

in an unincorporated community of the county, is nearby.

At the northern border of the 50th district is the central portion of the city of San Diego, just south and east of downtown, with many neighborhoods that are experiencing gentrification by "urban pioneers" moving back from the suburbs.

All in all, the people of the 50th congressional district represent the best of America. Industrious and ambitious, striving for a good life for our children and grandchildren, we work and play together in a largely harmonious blend of race, ethnicity, and religion. We believe in the American dream.

I am proud to represent these fine men, women and children, and I am working hard in Congress to ensure the best for their future.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, on the 150th anniversary of California's entrance to the Union, it is with great pleasure that I introduce California's 51st district.

California's 51st district covers most of North County, only minutes from downtown San Diego. North County, well known for its beautiful beaches, ideal weather, and quiet lifestyle has proven attractive to the growing 650,000 who inhabit this region and the many who visit "America's Finest City" and the surrounding area from all over the world.

The 51st district encompasses the coastal towns of Carlsbad, Encinitas, Solana Beach, and Del Mar. Carlsbad is best known for its majestic flower fields and is the predominate supplier of commercially grown flowers on the West Coast. The flower fields are easily seen from 1-5 as one makes their way down this coastal commute. Also, newly constructed Legoland® choose to call Carlsbad home. The amusement park opened in 1999.

Del Mar is where the "turf meets the surf" and is home to the Del Mar Racetrack. One can watch the thoroughbreds and still have a view of the ocean from the grandstand. During the off-season, the Racetrack becomes the Del Mar Fairgrounds. This two-week fair has been a North County tradition since 1936. The fair features rides, livestock shows, exhibitions, agriculture, and local art. Over 1 million people visited the Del Mar Fair last year.

Inland, the towns of San Marcos, Rancho Santa Fe, Escondido, and Poway lie among the rolling hills. Escondido is home to the world famous Wild Animal Park, established in 1969. This 1,800-acre wildlife preserve allows visitors to view herds of exotic animals as they might have been seen in their native Asia and Africa.

A portion of the city of San Diego makes up the remainder of the 51st district. This area includes the former Miramar Naval Air Station. The base, made famous by the 1986 movie *Top Gun*, was home to the elite naval fighter pilot school of the same name. This naval base was converted to the Miramar Marine Corp Air Station in 1996. North County is also home to many veterans and active military who choose to make San Diego their permanent home during and after their military service.

San Diego is also fast-becoming the center of the growing high-tech and bio-tech industries. Qualcomm, Cubic, Hewlett Packard, Sony, Nokia, Erickson, Titan, Ligand Pharmaceuticals, Pyxis, and the Immune Response Corporation all call San Diego home. These booming industries have brought San Diego to the forefront of these exciting new fields.

With its sunny weather and stretch of coastline, it is not surprising that North County is one of the fastest growing areas in California. Mr. Speaker, I consider it a privilege to live in North County and an honored to serve and represent the people of the 51st district.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 150th anniversary of California's admission into the Union. I am fortunate to represent the 52nd Congressional District, a beautiful area along our international border with a rich history and culture. Home to the deserts and agriculture fields of Imperial County, as well as the mountains and urban areas of East San Diego County, the 52nd is as much diverse as it is unique.

As the winter home of the Navy's Blue Angels, and thousands of "snowbirds" from all over the country who come to enjoy the scenery and weather, Imperial County is known as the place "Where the Sun Spends the Winter." It is the home of the Glamis Sand Dunes, the Brawley Cattle Call, and the best farm land in the country, which provides delicious fruits and vegetables the entire country enjoys year-round. Imperial County is also home to the largest body of water in California, the Salton Sea, as well some of the best Mexican food a person can find.

San Diego County draws its name from San Diego de Alcalá, a designation credited to Spaniard Don Sebastian Vizcaino, who sailed into what is now San Diego Bay on November 12, 1603, and renamed it in honor of his flagship and his favorite saint. The County of San Diego was established by the State Legislature on February 18, 1850, as one of the original 27 counties of California with an estimated population of at least 3,490.

Today, almost 100,000 people and 5,000 businesses reside in San Diego's East County alone. Places like El Cajon, which means "the box" in Spanish because the city is completely surrounded by mountains, provides the perfect recreation spot with horseback riding, golf courses, campgrounds, parks and easy access to the many attractions of Southern California.

Another city in East County, La Mesa, is known as the "Jewel of the Hills" to the 56,000 people who call this desirable city their home. La Mesa's location places it close to the cultural facilities, sports, recreation and water-related activities afforded by its proximity to the county's metropolitan center, beaches and bays.

