

REPUBLICAN BROKEN PROMISES

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, at the beginning of this Congress, the new Republican leadership made America a few promises. They said that they would finish their work on time, that they would not break the balanced budget spending limits, and that they would not spend money from the Social Security trust fund.

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Months later, all we can say about these three promises is broken, broken, and broken. The Republicans have not finished their work on time. Last week we had to pass an emergency spending measure to prevent the government shutdown. The Republicans are breaking the spending caps, proposing budget-busting tax cuts for the wealthiest of Americans. And their plan to bring spending back in line? Delay the small tax credit given to low-income working families, a plan so callous even GOP Presidential candidate George Bush denounced it saying, "Republicans should not balance their budget on the backs of the poor."

Finally, Republicans promised not to take money from Social Security, but now the Congressional Budget Office says that the Republicans have already taken \$16 billion out of the Social Security Trust Fund this year. Another promise broken. They have broken the lock-box and they have taken the money out and spent the Social Security Trust Fund. Promises made, promises broken. That is the legacy of this Congress.

MIAMI RIVER CLEANUP

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, now that the President has signed into law the first Federal appropriations to clean up the Miami River, that was in the fiscal year 2000 energy water appropriation bill. The next step will be up to the governments at the State and local levels as well as the broad coalition of community groups represented by the Miami River Commission and the Miami River Marine Group.

The Miami-Dade County manager has reiterated our county's support for this key environmental project. This is the beginning of a 4-year phased dredging project proposed by the Miami River Commission with the assistance of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

This \$5 million Federal initial appropriation will begin maintenance dredging of the river which will cost \$64 million from Federal, State, and local sources. The Miami River project shows what can be accomplished when governments at all levels join with grass-roots activists to achieve a com-

mon goal. The cleanup will ensure the continued growth of the Miami River as one of our Nation's critical shipping links to the Caribbean and Latin America.

We congratulate the Miami-Dade County manager. Let us do our job at the local level now.

MANAGED CARE REFORM

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, just when Congress appears ready for managed care reform with the Norwood-Dingell bill, there is an effort to propose gimmicks and ways to poison the bill with harmful provisions that will wind up doing nothing for patients.

For months, the Republican leadership has complained that the Patients' Bill of Rights would increase cost and open employers to unfair lawsuits, both of which would supposedly force employers to drop coverage. That is just not true.

As a Northeastern Member of Congress said a couple of weeks ago, even Texas is a leader and California just passed a bill recently and the governor signed it, passed a strong Patients' Bill of Rights. My home State of Texas has passed many of the patient protections. They are already in place, including external appeals, accountability, and there has been no premium increase or exodus by employers to drop coverage.

What Texas residents do have is the health care protections they need. Provisions included in this Patients' Bill of Rights should be extended to every American including eliminating "gag clauses," open access to specialists, a timely appeals process, coverage for immediate emergency care, and holding the medical decision-maker accountable.

Mr. Speaker, I hope and pray we are not headed for more delays and maneuverings and will pass a strong bill for our constituents.

EVERYONE WANTS TO GO TO HEAVEN, BUT NOBODY WANTS TO DIE

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

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, the late heavyweight champion of the world, Joe Louis, once said, "Everyone wants to go to heaven but nobody wants to die."

Mr. Speaker, the wisdom of that statement will be shown to be true this week and next. Everybody in this House says that they want to protect Social Security. Everybody. But how many will support the spending cuts we need to get there?

Every time the majority offers budget cuts to get there, the other side

votes "no," or offers tax increases, or screams bloody murder.

We must cut spending to preserve Social Security. We must pass the Social Security lock-box. But as Joe Louis said: "Everybody wants to go to heaven, but nobody wants to die."

TECHIES DAY

(Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of National Techies Day and the positive impact technology had on our lives.

Techies Day allows us to recognize and applaud today's technology professionals. In addition, it brings current techies and schoolchildren together in hopes of encouraging more of them to pursue careers in science or technology.

The United States leads the world in technology development, but we continue to lag behind in educating and training the workforce that is prepared to fill thousands of technical jobs. With more of our day-to-day activities being done electronically, it is important we ensure a competent workforce that is prepared to meet the growing needs of this industry. These needs will be met by educating our children and preparing them for the technology field. This is essential to America's long-term economic strength as we enter the 21st century.

Mr. Speaker, our children's future matters to all of us, and we have a responsibility to bring them into this new economy equipped with the tools needed to keep pace with technology innovations. Techies Day is the right direction to make this possible.

NUCLEAR WASTE STORAGE AT YUCCA MOUNTAIN COULD LEAD TO DISASTER

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, we have been fortunate that a nuclear accident like the recent disaster at a Japanese uranium processing plant has not occurred in the United States in the last 3 decades.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to hold on to their gas masks because things could change.

A recent article in the Las Vegas Review Journal clearly stated that "a nuclear chain reaction similar to the one that released dangerous levels of radiation from a Japanese uranium plant could happen with spent fuel the U.S. Government wants to store at Yucca Mountain."

Unfortunately, the Department of Energy continues to ignore the scientific facts and warnings offered by the nuclear energy experts. Scientists have already concluded that water will drip through the porous rock barrier

and accelerate corrosion of the nuclear waste containers, potentially causing a reaction similar to the Japanese nuclear disaster.

