

LANCE ARMSTRONG CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, I am joining a cancer survivor, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. MYRICK), our colleague, in what is truly a bipartisan recognition of excellence as we introduce legislation to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Lance Armstrong. Lance is an Austinite, but one does not have to share his hometown to appreciate the depth of his achievements.

After being stricken with advanced cancer, Lance's chances of survival were slim and his chances of getting back on a bicycle were even slimmer. Just 3 months after his diagnosis in 1996, he formed the Lance Armstrong Foundation to promote cancer awareness, education, and research.

And then, his amazing comeback. Last year he conquered the Tour de France with the same strength and grace as he conquered cancer, and this year he did it again. Next week in Australia we hope his yellow jersey is turned into Olympic gold. While his courageous battle with cancer set the stage for an amazing comeback, one of the most amazing in sports history, it is his commitment to raising cancer awareness and helping others triumph over this disease that particularly merits congressional recognition.

In honor of his courage, his preeminence in the sport of cycling, and his dedication to both improving the lives of cancer victims and finding a cure for this disease, please join us in supporting the Lance Armstrong Congressional Gold Medal Act.

HONORING SENATOR BRYAN

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today to recognize one of Nevada's great statesman who, at the end of this Congress, will be retiring from the United States Senate. Senator RICHARD BRYAN, a native of southern Nevada, has been a leader from a very young age, ever since being elected president of his eight grade class at John Park Elementary School.

Senator BRYAN's distinguished career in public service has spanned more than 3 decades, culminating with his two terms as a United States Senator.

Throughout his tenure in the Senate, he has been committed to protecting Nevada's interest in Congress, and with only four Members in Congress to represent the entire State of Nevada, I learned during my first days here in the House the importance of a good working relationship with the other Chamber. It has been an honor for me to have the opportunity to work with

such a fine legislator and dedicated Nevadan as Senator RICHARD BRYAN.

Mr. Speaker, I wish him all the best in his future endeavors after the 106th Congress comes to a close.

CONSPIRACIES WITHIN JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, a Federal judge ruled that the Branch Davidians were responsible for killing their own children. The Justice Department spit the hook again. Beam me up.

I did not believe it when the Justice Department said there was no conspiracy in the assassination of JFK, there was no conspiracy in the assassination of Martin Luther King, or the assassination of Bobby Kennedy; and I do not believe that the parents of the young children of the Branch Davidians knowingly and with intent incinerated their own children. Is it any wonder America is losing trust in our government? Cannot Congress see it?

I yield back the lives, the crimes, the coverups, and the withholding of exculpatory evidence to judges and juries by the Justice Department.

PAYING OFF AMERICA'S DEBT SHOULD BE TOP PRIORITY FOR CONGRESS

(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, earlier this year, Allen Greenspan appeared before one of our committees here on Capitol Hill, and he made it clear that increased spending was the worst option for using the budget surplus we have today. He said very clearly that the first thing we should do is pay down the public debt. He said, and I quote, "If that proves politically infeasible, I would opt for cutting taxes."

Mr. Speaker, this Nation has a public debt of over \$3 trillion. How much is \$1 trillion? If we borrowed \$1 million a day 7 days a week every year and we began on the day Jesus Christ was born and went until now, we would not yet have \$1 trillion.

We have the opportunity right now to pay off the public debt, and that is what our Republican Congress wants to do.

But the big spenders say we are not spending enough. The President wants \$40 billion more than we have appropriated, even though every dollar we do not pay off as debt our children will have to pay interest on.

Is there any end to the Clinton-Gore administration's thirst for big government spending?

HUNGER RELIEF ACT

(Mrs. CLAYTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, we all recognize that we are enjoying great prosperity, prosperity that we have not experienced ever before, and this is indeed a time to do those things that we could not afford to do before.

I want to bring to my colleagues' attention that there is a bill, H.R. 3192, it is called the Hunger Relief Act, and it has more than 180 cosponsors; and in the Senate, it has more than 39 cosponsors. It is a bipartisan bill.

It is a bill that looks at the fact that the least among us are not able to feed themselves. Some estimate that there are more than 40 million people who are facing hunger, or hunger insecurity. This is the time indeed, if we want to use the surplus, part of that surplus should be used to relieve those who are indeed suffering from hunger.

I would say to my colleagues, we would be spending more money, truly we would; but investing in nutrition would reduce, guess what, the cost of health care. Vesting in nutrition would mean that children would learn better. So this would be an investment, Mr. Speaker, that I think we cannot afford not to do.

Please, let us bring this bill up on suspension so we can do this before the end of this Congress.

PEOPLE SHOULD COME BEFORE POLITICS

(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, look at this week's headlines. The Boston Globe: "Gore Misstates Fact in Drug Cost Pitch." The Washington Times: "Gore Made Up Anecdote About Cost of Drugs."

Mr. Speaker, we now have a new twist to "the dog ate my homework" saga. Just like supposedly inventing the Internet, the Vice President has invented a story on the campaign trail where he falsely claims his mother-in-law pays three times the price for prescription drugs as his black labrador. Make no mistake. No senior citizen should have to choose between food and medicine. That is why the Republican House passed legislation to lower the cost of prescription drugs by 25 percent, without creating a cumbersome government-run HMO as the Vice President has proposed.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation's leaders should give the American people some straight talk, not invent personal stories solely for political gain. Our Nation's seniors, mothers-in-law, and even family pets, deserve no less. People should come before politics.

