

alone they went up 16 percent. Talking about these differences, just between Minnesota and Canada, one of the HMOs in Minneapolis estimates if they could simply buy their drugs for their HMO Members, subscribers, in Manitoba, they could save over \$30 million a year for their subscribers. We are talking about real money.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that we need to do something. The Canadian government itself has done its own study, and this is the latest study comparing drug prices in the United States to drug prices in Canada. Again, this is for exactly the same drugs. They estimate the last year that they had the figures that the differences are over 50 percent, the difference between the drug prices in Canada and Mexico.

There is another group out of Utah, the Life Extension Foundation; and every Member, if they will contact my office, we will send them one of these brochures. They have done a beautiful job of differentiating the price differences between us and Europe, for example.

Let me read some differences in drug prices. A very commonly prescribed drug, Premarin, in the United States two capsules will sell for \$14.98 on average. In Europe, they pay only \$4.25. Synthroid, another commonly prescribed drug, the United States price, \$13.84. In Europe they can buy it for \$2.95 equivalent. Coumadin, this is a drug that my dad takes, a blood thinner, in the United States that drug sells for \$30.25. In the European market it sells for \$2.85. Mr. Speaker, this goes on and on and on.

Now, I believe the drug companies have to be allowed to make a reasonable profit. We understand that they have to have reasonable profits if they are going to plow it back into research. But the unvarnished truth is that American consumers are paying most of the freight for the research being done; and worse than that, we are paying for most of the profit.

There is an answer. I have a bill, H.R. 3240, which would allow importation of drugs that are approved by the FDA.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that we should do more to make prescription drugs available to seniors who cannot afford them. But we should not be foolish enough to do nothing to make those drugs more affordable for all Americans. We should not allow our own FDA to stand between Americans and lower drug prices.

I hope all Members will join me in supporting and cosponsoring H.R. 3240.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, I remind Members if they would like a copy of this brochure, they simply have to call my office. We will send it out to them. It explains better than I can why it is important that we allow markets and competition to bring drug prices into line here in the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES of North Carolina addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

PROJECT EXILE

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

Mr. EHRLICH. Mr. Speaker, my good colleague, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDI) will join me in this special order. I welcome my colleague.

Mr. TANCREDI. I thank the gentleman. It is a pleasure to be here.

Mr. EHRLICH. Mr. Speaker, we have a very important topic this evening, Project Exile, a bill that passed on the floor of the House today by an overwhelming majority on the Suspension Calendar, something I know that pleases the gentleman, pleases myself, and should please our respective constituents and the people of the United States of America.

My personal experience with this program, Mr. Speaker, began about a year and a half ago when a member of my staff came in to me and expressed frustration about my frustration concerning the fact that on gun control debates, we always talk by one another. We could not get anything done, and the PACs and interest groups raised money, and that helps politically, but it does not hit the bottom line, which is bad guys with guns.

I heard about Project Exile, and he said, and this was a former Baltimore county detective, and he said I am going to go find out about this program. I said, Go for it. We found out about Project Exile and took a bipartisan group of Maryland State legislators to Richmond, Virginia, and talked to the attorneys down there, and talked to the street cops; and we talked to the Federal prosecutor and the business community and NAACP. We talked to everybody, and, you know what? It works. It works, because it is common sense.

This is an interesting initiative, because rarely do you hear the NRA and handgun control supporting the same gun-related initiative. It is certainly working in Richmond, it works in Virginia, it works in New York, it works in Texas, and now hopefully around the country, given what we passed on this floor today.

I also heard during the course of the debate today some unfortunate mischaracterizations from the minority party. The two that really came to mind was, one, who supports this program. The observation was made that this is an NRA initiative. It is only the NRA. Of course, as I just said, it is also supported by the handgun folks, handgun control. It is the right and left coming together to get something done for a change.

Finally, the representation was made that this money could be wasted on all sorts of frivolous activities, and the fact is the bill specifies how the money can be used with respect to police, prosecutors, courts, probation officers, the juvenile justice system, prison expansion, criminal history, records retention, case management programs, innovation, crime control, the bottom line.

I personally want to congratulate the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MCCOLLUM) who has been a great leader in this effort, who brought this issue to the national limelight, in conjunction with Governor Gilmore and other members of our conference. I truly believe that this is a logical follow-up to Truth in Sentencing, another issue initiative initiated by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MCCOLLUM) some years ago.

Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize my colleague from Colorado, I know who has some salient observations to make about this common sense approach that targets gun-toting felons, people who should not have guns in the first place, and, when caught, sentences them, exiles them to either Federal time if the State status is not in place, or State time if the State legislatures have really gotten on board with respect to Project Exile.

I recognize my colleague.