The 52nd Congressional District is made up of communities in which the residents and business people take an active role in protecting and enhancing the quality of living. The number of service clubs and organizations, school and church related groups, and other civic and social organizations, give tangible evidence of the vitality of its citizenry and their active interest in the community. It is a commitment to "community" that gives the 52nd a special identity.

H.R. 1323

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I want to talk about legislation that I have been working on. It is H.R.

1323. H.R. 1323 deals with breast implants, an issue that has been the subject of many court cases now for a number of years.

On Monday, the Food and Drug Administration, the FDA, hosted a meeting to discuss research on silicone gel-filled implants, and I am grateful for the FDA in their willingness not only to meet with my own constituents but also other people on my staff on this issue and hopefully will continue to dialogue with the FDA to ensure that women get the information they need on the safety of the implants.

However, the research indicates that platinum salts have been released by silicone gel-filled implants. This is significant information because the platinum salt in certain form is known to be toxic. New technology has allowed scientists to determine that the platinum used as a catalyst in making the gel and the shell of the gel-filled breast implant is being released into the body of women in a harmful toxic form.

Last week, the FDA released information on their web site citing breast implant complications. This is a victory for the consumer advocates who have been working to provide more information to women who are considering implants. However, the information provided in this web site does not include the recent findings on the toxicity of platinum salts found in gel-filled implants.

Women need to know how harmful the release of platinum in their body and to their children who may be nursing can do to them. It has come to my attention that children who breast-feed from mothers with silicon brevity implants may also experience harmful body excess from the toxicity symptoms of exposure of platinum salts.

Symptoms of exposure to platinum in a reactive form can also cause fatigue, dry eyes, dry mouth, joint inflammation, hair loss and also rashes.

As a sponsor of the Silicon Breast Implant Research and Information Act, I believe that the need for more research is especially compelling in light of the FDA's own study on the rupture of silicone breast implants.

On May 18 of this year, Dr. S. Lori Brown's research showed that 69 percent of the women with implants had at least one ruptured breast implant. The FDA concluded that the rupture of silicon breast implants is the primary concern although the relationship of the free silicon to the development or progression of the disease is unknown.

We do know there is a rupture of silicon into the body, but we do not know the impact. That is why we need more research by the FDA.

I heard from my own constituents over the last number of years and literally women across the country, Mr. Speaker, who have suffered from the long-term consequences of reconstruction and cosmetic surgery. They have experienced infections, chronic pain, deformity and implant rupture, inaccurate mammography readings due to

the implant concealing breast tissue and difficulties in getting health insurance to pay for the high costs of repeated surgeries. The cost of faulty implants is paid by all of us in the system even if it is not covered by insurance.

The Institute of Medicine estimated that by 1997, 1.5 million to 1.8 million American women had breast implants with nearly one-third of these women being breast cancer survivors. The American Plastic and Reconstruction Surgeons cited breast augmentation as the most popular procedure for women ages 19 through 34. In 1998, nearly 80,000 women in this age bracket received breast implants for purely cosmetic reasons. By 1999, an additional 130,000 women received saline breast implants.

In spite of the escalating numbers, very little is known about the long-term effects of silicone or platinum in the body. Few patients understand that even when they opt for saline breast implants, the envelope of the implant is made of silicon.

Following the FDA's decision to approve saline breast implants, the agency did warn women of the potential risk. FDA officials called upon implant manufacturers and plastic surgeons to ensure that thorough patient information is provided to women before they undergo the surgery.

Mr. Speaker, with the FDA approval process behind us, the only course of action to safeguard the future of women is that of an informed consent document. Somehow, a piece of paper cannot make up for a manufacturer's insufficient data or the retrieval analysis. It cannot make up for inaccurate labeling and even risk estimates.

There is so much we do not know, and yet the one government agency mandated to safeguard the public's food, drug and medical devices is moving so slow on this issue that could jeopardize women with a medical device that has alarmingly high failure rates.

In spite of the agency's call for post-market studies, the FDA approval of saline breast implants provides no incentive for the manufacturers to make data better or a safer medical device.

Mr. Speaker, hopefully the FDA will continue their research.

REASONS FOR ECONOMIC PROSPERITY IN AMERICA

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

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, before I get into my special order, I would like to address the remarks of one of my colleagues just previously on a 5-minute. He made a statement that Governor Bush would replace Medicare with insurance companies. I have never heard something so laughable. Are the Democrats so desperate that they have got to spin something that is absolutely not true?

