

in 1874, where lawns, trees, and shaded walks were first put into his plans. Many trees have already been removed. Some have been saved for the new center.

But I join with the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BASS) and other colleagues to focus our attention in Congress on one particular tree, an English Elm, the oldest tree on Capitol Hill, on this campus, that some here, as the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BASS) has said, would like to cut down to make room for a construction site, for use of the construction materials, or a temporary parking lot for Members of Congress.

This oldest tree, a rare English Elm, is reputed to be over 150 years old. It was never slated to be removed. In fact, an earlier assessment by the Davey Tree Company employed by the Architect of the Capitol said it should be preserved. Reports now that the tree is dangerous seem to have little factual foundation, other than a more recent report by Davey. Furthermore, there are other old trees on the Capitol campus that are no more or less dangerous than this elm.

As the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BASS) has said, there is news that the contractor for the visitor's center would dig a 60-foot hole at the base of the tree. This would virtually kill the tree.

This is a tree that deserves to be preserved and protected. We urge all Members of Congress, Republicans and Democrats and citizens, to urge the Capitol Preservation Committee to direct the Architect of the Capitol to save the tree.

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take the time of the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

SALUTING THE NBA CHAMPION LOS ANGELES LAKERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute the victorious world champion Los Angeles Lakers from my congressional district. It is challenging enough to win the championship title once, and it is extremely rare to repeat and win the title a second time. Nevertheless, the world champion Lakers have in fact three-peated by sweeping our friends, the New Jersey Nets, in the

2002 NBA finals and winning the title for 3 consecutive years.

In all of NBA history, only three teams have achieved this feat, including, of course, the Minneapolis Lakers. I extend my special congratulations to Lakers Coach Phil Jackson and the most valuable player for the third year in a row, Shaquille O'Neill, for their impressive accomplishment.

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No one alone can achieve this "triple crown" of excellence in basketball. The Los Angeles Lakers' victory was a triple team effort consisting first of the talented players themselves; second, the coach and management staff; and third, the Lakers' fans in Los Angeles and across the Nation.

Today the Lakers' sweet taste of victory brings with it the sweet taste of New Jersey Italian treats: cannoli and biscotti. My colleague, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ROTHMAN), wagered these treats against my Los Angeles wager of tamales, guacamole and salsa. Today he delivered the fruits of the Lakers' victory. I congratulate the Nets, their fans, and their coach, Byron Scott, who, by the way, is a Los Angeles native and former Laker himself, for their valiant effort.

Angelenos, it is time to make room in the rafters of the Los Angeles Staples Center for yet another banner. The Lakers are NBA world champions again.

Mr. Speaker, next year I look forward to cheering for the Lakers to "four-peat" or, in the words of Coach Jackson, the "four-sweep."

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to replace the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oregon?

There was no objection.

PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES HONORED GUESTS AT GOP FUND-RAISING EVENT

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, those who are watching might be puzzled, because it does not seem there are too many Members on the floor of the House, and that is because the House has completed its work day. It is about 3 o'clock. Now, why is the House out of session at 3 o'clock when it has yet to do a single appropriations bill, when many other important measures and needs of the American people have yet to be met?

Well, it could be because tonight is the biggest fundraising gala, perhaps the largest single fundraising event in the history of the United States. Downtown, the Republican Party is holding a special fundraising event, and the chair, the fundraising chair of that event is a guy named Robert Ingram.

Why is that relevant? Well, he happens to be the chief operating officer of GlaxoSmithKline, which happens to be the largest drug manufacturing pharmaceutical firm in the world.

Now, why would he give \$250,000 and agree to raise millions of other dollars from other pharmaceutical companies who are also contributing: Pfizer, Eli Lilly, Bayer AG, Merck & Company, they are cheapskates, they are only ponying up 50,000 bucks each for a table, but then PhRMA, their organization, is ponying up \$250,000.

Now, you have to give it to the Republicans. I mean they, the Republican leadership, either has the most incredible sense of irony and humor, or no shame. Here we are at a time when we are supposedly about to consider legislation to provide or not provide a meaningful prescription drug benefit to seniors in the United States of America, 54 percent of whom pay more than \$1,000 a year out of pocket for their drugs; who are charged the highest prices of any customers of the pharmaceutical companies; the uninsured seniors are charged the highest price, prices that exceed those of Canada by 100 percent and other developed nations. Of course, many of those drugs were manufactured in the United States by these very same firms who are throwing this big gala tonight and contributing millions to the Republican Party.

So we have to wonder if there is any connection between the draft of the Republican proposal and the timing of it, because they are considering it right now, and tonight's event.

The Republican proposal is a free market approach. Of course, we have had the free market; it has not been serving our seniors very well, and prescription drug costs have been going up at 2½ times the rate of inflation. Many seniors have to make critical decisions about getting their prescriptions filled. I have actually met seniors, couples who had to decide who was going to get their prescription one month and who was not, even though they are all necessary and prescribed. These are real problems.