EQUITY AND RELIEF NEEDED IN
PRESCRIPTION PRICE MAZE

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to read a letter, Mr. Speaker, from one of my constituents. It says, "Thank you for being a supporter in the right to correct the disparity in prescription medication as it pertains to seniors in this country. Below is a chart showing medicines my wife and I take on a daily basis."

They show that Mr. And Mrs. Olsen combined spend \$5,556 a year on their medication. Mrs. Olsen takes seven; Mr. Olsen takes three every single day.

It says, "How long can a person on a fixed income carry this financial burden? We do not expect these medicines to be given to us free; we expect to pay our fair share. We certainly know that they help us have an extended and quality life. Please help us find some equity and relief in this whole prescription price maze. May we hear from you soon, thank you."

Well, we could do something soon. I look at Zoloft, a prescription Mr. Olsen takes and he pays \$763 a year for that. He could go to Canada and get that for 68 percent less. He could go to Canada and get it less for the exact same drug, same package, same everything.

Mr. Speaker, we can reimport drugs and lower the cost.

RELEASE STRATEGIC PETROLEUM
RESERVE

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

Mr. SHERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, we are in a full blown energy crisis. Due to the lack of a coherent national energy policy, we are facing a winter which many in the Northeast will be forced to choose between heating their homes and buying food. This is a terrible dilemma that we saw in the Northeast last winter, and we are about to do it once again.

The United States' dependence on foreign oil has resulted in record-high crude oil prices, resulting in adverse economic impacts on our Nation's farmers, independent truck drivers, small business owners, and homeowners.

I have a letter here from Bernie Lapara at Lapara Oil in Carbondale, Pennsylvania, detailing the hardships faced by his customers.

Mr. Speaker, the solution is simple. We need more production and supply, but right now we could ease the impact by drawing down on the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to get over this winter heating oil crisis in the Northeast.

Mr. Speaker, I say to the President, please act now. Release the reserve for the sake of America's families and business people.

1015

MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

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

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to pass legislation that would give a real prescription medicine benefit to our Nation's seniors. The Republican plan failed to meet the real problems that face our Nation's seniors. Our seniors have been receiving a bad deal when it comes to prescription medicine. Now is the time to give our seniors a good deal, a better deal, a fair deal.

The American people need and want a meaningful benefit that is voluntary, universal, affordable and accessible to all of our seniors. There is no room here to play partisan politics. No senior, but no senior should have to choose between putting food on the table and getting his or her heart medicine. This is not just, this is not right, and this is not fair.

My Republican brothers and sisters, this is our moral obligation, to do what is right.

SUPPORT PASSAGE OF THE DATA
ACT

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

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask for bipartisan support for the Data Act, and let me tell my colleagues why.

Over 100 million Americans today are on line using the Internet. Seven Americans go on line every second for the first time. There is great opportunity, whether in e-commerce or the technology sector, for millions of Americans. But millions of Americans are not participating, and that is called the digital divide.

I am pleased the private sector has stepped forward to address the so-called digital divide, because educators tell us they notice a difference in the classroom between children who have a computer at home and those who do not in their being able to do their homework and compete in the class. Ford, Intel, Delta and American Airlines have announced plans to provide 600,000 families computers and Internet access.

Think about that. The janitor, the laborer, the assembly line worker, the baggage handler, their children having computers and Internet access just like the CEO's kids. That is a great opportunity. But here is the hitch. The IRS wants to tax it. That is right, the IRS wants to tax those workers who accept those computers. For a worker making \$27,000 a year that is \$200 in taxes they would have to pay.

We have a solution, the Data Act, legislation making sure that these employer-provided computers and Inter-

net access are tax exempt for the workers. It is called the Data Act. I would ask for bipartisan support. Please join as a cosponsor and help us pass the Data Act.

SUPPORT REIMPORTATION
LEGISLATION

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

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, 2 years ago, in October of 1998, I released in my district the first study comparing the prices of prescription drugs in the United States to prices in Mexico and Canada. In that study we found that Mainers pay 72 percent more than Canadians and 102 percent more than Mexicans for the same drugs from the same U.S. manufacturers in the same quantities.

For 2 years, the Democrats here have been fighting for a prescription drug benefit, fighting for a discount for seniors. But today I rise to ask for support for legislation that would allow pharmacists to buy prescription drugs in other countries and bring them and sell them here. That would mean a substantial discount for our seniors.

We need to reduce prescription drug prices for seniors in this country. Seniors cannot wait until the next Congress to get relief from price gouging by the pharmaceutical industry. I urge my Republican colleagues to act now.

CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION
SHOULD STICK TO THE FACTS;
NOT MAKE UP STORIES

(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, in 1992, then Governor Lawton Childs ran some negative ads about Jed Bush, saying that if elected governor, a Republican candidate would take away Social Security. It was a lie, but it was meant to scare people.

Recently, in Tallahassee, Florida, the Vice President went on to say that his mother-in-law and dog took the same drug and the dog was getting a better break. He lied. He made a story up, trying to confuse the voters.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SUNUNU). The gentleman will suspend.

The Chair will remind the Member that although remarks in a debate may level criticisms against the policies of the President and Vice President or against the nominated candidates for the offices of Vice President or President, remarks in debate should avoid personality and, therefore, should not include personal accusation or characterizations.

The gentleman may continue in order.

Mr. FOLEY. I thank the Speaker. I just suggest that the candidates for office use facts, not fiction; that they