Mr. Speaker, this Congress cannot in good faith place the lives of thousands of citizens living in the surrounding area of Yucca Mountain in peril. The plan to store nuclear waste at Yucca Mountain is simply unwarranted, unwise, and dangerous. We can and must prevent such a disaster.

IN SUPPORT OF THE DINGELL-NORWOOD PATIENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS

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

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the bipartisan Dingell-Norwood Patients' Bill of Rights. We need protections for patients to ensure that they have access to specialists, to ensure that they get accurate information about all of their medical options and not just the cheapest options. We need to ensure that they can get reimbursed for emergency room care. That is what the Patients' Bill of Rights is about.

I am not here to paint the HMOs as the ultimate villains, but I will say that the profit motive leads to greed and greed leads to some of the worst abuses of patients we have seen.

Mr. Speaker, we need a Patients' Bill of Rights that is enforceable. Unfortunately, the Republican leadership wants to give an empty can. If we cannot enforce patients' rights, the rights are meaningless. Some would say that is a boon for trial attorneys. Not so. The importance of having the right to sue is so there is a deterrent against bad medical practices.

Texas has shown that there is not a significant increase in lawsuits when there is an enforceable bill of rights. We will also hear that this will drive up costs. Not so. Minimum cost increases are a couple of dollars. What is important is that we have an enforceable bill of rights with teeth to protect all Americans.

DOLLARS TO THE CLASSROOM

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, this week the House Committee on Education and the Workforce will consider the Dollars to the Classroom resolution stating that our schoolchildren and teachers in our public schools throughout this country can benefit by directing Federal funding for elementary and secondary education directly to classrooms where the learning process actually takes place.

By seeking to get 95 cents of every dollar into the classrooms of our public schools, the children and teachers of

this Nation would see an additional \$870 million out of the existing appropriation. That is \$10,000 per school translating to about \$450 for every classroom in America.

By seeing that dollars actually get into the hands of those who directly teach our kids their ABCs and their 1, 2, 3s, we will get maximum efficiency out of the use of our tax dollars.

As the House considers the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, let us look at how we can empower teachers at the local level. No longer do we want our seventh graders saying their books were printed when their teachers were in the eighth grade.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Dollars to the Classroom resolution.

CONGRESS MUST PASS PATIENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, just recently we read a report that tells us that 43 million Americans are uninsured and without health insurance. Shame on America and shame on this Congress. That is why among many things that we have to do to include those who are uninsured, we must pass the Patients' Bill of Rights.

Tragically in my own State of Texas under Republican leadership, Texas is number one with uninsured persons with no coverage to protect them and provide for health insurance. Shame on Texas and shame on the Republican leadership in the State of Texas.

But the Patients' Bill of Rights will give minimal relief to those who are covered. It provides access to any emergency room. It will stop the closed-door policy of an emergency room because of nonapproval, allow women to have OB/GYNs as their primary caregiver, and will give relief to sue HMOs, not frivolously but if they decide to determine a patient's medical destiny and they are hurt.

Mr. Speaker, does it mean patients will sue their employer? Of course not. Does it mean this will work? Yes, because it worked in the State of Texas.

We must pass the Patients' Bill of Rights, otherwise more shame on America.

TRIBUTE TO THE CINCINNATI REDS FOR AN INCREDIBLE SEASON

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, this was a special year for baseball in my hometown of Cincinnati, Ohio. The Cincinnati Reds with a handful of dedicated veterans, a lot of young talent, and one of the lowest payrolls in baseball captured the Nation's attention with their unbridled enthusiasm and passion for the game.

Last night the Reds' incredible run ended earlier than we had hoped. And while it may be of little consolation to the players, their inspirational efforts have brought many fans, both young and old, back to baseball.

Sadly, baseball's economics may not allow this same talented team to return to the field for another run at the pennant, but we will not soon forget the 1999 Cincinnati Reds. We will remember Barry Larkin and Pokey Reese turning spectacular double plays; Mike Cameron running down balls in the gap; Sean Casey and Greg Vaughn and many others driving pitches over the outfield walls; and the determined outings by the pitching staff.

Every Member of the Reds and their fans should hold their heads up high today. They gave it their all day in and day out and reminded the country that our national pastime is alive and well in the home of baseball's first professional team: Cincinnati, Ohio.

GOP OBSTACLES TO PATIENT PROTECTIONS

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

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to set the record straight on managed care reform. Just this week, the GOP leadership accused the President of trying to rush through a health plan simply to get it done and said that, "Republicans want to get it done right, not fast."

However, Republicans want it done right for their special interests like insurance companies, not for the American people. Their plan would protect insurance companies from liability, rather than protect patients when insurance bureaucrats deny them care. Our proposal on the other hand is the right approach for the American people. We guarantee patients the right to hold plans accountable when they arbitrarily deny medical care.

The Republican leadership's proposal is right for insurance companies because it lets insurance bureaucrats rather than doctors make decisions about medical treatment. Our proposal is right for the American people because it ensures that doctors make medical decisions that are in the best interest of a patient, not the health plan.

So I ask, who is really doing what is right for the American People?

□ 1030

CONGRESS AWAITING PRESIDENT'S PLAN TO SAVE SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, where is it? Let me ask my Democrat and Republican friends, where is it? They