

path by which essential hospitals can survive to serve their communities now and in the years to come.

By enabling these economically distressed healthcare facilities with a short-term revenue enhancement and a long-term plan for success, hospitals like those in my district will receive aid for the next five years now and receive additional sums for successful completion of their economic recovery plan. For the last nine months, I have met with Chief Executive and Financial Officers of hospitals in my district, members of their Board of Directors, as well as representatives from the Health Care Financing Administration, the General Accounting Office, the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, and staff of the committees of jurisdiction in the House. These conversations have helped me to develop the legislation that I am introducing today.

In the next few weeks, I look forward to working with Congressman DON SHERWOOD and Senator ARLEN SPECTER to look at various alternatives like this proposal to save our hospitals. Additionally, I hope that other Members, hospital associations, and individual hospitals will feel free to recommend additions and improvements in these definitions and in the type of relief that can be provided.

I also hope that this type of proposal can be enacted this year. The need is critically urgent for all of our hospitals in Northeastern and Central Pennsylvania. The crisis is painfully real. We must act immediately for the sake of all of our constituents.

THE SAFE PIPELINES ACT OF 2000

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

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Chairman, tomorrow marks the first anniversary of the tragic pipeline explosion that claimed three lives of people in my district. It has been a difficult week for all of us as the attention has been once again focused on that terrible accident a year ago and we remember the sad day when hundreds of thousands of gallons of gasoline suddenly erupted in flames in a quiet part of Bellingham, Washington.

I have long held reservations about our system of pipeline safety regulations. Before I came to Congress, I worked to block construction of a pipeline in my home community. In 1996, I voted against a pipeline deregulation bill because I felt that it removed too many essential safeguards.

Since last year's accident, I have redoubled my efforts to improve the regulatory climate. Earlier this year, I introduced H.R. 3558, the Safe Pipelines Act of 2000. Under my legislation:

Number one, pipelines will be required to be inspected both internally and with hydrostatic tests. Pipelines with a history of leaks will be specifically targeted for more strenuous testing.

Number two, all pipeline operators will be tested for qualifications and certified by the Department of Transportation.

Number three, the results of pipeline tests and inspections will be made

available to the public and a nationwide map of all pipeline locations will be placed on the Internet so ordinary citizens can easily access it.

Number four, all pipeline ruptures and spills of more than 40 gallons will be reported to the Federal Office of Pipeline Safety.

Number five, States will be able to set up their own pipeline safety programs for interstate pipelines, provided that the States have the resources and expertise necessary to carry out the programs and that State standards are at least as stringent as the Federal standards.

In addition, the bill requires studies on a variety of technologies that may improve safety such as external leak detection systems and double-walled pipelines.

It has been difficult to get the attention of many of my colleagues on this issue. The phrase "out of sight, out of mind" certainly applies when pipelines are involved. Until a tragedy happens in a Member's own district, it is easy to ignore the many seemingly harmless pipelines which run underground.

Yesterday, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Chairman SHUSTER) of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure agreed to hold a hearing on my legislation in the coming weeks. I thank him for his efforts, and I hope the hearing will help draw the attention of more Members as we continue to work to pass comprehensive pipeline safety legislation this year.

The tragedy in my district was not the first deadly pipeline accident, and it will not be the last unless we come together to bring meaningful improvements to our pipeline safety regulations.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. KIND (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of a family obligation.

Mr. MARKEY (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of family illness.

Mr. GILMAN (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today on account of attending a funeral.

Mr. LAZIO (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for after 5:30 p.m. June 8 and today on account of a death in the family.

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today until 12:30 p.m. on account of giving commencement address at Ohio State University.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas) to

revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. STABENOW, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ENGEL, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. KANJORSKI, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. MILLER of Florida) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. FOLEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MILLER of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Mr. THOMAS, from the Committee on House Administration, reported that that committee had examined and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 1953. An act to authorize leases for terms not to exceed 99 years on land held in trust for the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians and the Guidiville Band of Pomo Indians of the Guidiville Indian Rancheria.

H.R. 2484. An act to provide that land which is owned by the Lower Sioux Indian Community in the State of Minnesota but which is not held in trust by the United States for the Community may be leased or transferred by the Community without further approval by the United States.

H.R. 3639. An act to designate the Federal building located at 2201 C Street, Northwest, in the District of Columbia, currently headquarters for the Department of State, as the "Harry S Truman Federal Building".

SENATE ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The SPEAKER announced his signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 291. An act to convey certain real property within the Carlsbad Project in New Mexico to the Carlsbad Irrigation District.

S. 356. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain works, facilities, and titles of the Gila Project, and designated lands within or adjacent to the Gila Project, to the Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation and Drainage District, and for other purposes.

BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Mr. THOMAS, from the Committee on House Administration, reported that that committee did on this day present to the President, for his approval, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 4542. An act to designate the Washington Opera in Washington, D.C., as the National Opera.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 45 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the

House adjourned until Monday, June 12, 2000, at 12:30 p.m., for morning hour debates.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

8062. A letter from the Acting General Counsel, Department of Defense, transmitting a draft bill entitled, "Institute For Professional Military Education and Training"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

8063. A letter from the Under Secretary, Acquisition and Technology, Department of Defense, transmitting a report entitled, "An Assessment of the External Factors Influencing Schedule and Cost Risks of the Chemical Demilitarization Program," pursuant to Public Law 106-65; to the Committee on Armed Services.

