

A recent World Health Organization study in India found in areas where effective TB treatment was implemented, the death rate from tuberculosis fell by more than 85 percent. TB accounts for one-third of AIDS deaths worldwide and up to 40 percent of AIDS deaths in Asia and in Africa. Eleven million people are currently affected with TB around the world and with HIV. The good news is that TB treatment is equally effective in HIV positive and HIV negative people. So if we want to improve the health of people with HIV, we must address the issue of tuberculosis.

WHO estimates that one-third of the world's population is infected with the bacteria that causes tuberculosis; two billion, two billion people. An estimated 8 million people develop active tuberculosis each year, and roughly 15 million people in the United States are infected with tuberculosis.

The threat TB poses for Americans derives from the global spread of tuberculosis and the emergence and spread of strains of tuberculosis that are multi-drug resistant.

Up to 50 million people worldwide may be infected with drug-resistant tuberculosis. Incidence is particularly high in selected regions and populations such as Russian prisons where an estimated 5 percent of prisoners have active multi-drug resistant TB. In the U.S., TB treatment, normally about \$2,000 per patient, skyrockets to as much as \$250,000 per patient, as it did in New York City in the early 1990s when we had to treat multi-drug resistant tuberculosis. Treatment may not even be successful. MDR drug-resistant TB kills more than half those infected, even in the United States and in other industrialized nations, and it is a virtual death sentence in the developing world.

The President recently visited India. I contacted him before that trip to discuss our bill. India has more tuberculosis cases than anywhere else in the world. Their situation illustrates the urgency of this issue. Two million people in India develop TB every year, and nearly 500,000 die from it each year. More than 1,000 Indians a day die from this infectious disease. The disease has become a major barrier to social and economic development, costing the Indian economy \$2 billion a year. Three hundred thousand children are forced to leave school in India each year because their parents have tuberculosis, and more than 100,000 women with TB are rejected by their families due to social stigma.

India has undertaken an aggressive campaign to control tuberculosis, but they also need western help. Not surprisingly, the statistics on access to TB treatment worldwide are pretty grim. Fewer than 1 in 5 of those with TB are receiving DOTS treatment. Based on World Bank estimates, DOTS treatment is one of the most cost-effective health interventions available, costing the developing world as little

as \$20 to save a life. DOTS can produce cure rates of 85, 90, even 95 percent, even in the poorest countries.

Mr. Speaker, Gro Bruntland, the Director of WHO, has said that TB is not a medical issue, but a political issue. We have an opportunity to save millions of lives now and prevent millions of needless deaths in the future.

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RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 10 a.m. today.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 18 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until 10 a.m.

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AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. QUINN) at 10 a.m.

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PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, ever present and Lord of history, throughout the ages You have drawn our attention and told us: "You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people truly set apart as God's own."

Frankly, Lord, You overwhelm us. We wrestle with the times in which we live because they demand so much from us. We wrestle with Your own deep calling which dignifies us yet demands great responsibility.

Empower us to live up to Your expectations as uniquely chosen to guide the course of human events in this holy Nation.

We are dedicated to serve You by lifting up the sacrifice of work today.

We embrace this work as dedicated service to You, Our God, and as service to the holy people we represent.

Since You have called us to this task, You will surely gift us with Your Spirit, transforming each aspect of our work into an act of worship; transcending all barriers and distinctions into realizing a deeper unity at work in us, Your Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

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THE JOURNAL

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

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

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Chair'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.

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, on that, I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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.

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PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland 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.

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ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain five 1-minutes on each side.

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PRESS USE OF TERM "CONSERVATIVE"

(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, Caspar Weinberger, our former Secretary of Defense, wrote a short column for Forbes Magazine recently that should make every conservative and every journalist stop and think for a moment.

Let me quote: "Why is it," the magazine asks, "that the press always calls the worst elements in Iran the 'conservatives' and refers to the group identified with President Khatami as the 'reformers' or even the 'liberals'?"

"The fanatical mullahs who rule Iran . . . oppose human rights, freedom of speech and religion, and all other manifestations of an individual's right to achieve all he or she can.

"They believe in an all-powerful state, ruled by them, where the individual does not count.

"This is not conservatism.

"While President Khatami is not pro-America, he and certainly some of his followers believe in human rights and far more personal freedom than do the clerics.

"That is conservatism."

Mr. Speaker, we have to wonder what definition our friends in the Fourth Estate are using. Listen to their language. Is anyone they do not like a conservative?

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VOTE AGAINST THE LABOR-HHS-EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS BILL

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

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the fiscal year 2001 Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act.

Studies show that smaller class sizes help teachers provide more personal attention to students. Teachers are then able to spend less time on discipline, more on instruction for the students that they serve. This helps students receive a stronger foundation in basic skills, skills that will help them succeed in the 21st century economy. The economic function of education must not be overlooked if today's students are to compete in our rapidly growing global economy. I believe that we must ensure that young children have the kind of one-on-one contact with teachers that smaller class sizes will permit.

This bill does not include funding to hire new teachers to reduce class sizes. Let us stop talking about improving education and put our resources into the classrooms. I urge my colleagues to vote against this bill.

