

throw \$40 billion in there tomorrow to fill the hole they dug for themselves in 1997. If you think that is silly, where is something on prescription drugs?

Who is driving this bus, Mr. Speaker?

DEBT PAY DOWN AND PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, there are a lot of issues on our plate, but there are two in particular that the American people are demanding action on. The American people want us to take advantage of our current prosperity to pay off the multi-trillion dollar public debt that the Democrats racked up in their 30-year stranglehold on Congress, and they want to do something about prescription drugs. No senior should ever have to choose between putting food on the table and filling prescriptions when the doctor gives them.

Well, we are paying down the debt all right. By the end of the next year, we will have paid off a half a trillion dollars on the national debt, and done it while protecting 100 percent of Social Security and Medicare Trust Fund surpluses. But the Democrats and the President are blocking any progress on the prescription drug issue. You see, as long as they can keep us from implementing our plan, and it is a good one, they can keep accusing us of having done nothing.

Well, the American people need to know we have acted on the prescription drugs issue. We passed a plan that is effective, fair and comprehensive. We passed a plan that would give seniors solid coverage, even on catastrophic expenses, something AL GORE's plan would make them wait years for. But Democrats are blocking it because they do not want Republicans to get any credit for it.

HELPING SENIORS PAY FOR PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

(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 are working to pay down the debt and help seniors get the prescription drugs they need. Republicans believe that in this time of plenty, it is critical that Congress reduce the public debt and enact a prescription drug benefit for our elderly.

As government surpluses pile up, we have a moral obligation to wipe out the public debt to provide our children with a brighter future. Reducing the public debt will strengthen the economy and result in lower interest rates for consumers. Our budget plan will pay down \$240 billion of the public debt next year alone. America is the most prosperous nation on Earth, yet some

seniors here are forced to choose between putting food on the table and the prescription drugs they need to lead healthy and productive lives.

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That is just not right. Republicans have passed a plan to make voluntary prescription drug coverage available and affordable to all.

Mr. Speaker, as the 106th Congress enters the final stretch, Republicans are working to pay off the public debt and help seniors pay for their prescription drugs they need to live happy, productive lives.

SLEEPOVERS AT THE WHITE HOUSE

(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, last week, the White House grudgingly released information showing that 404 people have been invited to sleep overnight in the White House since Hillary began her Senate campaign. Today a columnist in the Washington Post reports that 146 of the guests have contributed funds in this election cycle, 98 percent of it to Democrats. About 100 committed to supporting Hillary's campaign; others gave to the Gore campaign; others to the DNC.

Sleepovers have risen to 29 per month. That is almost every night. Mr. Speaker, this practice of turning the White House into a Motel 6 for soliciting campaign funds is improper and demeaning to the White House and to the office of the presidency. It is another disgusting example of the Clinton-Gore campaign finance practices, all while they call for campaign finance reform. That is nothing more than an attempt to get public attention away from their blatant "no controlling legal authority" violations. The American people deserve better.

CLINTON-GORE ENERGY POLICY IS DANGEROUS

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

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, when it comes to energy prices and energy policy, the Clinton-Gore administration has failed the American people.

National gas and crude oil prices are at record highs. It is the American people who bear the brunt of the administration's failures on their policies.

The administration has prevented exploration of our largest domestic reserves along the coasts and in Alaska. They have strangled the capacity of American refineries with needless regulations to satisfy the goals of their extreme left wing. They have totally ignored and stifled the significant contributions of clean coal, hydroelectric and nuclear power.

The Vice President even cast a deciding vote to increase gasoline taxes on consumers, directly in line with his outrageous book, *Earth in the Balance*.

Now just a few weeks before the election, the Clinton-Gore administration reverses itself and risks the national energy security by releasing oil from our strategic petroleum reserves. I urge the administration to stop the politics and provide a real and effective energy policy for the American people.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MARTY NOTHSTEIN, OLYMPIC GOLD MEDAL WINNER

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

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to offer hardy congratulations to Marty Nothstein. Last Wednesday, Marty won the gold medal in the cycling match sprint competition during the 2000 Summer Olympic Games in Sydney, Australia. I am proud to stand before all of my colleagues today to say "job well done" to this Trexlertown, Lehigh Valley, Pennsylvania native.

During the 1996 Atlanta games, Marty narrowly missed his chance at gold by placing second in the match sprint competition in one of the closest races from Olympic history. But instead of giving up on his Olympic dream for gold, Marty rededicated himself to his sport. He devoted more time, more energy, more patience to his training than he had at any other time during his long cycling career.

Marty's win last Wednesday is the culmination of a career that includes seven World Championship medals, including three World Championship titles.

Mr. Speaker, before all of my colleagues today, I want to recognize the efforts of this outstanding young man. By winning this gold medal on the world's biggest stage, Marty has proven that, with unparalleled effort, determination, and dedication, everything is possible. Marty is a true Olympic hero.

MEDIA BIASED AGAINST CHENEY

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, here is a recent Washington Post article describing vice presidential candidate Dick Cheney's speeches: "Bash. Bash. Bash."

The reporter quotes Cheney as saying that the country was "weary of the Clinton-Gore routine," but then adds, "even if no one else is" but Cheney.

