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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
October 7, 1999.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JUDY BIGGERT to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Reverend Carl W. Rehling, St. James Parish, Lothian, Maryland, offered the following prayer:

Almighty and everliving God, Fountain of all wisdom, creator of all good knowledge, whose will is good and gracious and whose law is truth, so guide and bless the Representatives in this Congress assembled, that they may enact such laws as shall please You, to the glory of Your name and to the welfare of all people.

We ask that Your holy and life-giving spirit may so move every human heart, especially the hearts of those appointed by the people to lead us, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in a country and a world governed by Your justice and secure in Your peace. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Ms. KILPATRICK. Madam Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Chair's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. KILPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GILMAN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain 15 one-minutes on each side.

HEALTH CARE AND MISS NANNIE LACKEY

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

Mr. FLETCHER. Madam Speaker, as I was walking to work this morning and reflecting on the day's very impor-

tant vote to ensure real patient protection, I was reminded of Miss Nannie Lackey and her 100th birthday.

As I got closer to the Capitol and the Longworth Building, I thought how rich her life was in health, friendship, love, and faith. See, Miss Lackey has voted in every election since women were first given the right to vote. She takes voting very seriously, and she hopes all of us will take equally seriously the votes we cast today.

So I would ask that my colleagues take a few minutes to reflect on the importance of providing the best health care possible in our next century.

I hope my colleagues will see, as I do, that increasing the cost and number of uninsured is not the answer to real health care reform, nor is it real patient protection.

I ask that my colleagues join me in supporting positive health care reform and support the Coburn-Shadegg coalition substitute.

DO NOT LET AMERICA DOWN; VOTE FOR NORWOOD-DINGELL SUBSTITUTE

(Ms. KILPATRICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KILPATRICK. Madam Speaker, today is the most important day in the life of this House of Representatives. Will the people of America be able to have quality health care or not? Will the people of America have the opportunity to have their doctors determine their health care, their length of stay, their type of procedure; or will they turn it over to the bureaucrats, the accountant whose main purpose is to watch the bottom line.

Madam Speaker, let us not take this lightly. Besides quality education, besides environment that is clean and safe, and decent housing, health care is the number one priority of American

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

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



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citizens. Let us not let them down. Vote for the Norwood-Dingell bill today, the most effective of all the proposals.

GOVERNOR OF NEW MEXICO'S CALL FOR DRUG LEGALIZATION

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

Mr. GILMAN. Madam Speaker, the Governor of New Mexico, Gary Johnson, has been calling for the legalization of mind-altering drugs. His rationale for throwing in the towel is his mistaken belief that we are losing the war on drugs.

Regrettably, under the Clinton administration, there has not been a balanced supply-and-demand-side fight against drugs. In fact, the war on drugs never truly began at its source in places like Colombia, since all of it was concentrated on treating the wounded here at home.

During the Reagan and Bush era, when we fought this battle against drugs on both the supply side and demand side simultaneously, we made real progress. Between 1985 and 1992, we reduced monthly cocaine use by nearly 80 percent. That is real progress.

In the city of Baltimore, we have learned firsthand the disastrous impact of a de facto legalization program and the lax attitude as has been proposed by Governor Johnson. The number of heroin addicts increased dramatically during a long *laissez-faire* period while population declined. Today, one in 17 citizens of Baltimore are heroin addicts. No one would agree that is any solution to the drug use problem. That is what Governor Johnson's legalization plan would bring to our Nation.

I urge the Governor to reconsider his stand.

WEST VIRGINIANS DESERVE PATIENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS

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

Mr. WISE. Madam Speaker, today, almost 200,000 people in West Virginia in HMOs and thousands more in managed care are watching Congress today. Today, this Congress has a chance to pass real health care reform.

If one's car is sick, one gets to choose one's mechanic. Do not my colleagues think people have the same rights when they are choosing their doctor?

This bill provides guaranteed access to emergency room care. It protects the doctor-patient relationship. It gives more rights to choose OB/GYNs and pediatricians. It has strong enforcement provisions against violation of patient rights. It holds HMOs and insurance companies accountable for their medical decisions. It has a real appeals process when an insurance company denies treatment.