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CONDEMNING IRAN OVER THE DETENTION AND TRIAL OF 13 JEWS

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

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to condemn the actions of Iran in accusing and now trying 13 Jews for allegedly spying for Israel and the United States.

All 13 have been jailed and isolated for more than a year without being formally charged with anything. They are now being formally tried, again without formal charges having been brought.

Mr. Speaker, we are talking about a group of people aged 17 to 48 who are among the least likely to ever be involved in espionage. We are talking about a rabbi, a student, three Hebrew teachers, a shoe store clerk, and a kosher butcher.

They are now confronting a judge who has it in his power to execute them on grounds that are unsupported and without evidence.

All 13 were arrested by the authorities of the Islamic Republic on the eve of Passover in 1999. They have had little access since then to either family or legal counsel.

Mr. Speaker, I think this Congress should rise as one voice repeatedly and repeatedly to condemn this trial and to demand that Iran release these people back to their families and to freedom. This trial is a sham, and it should be treated as one by the world.

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NEW JERSEY DEVILS ARE NEW JERSEY'S ANGELS

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

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to rise today to

honor the New Jersey Devils as the 2000 Stanley Cup champions.

The Devils play a brand of hockey that typifies New Jersey. They are tough competitors led by their captain and playoff MVP, Scott Stevens, whose hard-nosed play shut down the best offensive players in the game. In the finals, they were the underdogs against the defending champs, and we in New Jersey love an underdog.

With a stone wall for a goal tender in Martin Brodeur, the offensive firepower of Jason Arnott, Patrick Elias and Peter Sykora, and a quartet of rookies, including the first Hispanic American player drafted in the first round, Scott Gomez, the Devils fought late into the night in sudden death double overtime on Saturday. In the end, it was the sweet passing from Stevens to Elias to Arnott for the game-winning goal that brought the Cup back to East Rutherford, New Jersey.

Mr. Speaker, the New Jersey Devils are the Stanley Cup champions once again. In the hearts of New Jerseyans, in bringing this Stanley Cup back to New Jersey, these Devils are our angels.

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PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE

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

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, Republicans believe that no senior citizen or disabled American should be forced to choose between buying food or buying the prescription drugs necessary to keep them alive.

Prescription drugs have become a major component of quality health care in America, and they have saved and improved many lives.

But these miracles frequently come with a substantial price tag, one that many Medicare recipients on fixed incomes cannot afford without insurance.

Republicans believe the way to solve this dilemma is to create a fair and responsible prescription drug plan that is affordable, available, and voluntary for all Medicare beneficiaries.

It is the right and moral thing to do. By making prescription drug coverage accessible to everyone. Republicans want to make sure that no senior citizen or disabled American falls through the cracks.

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CONGRATULATING NEW JERSEY DEVILS ON WINNING STANLEY CUP

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

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, early Sunday morning, throughout New Jersey, one could hear screams of joy coming from thousands of homes, diners, and bars. Jason Arnott had just scored the shot heard around the Garden State.

After last night, we have some levity and relaxation. I think it is good in the House this morning.

I rise to congratulate the Devils. This is a prize that has been given to the best hockey team in the world. This year, we will have our very own New Jersey Devils inscribed upon it for the second time in 5 years.

Over the past season, the Devils, who practice at beautiful South Mountain Arena in West Orange, have taken New Jersey fans on a roller coaster season we will soon not forget.

We have watched the break-out seasons of potential rookie of the year and, as Congressman Rothman mentioned, the first Hispanic national hockey league star, Scott Gomez, as well as the short-handed goal prowess of former Wolverine John Madden.

No player he faced or hit will forget the awe-inspiring and inspirational play of Captain Scott Stevens, which earned him the coveted Conn Smythe Trophy as playoff most valuable player.

It is a great happy day for New Jersey, for the Devils, and again, after last night, a point of relaxation for the Congress. We deserve it.

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IN MEMORY OF REVEREND MONSIGNOR THOMAS WELLS

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

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, the Reverend Monsignor Thomas Wells, 56, of Germantown, Maryland, pastor of Mother Seton Catholic Parish in Germantown, died Thursday, June 8, in the parish rectory. He was the victim of an apparent breakin and killed after a violent and bloody struggle with the intruder.

This morning, at 11 o'clock, a funeral mass will be celebrated by Cardinal James A. Hickey at the Sacred Heart Church, which is one of the churches that Monsignor Wells served.

What can I say about a man who was in his prime, who was a shepherd to a community, whether they belonged to his faith or not.

I talked to some of the congregants who made statements, such as, "He was only the pastor at Mother Seton for about a year and a half, but he touched so many people in the 2,000-member congregation, just as he touched those in other parishes that he served."

He had served in 5 parishes within the last 3 decades in the State of Maryland. The churches where he served over the past 30 years had been filled in recent years with people who loved the priest for whom they now pray. They are overwhelmed by grief.

He encouraged a lot of the young people. He inspired all who knew him. He was warm, friendly. He had a tremendous sense of humor. He always gave very exciting sermons, motivating people to be the best and to do the most for others.

One can see that the light of God was within him. He was a very holy man, not just by his position in the church