The Republicans have decided they cannot ignore this issue anymore, so

they have gone to their sponsors, the pharmaceutical companies, the insurance companies, who say, look, how about we phony up a bill that continues the status quo and we pretend it is a new benefit for seniors, and the pharmaceutical companies love it. That is why they are giving a quarter of a million bucks from this one company and millions in addition to that at tonight's gala.

There is no guaranteed benefit under the Republican plan. Mr. Speaker, \$20 billion over 10 years would go to the pharmaceutical companies as an inducement for them to offer free market, private policies. God forbid we should extend Medicare. They do not want to do that. No, they are very worried about that, because they know if we extend a Medicare benefit to the seniors, then we might begin to question the absolutely obscene prices they are charging for some of their drugs and we might even take steps to rein in those costs like Canada, Great Britain, France, Italy, Spain, Mexico. In fact, every other industrialized country on Earth has taken steps to rein in their obscene pharmaceutical charges. No, but not the United States. We are going to take a free market approach. First give them the \$20 billion as an incentive to maybe offer a program and under this "maybe" program, this is what the Republicans estimate they would provide, a benefit that would total, of the first \$1,000 of drug expenses, which is half the seniors in America spend \$1,000, they would get a \$182 benefit after their premium, their deductibles, and their out-of-pocket costs.

Wow. Wow, \$182. Now, that is really going to help out the seniors who are having trouble today meeting these costs. Of course, remember, this is only recommended. It is not required. God forbid we should put a mandate on the insurance companies. No, no, no, no, no requirement. This is just a suggestion, a suggestion, as opposed to a real Medicare benefit that the Democrats are providing as an alternative. The emperor has no clothes here. Have a good fundraising dinner tonight, guys, but I think in the end the champagne you are toasting tonight might taste like vinegar.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair reminds Members to address their remarks to the Chair.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. HOOLEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

JUNETEENTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to be with you here tonight as we gather here in remembrance of a day that has become a symbol of African-American freedom and culture. On June 19, 1865, Union soldiers, led by Maj. Gen. Gordon Granger, landed at Galveston, Texas with news that the war had ended and that the enslaved black Americans were now free. Granger's message came two and a half years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation.

Upon his arrival, Granger's first orders of business was to read to the people of Texas, General Order Number 3 which began most significantly with:

The people of Texas are informed that in accordance with a Proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and free laborer.

On the evening of June 19, 1865, thousands of African-Americans filled the streets of Galveston, celebrating their newly announced freedom. Throughout the night, the sweet smell of barbecue, combined with the sounds of dancing feet, and harmonic spirituals, permeated the air. For the slaves freed in Galveston and across America, June 19th, would and does forever commemorate African-American freedom.

Juneteenth became an official State holiday through the efforts of Al Edwards, an African-American Texas legislator, making Juneteenth the first emancipation celebration granted official state recognition. Juneteenth celebrates African-American freedom while encouraging self-development and respect for all cultures.

Across the nation and even the world, thousands will participate in activities and events in remembrance of Union soldiers' arrival in Texas. Let us reflect and rejoice on this monumental event in history. Let us come together and join hands across races, nationalities and religions to acknowledge a part of American history that has, does, and will continue to shape our society as we know it today.

African-Americans' history is America's history and the events of 1865 will not be forgotten as the celebration of Juneteenth takes on a more national and even global perspective. For that reason, I am supporting the establishment of a commission to commemorate those enslaved Americans that fought so vigilantly for their freedom. I am also proud to be an original sponsor of a bill that would support the erection of monument honoring African-American slaves.

A day such as Juneteenth enhances the importance of the War on Terrorism and the importance of fighting the evils that threaten human rights and freedoms across the globe. Just as the slaves in Galveston and President Lincoln recognized the value of freedom in 1865, so too, should we realize the importance of remembering that day and taking its lessons with us as we confront the current political climate.

I urge you all here, if you haven't already, please take a moment to reflect on the meaning of this day. Reflect on its meaning for Afri-

can-Americans, and its meaning for oppressed persons around the globe. Take the opportunity to participate in the various activities and events organized in celebration of Juneteenth, and I urge you to never forget what the day June 19 means to American history.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. BROWN of Florida addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

CELEBRATING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF TITLE IX

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Mrs. MINK) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I am here on the floor today to mark the 30th anniversary of title IX, which was a part of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 signed into law on June 23, 1972, 30 years ago. The few pages of title IX set a policy for the United States in all areas of education: elementary, secondary, higher education, graduate education; a policy that set forth explicitly that no institution should discriminate against girls or women in the courses and programs that they offered at these institutions, if that institution received Federal funds. That was 1972.

Remarkably, in a very short period of time, the institutions across America paid attention to these few words in title IX and we began to see some very remarkable changes in our schools, in the programs that were being offered, the number of women that were enrolled in programs that prior to that, one could rarely ever see women students, especially in graduate programs. And they won fellowships and they had opportunities made available to them that were unheard of before 1972.

A number of Members of the House had indicated to me that they were going to join in this recognition of title IX and the celebration of the 30th anniversary. But because we were called earlier and the program of the House ended at an early hour, many of these Members probably are not here to be a part of it, but I know that they will be including their remarks as part of this celebration today.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD).