanic Whites.

Up until just recently, the sole focus of the majority's agenda has been to make sure that these people are left out of the 2000 Census as well.

But there are signs of hope. Call me a starry-eyed optimist, but I think the Republican leadership may be coming to its senses.

They have finally agreed with us on one census problem and will not shut down the government this June 15th as they originally planned.

The Emergency Supplemental Appropriation which passed last night contained a provision eliminating that artificial deadline.

It also included \$45 million in additional money the Census Bureau will need to conduct the census using old methods. That too is a hopeful sign.

I welcome these signals of a new spirit of bipartisanship on Census issues.

Let me just add that I hope it continues through the fiscal year 2000 appropriations process we are about to begin.

We also need to realize that conducting the Census using the old methods that Republicans have insisted upon will cost a lot of money—as much as \$2 billion more than originally planned.

I urge Republicans and Democrats alike to support full funding for the 2000 Census.

There is one clear and simple issue here—will the next census count everyone, or will it repeat the mistakes of 1990 leaving millions of people unrepresented and unfairly left out.

I call upon the Republican Party to build upon its recent gestures and allow the Census

Bureau to conduct the most accurate census possible.

The first census of the 21st century must be as accurate and complete as we can make it.

The Constitution of the United States and the American people demand no less.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICING IN THE 7TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF MARYLAND: DRUG COMPANIES PROFIT AT THE EXPENSE OF OLDER AMERICANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SESSIONS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, food and medicine are very, very important to people. Sadly, in Baltimore City and Baltimore County and all over this Nation, it has become increasingly clear that after a lifetime of service to family and community, too many seniors are faced with the cruel and difficult choice between paying for the miracle drugs which sustain life and buying food.

The findings of the Committee on Government Reform minority staff study of my district, the 7th Congressional District of Maryland, demonstrates that in Baltimore a senior citizen paying for his or her own prescription drugs must pay on the average more than twice as much for the drugs as the drug companies' favored customers.

For the five drugs investigated in this study, the average price differential was 133 percent. The drug with the highest price differential was Synthroid, a commonly used hormone treatment manufactured by Knoll Pharmaceuticals. For this drug, the price differential for senior citizens in Maryland was an incredible 1,641 percent. An equivalent dose of this drug would cost the manufacturers' favored customers \$1.75. An uninsured senior citizen in Baltimore must pay over \$30.

Now, because large preferred customers of the drug companies typically buy in bulk, some difference between retail prices and favored customer prices would be expected. But the study found there is an unusually large price differential being enforced for prescription drugs, over six times greater than the average price differential for other consumer goods typically purchased by senior citizens.

Moreover, it appears to be pharmaceutical manufacturers, not our local drug stores, which are responsible for the far higher prices. Local pharmacies appear to have relatively small mark-ups between the prices at which they buy prescription drugs and the prices at which they sell them. Retail prices are just 5 percent above manufacturers suggested price to pharmacies.

It appears that the drug companies are engaged in a form of discriminatory pricing that victimizes those who are least able to afford it. Large corporate governmental and institutional

customers with market power are able to buy their drugs at discounted prices. Drug companies then raise prices for sales to seniors and others who pay for drugs themselves to compensate for these discounts to the favored customers.

By engaging in these cost-switching price practices, drug manufacturers are earning enormous profits, while seniors must choose between food and medicine. America's top 10 drug manufacturers are expected to reap approximately \$20 billion in profits in 1999 alone.

Reducing the cost of prescription drugs for seniors and other uninsured individuals is a moral imperative. Until we can achieve expanded Medicare coverage, the Federal Government should not be doing business with drug manufacturers which discriminate against uninsured senior citizens and others in their pricing.

That is why I commend and join the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. ALLEN) and another 100 of the Members in Congress in cosponsoring the Prescription Drug Fairness for Seniors Act.

This legislation would not enact price controls, but the government would cease buying drugs from companies which engage in cost-switching. It would require drug manufacturers to sell to pharmacies the drugs needed by Medicare patients at the lowest price paid by any government agency or other preferred customer.

This bill would assert the Federal Government's purchasing power to encourage the compassionate and evenhanded pricing of live-saving prescription drugs. The bill would allow pharmacies to benefit from the government's purchasing power, effectively reducing the price that they pay for the drugs they dispense to Medicare beneficiaries. Based upon our analysis of Baltimore's prices and those applicable in other areas, I believe that pharmacies would pass most of these savings on to Medicare patients in the form of lower prices.

Today drug companies are utilizing market forces against the interest of senior citizens in a way which is unfair and contrary to our national interests. We can make the market follow morality. Never again should any senior citizen be forced to choose between food and medicine. I urge my colleagues to support the Prescription Drug Fairness for Seniors Act.

LOOKING AT THE RECORD OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from California (Mr. DOOLITTLE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, tonight marks the second in a series of special orders that House conservatives hope to hold on the record of Vice President AL GORE.

The Vice President has been particularly aggressive in attacking the work of congressional Republicans. He likes to call us names and say that we are extreme. That is a frequent theme from the Clinton-Gore administration.

Conservatives believe it is important for the American people to understand why AL GORE finds our record of cutting taxes, balancing the budget, eliminating wasteful government and restoring common sense environmental policies so contemptible. To do this, we must look at AL GORE'S record.

At a future time we plan to call attention to the fact that while in Congress, AL GORE voted to raise taxes more than 50 times. He even voted to raise taxes after he left Congress. As Vice President he broke a tie vote in the Senate in favor of the 1993 Clinton-Gore tax increase, the largest tax hike in our Nation's history.

We also will examine his record on spending, which cannot under any definition be seen as moderate. In fact, he was given the dubious title of "big spender" 14 of his 16 years in Congress.

Tonight we will continue the examination of AL GORE'S views on the environment. This examination is important because, upon being elected, President Bill Clinton ceded control of his administration's environmental policy to Vice President AL GORE. In fact, Mr. GORE was given the authority to select the EPA administrator and other high-ranking environmental policy positions.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I have read accounts where people expect us to ridicule Mr. GORE by quoting from some of his writings. The ridicule will have to be done perhaps by the listener. I would just observe that we are not here tonight particularly to focus upon his exaggerated claim to have been, he and his wife, the model on which "Love Story" was based, that movie of many years ago, or indeed his claimed fatherhood of the Internet, which frankly is outrageous and laughable, or indeed most recently his claim to being the originator of the idea of a certain web site designed to protect children, to assist parents in protecting children from the dark side of the Internet, the pornography that is available there.

No, tonight I plan to focus on policy. What is the policy of this man who is the Vice President, who has stood largely in the shadow of the President, but who in reality is a key policymaker and whose views are actually set forth by his own hand in his own book, "Earth in the Balance: Ecology and the Human Spirit," a book not actually ghost written but in fact written by the Vice President himself.

So this book is a valuable document because it is in his own hand and reflects his own thinking, thinking which he has repeatedly and very recently backed up and acknowledged that, indeed, this book continues to reflect his views. So I think it is very timely to look into some of these issues.

In the first special order a couple of weeks ago we did this, we looked at one

of his writings. I think just by way of review, it would be good to go over this again. Quoting from "Earth in the Balance," he wrote that "Modern industrial civilization as presently organized is colliding violently with our planet's ecological system. The ferocity of its assault on the Earth is breathtaking, and the horrific consequences are occurring so quickly as to defy our capacity to recognize them, comprehend their global implications, and organize an appropriate and timely response."

There is a recurring theme throughout his writings of promoting this idea of a crisis and the need for extraordinary measures in responding to this crisis, just as if we are not in a normal situation where we go through normal processes, but because it is a crisis, it justifies extraordinary approaches.

Another quote on the Holocaust and global warming: "New warnings of a different sort signal an environmental Holocaust without precedent. Today the evidence of an ecological crystalnacht is as clear as the sound of glass shattering in Berlin. It is not merely in the service of analogy that I have referred so often to the struggles against Nazi and Communist totalitarianism, because I believe that the emerging effort to save the environment is a continuation of these struggles."

Many, I think, Mr. Speaker, would certainly feel this is gross exaggeration at a minimum. Actually, when we think of the very idea of bringing in the Holocaust where people lost all their freedoms, including their lives, lost many of their family members, indeed entire families were wiped out by this horrific, historic event, it seems demeaning to me to be talking in these terms and implying that whatever situation we may face today is in any way related in kind or in degree to what went on during the Holocaust.

Well, here again, we have a very dramatic statement on the coming civil war: "We now face the prospect of a kind of global civil war between those who refuse to consider the consequences of civilizations' relentless advance and those who refuse to be silent partners in the destruction. More and more people of conscience are joining the effort to resist, but the time has come to make this struggle the central organizing principle of world civilization. God and history will remember our judgment."

□ 1945

Very, very strong terms that he is using here, implying really that, if we are not on his side, we are not a person of conscience, implying that if we do not refuse to be a silent partner in a destruction, so to speak, that if we are not with them, we are against them, that if we are not part of the solution, we are part of the problem. Very much that kind of dogmatic expression here and really impugning all those who do not join in this particular view of the situation.