From the Northern Panhandle, where 44 percent of all insured in Ohio County

alone are in HMOs, to the growing 25 percent in the Kanawha Valley, to the thousands more across the State of West Virginia, there is a bill of rights for all citizens. Should there not be a bill of rights for patients in managed care?

I urge Congress to pass this today.

BIENNIAL BUDGET: AN IDEA WHOSE TIME HAS COME

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

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, in the next 3 weeks, we will see, perhaps, the best and worst of democracy in action; and that is why I have called for a biennial budget review process.

I have a bill, H.R. 493, I hope my colleagues will look at this. I am a firm believer that, by adopting such measure, we will remove this inherent politics every year that so often occurs during budget negotiations.

What I would like to see is the first session of Congress being dedicated to passing all of the 13 appropriations bills, then the second session of Congress would be dedicated to authorizing these bills, and then to look at oversight of the laws that we have passed.

Let us investigate and evaluate all these laws we pass every year. The current way of doing business often leads to a stalemate where politics prevails. This country deserves better.

IT IS NOT MANAGED CARE ANY MORE, IT IS MANAGED COSTS

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Madam Speaker, America's the land of the free, but one cannot choose one's doctor. Freedom of speech; but doctors are gagged. Judicial review; HMOs are judge and jury.

Madam Speaker, health care in America has gone from the Constitution to HMOs. Beam me up. It is not managed care any more; it is managed costs. It is time for Congress to vote on behalf of the American people and pass the Patients' Bill of Rights, stone cold simple remedy today.

I yield back more medicine than ever in America and less health care.

IMPORTANCE OF INCREASING AWARENESS OF THYROID DISEASE

(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. Madam Speaker, the women of our country form the backbone of strong, healthy families. However, it is American women who are often subject to debilitating and sometimes life-threatening diseases which subsequently deteriorate the stability of American households.

This week, I had the privilege of speaking to a remarkable woman who fights a valiant battle against a thyroid disorder known as Graves disease. This woman is none other than three-time Olympic track and field gold medalist Gail Devers. In spite of her illness, Gail will compete in the upcoming Olympics.

Approximately one in eight women will develop a similar thyroid disorder during her lifetime, and more than half of American women over 40 experience three or more common symptoms; yet, they fail to discuss them with their doctors.

To help raise awareness, Gail has joined forces with the American Women's Medical Association to launch a public, nationwide education campaign designed to increase awareness of thyroid disease.

Yesterday, the Congressional Prevention Coalition provided free thyroid screening, and I encourage all of our colleagues to embark on an educational campaign on the dangers of thyroid diseases.

BIPARTISAN CONSENSUS MAN- AGED CARE IMPROVEMENT ACT

(Ms. SCHAKOWSKY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2723, the Bipartisan Consensus Managed Care Improvement Act of 1999.

Enactment of this bill is the answer to the letter I received from a mother and a constituent in my district. She wrote, "When my middle son was born, the insurance company wouldn't let my son stay in the hospital one extra day to finish the course of antibiotics. They sent him home with a shunt in his arm. The neonatologist has warned us that typically in babies so small the shunt comes out and then you have to start the antibiotics all over again orally and that they would upset the baby's symptom, causing severe intestinal distress and diarrhea, not good for a newborn. My son's shunt came out, and he screamed for 2 weeks."

This baby deserved better. This bill assures that doctors, not insurance companies, decide how long newborns get to stay in the hospital when they are sick. Let us act now. Let us pass H.R. 2723.

GOVERNOR JESSE VENTURA SHOULD BE HONORED WITH NA- TIONAL DAY OF RECOGNITION

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

Mr. HEFLEY. Madam Speaker, I am here today to propose a national holiday in honor of the Governor in Minnesota, Jesse Ventura.

After all, he confounded the pundits, the pollsters, and the prognosticators by winning the highest office in the State at a time when most voters thought of him as "Jesse the Body."