No, these sarcastic opinions are not from an editorial. They are from a news story that is supposed to be objective and impartial. What it reveals is the bias of a reporter who is trying to tell us what to think.

Why does the media display such a liberal bias? Simply because journalists are more liberal than the rest of us.

Peter Brown, an editor at the "Orlando Sentinel" conducted a study that discovered a profound cultural disconnect between journalists and readers. He found that reporters are far more likely than other Americans to approve of abortion on demand, to express disdainful attitudes towards the suburbs and rural areas, and to identify strongly with people who see themselves as victims of society. They are also less likely to go to church or do volunteer work in their communities.

But what is the answer? We need to tell the media, give us the facts, and let us make up our own mind.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT UNDER MEDICARE IS WHAT SENIORS WANT

(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, as we speak right now, outside of this Chamber, our senior citizens who have come here begging us for some relief for the high cost of prescription drugs, they are telling us about how they are spending all of their money, rather than being able to buy the nutritious food or put a decent roof over their head, they are struggling to pay for the drugs that they need. We have only a few days left to provide real relief. A prescription drug benefit under Medicare is what they want.

Now we are talking about reimportation of lower-cost drugs from Canada. That is fine. Let us do that. Although, I have to tell my colleagues, it is pretty crazy that we have to rely on the Canadian Government who puts some controls on the cost of drugs, the cost they are willing to pay, and we as Americans have to go and buy those same American-made drugs from the Canadians because we do not do anything to control the cost.

Senior citizens need help. Let us get a prescription drug benefit under Medicare.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE FOR AMERICA'S SENIORS IS IMPORTANT

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, prescription drug coverage for America's seniors is important. Our two parties differ, however.

Republicans believe in choice, not government control. Americans themselves can always make decisions that best meet their individuals needs. On the other hand, Democrats believe government, not individuals, make the best decisions for all people in every circumstance.

The Clinton-Gore administration's prescription drug proposals are total government control. Vice President

GORE claims to have a recipe of hopes and promises. But when we get in the kitchen, we discover it is the same old concoction of government ingredients and bureaucratic spices. One can present it any way one wants to, but one knows it still tastes the same, it still smells the same. It is not good.

We need a prescription drug benefit under Medicare that offers seniors real choices without government control. Americans do not want, need, or deserve any more Hillary care.

SHAME ON THE CONGRESS FOR NOT TAKING ACTION ON PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

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

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to admonish this country, it is a shame that we are here talk, talk, talk, and not doing anything about prescription drugs.

My daughter recounted to me a story last Saturday night when she was in a pharmacy at midnight on Saturday night, to pick up some pain medicine. She told me that the people waiting in line there were limited English speaking, about eight families.

One of the gentlemen was pleading with the pharmacist to sell him at least two of the pills that were prescribed, he could not afford the whole package, because his infant daughter was sick and needed these prescription drugs. But the pharmacist would not sell the drugs to him because he could not buy the entire package, the entire dosage which the doctors recommend.

He said, "I cannot afford it. Give me two now, and I will come back in a couple of days and buy the rest of them." It went on and on, and the pharmacist would not sell it because the process would not allow them to do it, and the person could not afford the drugs. He was in tears, as any parent would be.

Shame on America that we cannot take care of people; we cannot even disburse those drugs that have been prescribed because people cannot pay for them. Shame on the drug companies. Shame on the process. Shame on Congress for not correcting it.

THIS ADMINISTRATION NOT CONNECTED WHEN IT COMES TO EDUCATION

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, now we have from the Gore-Clinton administration the formula for turning around education. This was revealed on September 7, 2000, by the Secretary of Education, Richard Riley, and I quote: "What we need are the three R's in education: relationships, resilience, and readiness."

Now, is not that odd, because back home in Georgia, none of the parents

or teachers have come to me and said, what we really need is resilience in education. Somehow their idea of the three R's is a little bit different. We need local control of education. We need parental involvement. We need the money going to the teacher in the classroom, not the bureaucrats in Washington. We need safe campuses.

No wonder the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER), a Democrat Congressman, said January 10, 2000, and I quote directly: "I sit on the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, and I have witnessed the failure of this administration and AL GORE to do enough to address our Nation's education needs."

Well, I agree with the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER), my Democrat colleague. It does not appear that this administration is connected when it comes to education.

UNITED STATES RANKS NEAR BOTTOM IN EDUCATION COMPARED TO INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD

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

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I have an obscurity to share with the Members of the House. For the 8 years that the Clinton-Gore administration has possessed the White House, they have squandered their opportunity to fix education in America.

The Third International Math and Science Study comparison compared 21 industrialized countries around the world in math and science. Let me read the list of countries that outperform the United States: Netherlands, Sweden, Denmark, Switzerland, Iceland, Norway, France, New Zealand, Australia, Canada, Austria, Slovenia, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Russia, Lithuania, the Czech Republic.

After the United States comes two countries: Cyprus and South Africa.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, we rank near the bottom when compared to industrial countries around the world in education.

Republicans have a different message. Stop squandering opportunity in the White House. Get dollars to the classroom. Get money to the teachers, the administrators, the school board members who know the names of our children. Stop wasting billions on a huge bureaucracy here in Washington, D.C. that cannot teach.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH ACT OF 2000

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 594 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 594

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to take from the