Mr. TANCREDI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman; and I appreciate the opportunity to share a few thoughts about this.

In many ways our experience was the same in terms of how we came to know this issue. I was reading a newspaper article out of Virginia where they had arrested a suspect for possession of narcotics. The amount of narcotics in the possession of this individual was quite significant. It was not just a baggy; it was like a truckload.

In the past, any time that this kind of thing had happened before, any time that an individual with this much narcotics in his possession had been arrested, they had found a weapon with him. So they kept looking, because the police naturally assumed that he had to have one. When they did not find it initially, they kept pressing. Then they kept pressing him as to where it was, essentially why he did not have it. This went on for hours.

Finally, the suspect, frustrated at being pummeled by the police, figuratively speaking, said, "It is 5 years, man. It is 5 years, man." What he was, of course, saying to the policemen was that he had gotten the message, the message of Project Exile. If he had been caught with a firearm in the commission of the crime, in this case transportation of illegal narcotics, he would get a minimum of 5 years tacked on to anything else that he ended up with.

Now, here was a, I cannot say convicted, but a suspect, someone who had been arrested, explaining it essentially to the rest of the world as to why he did not have a firearm in his possession.

At that point in time when I read that article, I thought to myself, you know, this is pretty common sense stuff. No wonder it is so hard for many of us, maybe in the Congress of the United States or in the administration, to actually come to grips with the possibility that this could work.

What we are saying to people, make it clear here, what Project Exile is saying, whether it is in Richmond, or now in Denver, Colorado, or in the other places that my colleague mentioned, what we are saying is if you use a gun in the commission of a crime or if you are in possession of an illegal firearm, you are going to look at hard time and you are going to look at a minimum of 5 years, and you are not getting out of it.

Lo and behold, when you put this into effect, surprise, surprise, levels of gun violence begin to go down. They have gone down in Virginia; they are going down every place else where this has been put into place. So it is not theoretical. This is empirically proven to work. Again, it is such common sense stuff that you wonder why people have not really kind of warmed up to it.

I wonder certainly why some of our colleagues from the other side today were so adamant in their opposition to it. I wondered why, frankly, as I was driving over here, I heard on the radio that the President of the United States referred to this bill, to the passage of it today, as a cruel joke. A joke.

Well, let me tell you what the joke might be. It just may be, Mr. Speaker, that we have a joke being perpetrated on the American public. But it is not this bill. Let me tell you what that joke may in fact be.

□ 1930

It may be the allusion to a desire on the part of the minority party and on the part of the President of the United States to actually have something work, to actually get to a solution; not the ultimate solution, of course. I am sure, even if we put this in place in every city in America, that there would still be some aspect of gun violence, but this is a positive step that we know works.

Why would we be opposed to this? Why would we refer to it as a joke if in fact we really want a solution? But maybe, just maybe, that is the joke, that some people in this body and maybe even the President of the United States in fact do not want a solution, they want an issue to continue to debate into the campaign. If that is true, it is a cruel joke.

But I will tell the Members what this bill is not: This bill is not a joke. This bill provides financial support to communities all over the country to do something about gun violence.

Mr. EHRLICH. The gentleman's point is very well taken, Mr. Speaker. It may not just be the agenda of the left. That may be the reason they do not like Project Exile, because to the extent

Exile works it takes some steam away from their true agenda, which is gun control. Reasonable people will agree or disagree on gun control, but we are talking about crime control.

So I think the gentleman's point is very, very well taken and well articulated.

Mr. Speaker, I love the way the gentleman found out about it, because we have all found out about it through the press, because they have done a pretty good job in publicizing Project Exile. What I like is the multi-tiered approach. We start out federally but go to State legislatures, ask them to pass laws, which is what today's bill is all about. If we do the right thing, there are the dollars, so resource is really not an issue.

What struck me about Richmond is the lack of ego of State prosecutors and Federal prosecutors. They work together. They divide up the case. They sit down on a weekly basis and divide up the cases as a function of which bad guy is going to get hit hardest in which system; a terrific idea, a lot of common sense.

Probably the best part of Exile is the private sector. It is not government money that funds the communications effort, it is the people whose livelihoods depend upon safe streets. It is asking them to invest in their own communities, what the merchants in Richmond, Virginia, and now all over the country and in Denver have done, come up with the dollars, put their money where their mouth is, fund the communications effort in order to educate that relatively narrow group of bad guys who have guns, who shoot other people, who make us less free.

Is this not a great idea?

Mr. TANCREDO. If the gentleman will continue to yield, Mr. Speaker, it is such a good idea and so bipartisan in its original intent that in Colorado, actually, and this is another interesting point, Mr. Speaker, the President of the United States today, as I say, called this a joke. Yet it is in fact his U.S. Attorneys who have put this in place in Richmond, Virginia, and in Denver, Colorado, attorneys appointed by this administration who do not believe that it is a joke, who believe that it is in fact a very good program.