Mr. Speaker, I have never heard something so ridiculous. The gentleman may speak of his own opinion, but I would say that the gentleman is factually challenged. First, 70 percent of Americans have insurance, both for healthcare or for prescription drugs, and they want to keep that. Unfortunately, there is a large portion of the American population that has neither healthcare nor prescription drugs.

Governor Bush wants to make sure that those people are taken care of. But if the Democrats can demagog insurance companies or biotech companies, then what is left to pick up the void? Only big government, Hillary Clinton-type of healthcare and prescription drugs, and that is exactly what AL GORE does.

He has a one-size-fits-all, big government solution. Now, I have traveled all over the country with Governor Bush, and I know not only what he says, but I know what is in his heart. While the Democrats increased veterans healthcare by zero in the last budget, Republicans put in a \$1.7 billion increase.

Governor Bush not only wants to keep the promises to our veterans for healthcare that has been given for many, many years, but he wants to also make sure that that percentage of Americans who do not have healthcare have supplement to their Medicare. What does the Federal employee have? And that is FEHBP, the Federal Employees Health Benefit Plan, which is a supplement to Medicare. That is what he has said, that is what he talks about in every speech, nothing about replacing Medicare with insurance companies, at least do not demagog, at least do not make up stories that are absolutely not true.

If my colleagues want to talk about facts in the Social Security Trust Fund and Medicare trust fund, do we remember the Clinton-Gore budget, they said well, we want to take 100 percent of the Social Security trust fund and put it for Social Security and all of the surplus.

Mr. Speaker, weeks later, they came back and said oh, not so fast we want to take 62 percent and put it into Social Security, we want to take 15 percent of the surplus and put it into Medicare. What they did not tell us is that the Clinton-Gore budget took every dime out of the Social Security trust fund, put it up here for new spending. They increased taxes \$241 billion for new spending, to justify their budget and their balanced budget.

We said no, Mr. President, no, Mr. Vice President, that we are going to put the Social Security trust fund into a lockbox so that politicians cannot touch it, that you cannot keep increasing the debt and you cannot keep spending it. So if my colleagues want to talk about facts, that is a fact.

Another fact is that Republicans brought that budget to the floor to show what a sham it was. Mr. Speaker, do we know how many Democrats

voted for that budget, because we wanted them to vote for it, to show that they supported increase in taxes, to show that they supported raiding the Social Security trust fund, to show what a sham that the budget was. Do we know how many Democrats supported it? Only four.

Yet, AL GORE uses that budget as the basis, and I quote AL GORE, I use this budget as the basis for my plan, which spends every cent and more of the surplus. It dips in and raids the Social Security trust fund. It increases the taxes on the American people. And when my colleagues want to talk about facts, that is a fact.

The reason that I stepped up from my special order was that I was in Los Angeles for the Democrat convention. I was on television. I was on radio to see the spin, and it is probably the reason why there is an article in the Washington Post, which is not exactly a conservative paper, about, it is still the economy stupid, by David Broder. And it says that during the past 8 years LIEBERMAN said in the convention, we have created more than 4 million new businesses, 22 million new jobs, the lowest inflation in a generation, the lowest African American, Hispanic unemployment rate in history, the strongest economy in a 224-year history of the United States of America. He could have added that real incomes for even the poorest Americans began to improve and poverty rate declined.

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But what David Broder goes on to say is, "But it wasn't until the Republicans took over Congress in 1995 that the goal of a balanced budget came into view, that the economy increased at a much higher rate than under the 1993 tax increase."

The Democrats in their convention said, well, if you loved the last 8 years of the economy, you need to put us back. That is what I want to talk about, Mr. Speaker.

First of all, the Speaker of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HASTERT), went to see the Vice President and the President last night. They asked if the President would set aside 90 percent of the surplus to reduce the debt. We pay nearly \$1 billion a day on the national debt, Mr. Speaker. The President agreed.

They walked away saying, hey, we will take the other 10 percent, we will debate in Congress, we will work back and forth as to how the 10 percent of the surplus is spent, whether it is for tax relief or increased spending in other areas, like prescription drugs.

But when he got away, and I will quote here, now when Republicans say we want to lock away 90 percent of the next year's surplus, according to today's edition of the New York Times, "Mr. Clinton told Republicans he viewed paying down the debt as a priority, but said he was not sure it could be done in the 2001 fiscal year."

Does that sound like the balanced budget? It could be done in 12 years, it