8064. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule—Section 8 Moderate Rehabilitation Program; Executing or Terminating Leases on Moderate Rehabilitation Units When the Remaining Term of the Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) Control Is for Less Than One Year [Docket No. FR-4472-F-02] (RIN: 2577-AB98) received May 2, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

8065. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule—Indirect Food Additives: Paper and Paperboard Components [Docket No. 00F-0813] received May 31, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

8066. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's report on employment of United States citizens by certain international organizations, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276c-4; to the Committee on International Relations.

8067. A letter from the Director, Employment Service, Workforce Restructuring Office, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule—Reduction in Force Notices (RIN: 3206-AI99) received May 4, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

8068. A letter from the Executive Director, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period October 1, 1999, through March 31, 2000; and the semiannual management report for the same period, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

8069. A letter from the Acting Director, U.S. Office of Surface Mining, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule—Indiana Regulatory Program [SPATS No. IN-149-FOR] received May 31, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

8070. A letter from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; At-Sea Scales; Community Development Quota Program [Docket No. 9910108298-0145-02; I.D. 092199C] (RIN: 0648-AL88) received May 31, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

8071. A letter from the Chair, United States Sentencing Commission, transmitting

amendments to sentencing guidelines, policy statements, and official commentary; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

8072. A letter from the Director, National Science Foundation, transmitting a draft bill entitled, "National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2000"; to the Committee on Science.

8073. A letter from the Administrator, Small Business Administration, transmitting a draft bill that contains provisions to implement the President's FY 2001 Budget and other improvements and initiatives with respect to programs of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA); to the Committee on Small Business.

8074. A letter from the Acting General Counsel, Department of Defense, transmitting the draft bill entitled, "Consolidation of Authorities Relating to Department of Defense Regional Centers For Security Studies"; jointly to the Committees on Armed Services and Government Reform.

8075. A letter from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting the draft bill, "Internet Prescription Drug Sale Act of 2000"; jointly to the Committees on Commerce and the Judiciary.

8076. A letter from the Acting General Counsel, Department of Defense, transmitting a legislative proposal relating to Department of Defense operations and management; jointly to the Committees on Armed Services, International Relations, Science, and Government Reform.

8077. A letter from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting draft legislation entitled, "Consumer Financial Privacy Act"; jointly to the Committees on Banking and Financial Services, Commerce, Agriculture, and the Judiciary.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska: Committee on Resources. H.R. 1775. A bill to catalyze restoration of estuary habitat through more efficient financing of projects and enhanced coordination of Federal and non-Federal restoration programs, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 106-561, Pt. 2). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. BLILEY: Committee on Commerce. H.R. 4201. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to clarify the service obligation of noncommercial educational broadcast stations; with an amendment (Rept. 106-662). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 5 of rule X the Committees on Commerce and Education and the Workforce discharged. H.R. 1656 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. CALVERT:

H.R. 4620. A bill to provide for planning, design, construction, furnishing, and equipping of a Riverside School for the Arts in Riverside, California; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. CASTLE (for himself, Mr. LEACH, Mr. BOEHLERT, Mrs. MORELLA, Mr. HORN, Mr. BILBRAY, Mr. GANSKE, Mr. GILCREST, Mr. BASS, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. UPTON, Mr. GREENWOOD, Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey, Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut, and Mr. RAMSTAD):

H.R. 4621. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 and the Communications Act of 1934 to require sponsors of certain election-related communications to provide information regarding their identities and sources of funds used to make the communications, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KANJORSKI:

H.R. 4622. A bill to amend title 18 of the Social Security Act to provide for immediate relief for essential hospitals in a region, to assist in the long-range economic recovery of such hospitals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ADERHOLT (for himself, Mrs. CLAYTON, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, and Mr. UNDERWOOD):

H.R. 4623. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to revise the calculation of base payment rates for the prospective payment system for home health services furnished under the Medicare Program; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DUNCAN (for himself, Mr. RANGEL, and Mr. JENKINS):

H.R. 4624. A bill to provide targeted payment relief under the Medicare Program for hospitals that primarily serve Medicare and Medicaid patients and have been disproportionately impacted by the payment reductions under the Balanced Budget Act of 1997; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ENGLISH (for himself, Mr. BORSKI, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. COYNE, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. GEKAS, Mr. GOODLING, Mr. GREENWOOD, Mr. HOFFEL, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. KANJORSKI, Mr. KLING, Mr. MASCARA, Mr. MURTHA, Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. PITTS, Mr. SHERWOOD, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. TOOMEY, and Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 4625. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2108 East 38th Street in Erie, Pennsylvania, as the "Gertrude A. Barber Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mr. ENGLISH (for himself and Mr. RAMSTAD):

H.R. 4626. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow individuals to designate that up to 10 percent of their income tax liability be used to reduce the national debt, and to require spending reductions equal to the amounts so designated; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HOLT:

H.R. 4627. A bill to provide for a program to educate the public regarding the use of biotechnology in producing food for human consumption, to support additional scientific research regarding the potential economic and environmental risks and benefits of using biotechnology to produce food, and for other