When we inaugurated this in Denver, I was there. I was invited to participate in the kickoff of the program. On the stage were a lot of individuals, but just let me name two. One was Jim Brady and one was Wayne LaPierre, the head of the NRA, and Mr. Brady, of course, the unfortunate victim of an assassin's bullet who now, of course, is doing everything possible to bring about gun control legislation. Both of them were on the podium supporting Project Exile.

Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the President would actually consider going to Mr. Brady and telling him that Project Exile is a joke. I doubt it. I doubt that he would do that, because in fact we know that this is not a joke. This may in fact work.

Mr. Speaker, here are the Federal laws on guns. Here are the Colorado laws on guns. The point I make here, Mr. Speaker, is that it is not a lack of inventory that is the problem. I am not saying that maybe other gun laws would not be necessary. I am not saying that. I have actually voted on this floor, I have voted for other gun laws. I voted for the juvenile justice bill. Actually, it went down. I voted for it. I believed that those would be positive steps. So I am not telling the Members that nothing is necessary.

However, I am saying that no one could suggest for a moment that it is a lack of gun law inventory that is the problem, that is causing all of the problem in America with regard to gun violence. It has been a problem with regard to enforcement. That is where we are. That is where we are coming down with this issue of Project Exile. We are telling people that we are in fact going to begin to enforce the laws on the books; again, a very logical, common-sense approach that is no joke.

Mr. EHRLICH. The President's words are profoundly disturbing, but when we are a press release politician, of course, the act is done when the press conference is over. Forget about the laws. I could do the same pile of papers in the State of Maryland, and I am sure all my colleagues could do with their respective States.

I think the gentleman's point is so well taken. I hope the President did not mean what he said, because, as my colleague rightfully points out, many, not all, not in Maryland, but many of his U.S. Attorneys, particularly in Richmond, were the driving force behind Project Exile.

Just as a bottom line, when we think about it, we take a situation where egos do not matter, unbelievable in this town, but we force people to cooperate. Who cares who gets the credit. It is the bottom line, the bad guys. So we take egos and put them aside.

Then we target not nonviolent criminals, not even some violent criminals, but we target the most dangerous, people who shoot other people; a rather narrow group as we know, recidivists all, usually. So we target that particular group.

We ask the business community to fund it. We ask the State legislature to pass the laws. We give the resources, as we did today with our Federal bill, to local prosecutors to let them do what they wish with these extra dollars. And what do we get? Safer streets. Look at the dramatic numbers. Look at the results.

It may not be the agenda of some Members in this Chamber, and that is a philosophical orientation. We can debate that until the cows come home, and I am sure we will. But at least let us agree that Exile works. Let us fund it and let us pass it.

I yield to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDO) for a few final words.

Mr. TANCREDO. I sincerely appreciate my colleague's willingness to

bring this point to the attention of our colleagues here, and hopefully to the general public, because this is one of those things that needs greater exposure.

People have to understand what was done today, what was the purpose of this legislation, and what we hope to achieve based upon what has in fact happened where Project Exile has been put into place. Yet, it has been with the support or actually the inspiration of, the idea came from members of the administration who are now acting in the capacity of U.S. Attorneys.

I give them full credit. There is no pride of authorship here. I did not come up with the idea of Project Exile. I wish I had. I did not. I simply am a supporter. A Democrat U.S. Attorney in Colorado held an event that I went to and gave as much support as I possibly could, because it works, because the concept is good.

Again, it is not the only thing we can do, but it is an insult to suggest that this piece of legislation today is anything but an honest attempt on the part of the Members of this Congress to deal with the issue of gun violence in America.

Mr. EHRLICH. I thank my friend. Mr. Speaker, there is no pride of authorship here, just enthusiasm for what works.

Today, Mr. Speaker, six States in this country will qualify for these dollars. Unfortunately, my State, Maryland, would not. Hopefully my General Assembly next session, in the 2001 session of the Maryland General Assembly, will pass the laws needed to qualify for these dollars so Project Exile can be implemented in Maryland and in Colorado and all the States in this great Union.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE CHEVENE BOWERS KING, A GREAT GEORGIAN

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

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I am honored and humbled to have the opportunity today to take this time with some of my colleagues to pay tribute to the life of a good and a great Georgian, the late Chevene Bowers King.

On last Monday, April 3, this House passed a measure, Senate bill 1567, which designated the United States courthouse located at 223 Broad Avenue in Albany, Georgia, as the C.B. King United States Courthouse.

Oh, what a wonderful tribute, what a tribute to a life that has been given in unselfish service for so many people.

Someone wrote the poem:

GOOD TIMBER

"A tree that never had to fight
For sun and sky and air and light,
That stood out in the open plain
And always got its share of rain,

Never became a forest king,
But lived and died a scrubby thing.
A man who never had to toil
By hand or mind in life's turmoil,
Who never had to earn his share
Of sun and sky and light and air,
Never became a manly man,
But lived and died as he began.
Good timber doesn't grow in ease;
The stronger winds, the tougher trees.
The farther sky, the greater length,
The rougher storm, the greater strength.
By wind or rain, by sun or snow,
In trees or man good timbers grow."

Chevene Bowers King was a man who was great timber, he was good timber, and the legacy that he left in his beloved Southland is one that will be enjoyed and revered and remembered for many, many years to come.

When we talked about introducing the bill to name the courthouse after C.B. King, it was interesting that there were four chief cosponsors, two of them United States Senators from the State of Georgia, Senator PAUL COVERDELL, Senator MAX CLELAND, and two of them House members from the State of Georgia, the honorable gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS), and myself, SANFORD BISHOP. We introduced bills in both houses to designate the courthouse on Broad Avenue in Albany, Georgia, the C.B. King United States Courthouse.

How ironic it is that two white U.S. Congressmen, perhaps the descendants of slave owners, and two African-American Congressmen, perhaps the descendants of slaves, were able to come together with a common history in our beloved South to give tribute to a man who brought the races together and who helped to break down the walls of racial discrimination.

Just as Robert Benham, Chief Justice of the Georgia Supreme Court, wrote a letter in support of legislation to name the courthouse, he described C.B. King as "A man who proved to be all things to all people. His vision, innovation, brilliant legal reasoning skills, compassion, and courage led to reforms that impacted not only the good people of the State of Georgia, but the entire Nation."

He felt that it was fitting that a Federal courthouse is named in his honor. "His leadership and legal mastery in several landmark cases established a groundwork for school desegregation, voting rights, and jury selection reform. He worked tirelessly to promote equal access to employment, health care, public facilities, and services on a national level."

□ 1945

There is no finer example of professionalism, he said, than C.B. King, extremely competent, a public servant, community activist, led the fight for the rights of all people; an organizer, a participant, an attorney for the Albany Movement. The Albany Movement was a series of demonstrations and sit-ins held during the early 1960s designed to help end discrimination and segregation in South Georgia and throughout the South.

Dr. Martin Luther King viewed the Albany Movement as a pivotal campaign in the civil rights movement. C.B. King was Dr. Martin Luther King's lawyer, his trusted friend, his confidant. C.B. represented many noted leaders who were forerunners in the fight for equality; and as a result, he motivated countless minorities and women to become part of the noble legal profession.

His shining example has inspired lawyers and judges everywhere. So I am just honored and humbled that I am able to come today to stand here in these hallowed chambers to pay tribute to a man who not only touched my life but touched the lives of so many others across Georgia and across this Nation.

I have been joined by one of my colleagues who knew C.B. as I did, the honorable gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS). In a moment I will yield to him after I make a few more brief comments about C.B.

Chevene Bowers King was born October 12, 1923, in Albany, Georgia, the third of eight children of Clinton King, owner of an apparel shop and supermarket, and Mrs. Margaret Slater King. He attended Mercer Street Elementary School and Madison Street High School in Albany, Georgia, and after graduation he attended Tuskegee University and then he enlisted in the United States Navy.

After his 3 years of service in the Navy, he enrolled at Fisk University where he earned his bachelor's degree in political science. Pursuing his education further, he attended Case Western Reserve University School of Law in Cleveland, Ohio. He attended Case Western Reserve because for a young black college graduate in the South, there were no law schools for him to attend. So he had to go North.

He went to Case Western. He graduated from law school, but unlike so many who fled the South, C.B. was committed to returning to his homeland to make a difference, to try to break down the walls of discrimination and the racism that inhibited the growth and development of millions and millions and millions of young people. So he returned to Albany, Georgia, and he started up the practice of law.

He married Carol Roumain and he had a family; four sons, Chevene, Jr., Kenyan, Leland, Clennon, and a daughter, Peggy.

C.B. practiced law for many years, and he truly made a difference.

The kinds of cases that C.B. handled are the kinds of cases that inspired us and that ultimately transformed the South from a land that was dreaded to a land of opportunity and a land which now leads the Sunbelt in these United States. C.B. is remembered, perhaps, most for his legal activism in the South. He became the leading civil rights attorney in southwest Georgia, being only one of three African American lawyers in the entire State of Georgia. He worked closely with the local chapters of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored