

Thomas Paine, a great American patriot, who said, "Those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom must undergo the fatigues of supporting it."

Those who flee and abandon America, denouncing their American citizenship, are rejecting all our democracy represents.

THE FACTS ON AMERICA'S OIL RESERVES

(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, when one is going to make a decision and embark on a course of action, it is always nice to have the facts straight. This is especially important in our debate on energy.

Let us look at some of those facts. The United States uses about one-fourth of all the world's oil use, about 20 million barrels a day. Now, we have only about 2 percent of the known reserves of oil in the world, but we are pumping that 2 percent pretty fast, because out of that, we are getting about 44 percent of all of our oil needs. That means we are importing about 56 percent of our oil, up from 34 percent at the Arab oil embargo, much of that from countries like Iraq.

Every year since 1970, with only a tiny blip from Prudhoe Bay, oil production in this country has gone down. How much oil remains in the world? About 1,000 gigabarrels remain in the world. Pretty simple arithmetic will show that at present use rates, that is about 40 years of oil in the world. We will find more, but we will also use more. What these facts mean is that those portions of our bill that deal with conservation, that deal with efficiency, that deal with alternatives and renewables are very important portions of the bill.

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PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE FOR SENIORS

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, now that Republicans are back from their party with the pharmaceutical industry, we may be able to legislate prescription drug coverage that will be good for our seniors. Unfortunately, the plan being developed by the GOP is one more payback for their buddies in the drug industry and another ploy to privatize Medicare.

The reason Medicare was created was because the free market could not take care of seniors, their health care and health care of some disabled. To think that the private sector will step up and help them now is unrealistic.

In the Republicans' sham proposal, the party will be over if anyone is

counting on Congress to pass a real prescription drug benefit, because we need a benefit that can be relied upon. We do not need a benefit that serves only the drug industry and only the free market.

NEED FOR A COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY POLICY

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

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the need for Congress to pass a comprehensive energy plan. Last August, with the support of President Bush, this body passed a responsible and balanced energy plan, a plan that frees us from the burden of dependence on foreign oil.

It is time for this Congress to decide whether we are going to choose to be proactive or reactive. Are we going to wait until we are faced with an oil crisis similar to that of the 1970s? Should we simply sit by, or should we act on a plan put forth and passed by this House more than 9 months ago?

H.R. 4 is a commonsense approach to our Nation's energy crisis. It is a plan that balances the need for production with conservation, as well as measures to protect the environment. H.R. 4 strengthens our Nation's energy infrastructure to ensure that energy gets to the consumers who need it. Further, H.R. 4 also will use tax incentives to encourage energy production, research efficiency, and conservation.

All in all, H.R. 4 provides the energy for those who need it while at the same time making sure that it is cleaner, cheaper, and more dependable.

Mr. Speaker, August will be the 1-year anniversary of H.R. 4 by this body. It is time for us to stop sitting idly by and enact the President's energy plan.

MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT

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

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of a prescription drug benefit under Medicare. I represent the fastest-growing community in the United States, the fastest-growing senior population. Every weekend I go home, and every weekend I hear story after story from my seniors who simply cannot afford the prescription medication that their doctors have prescribed.

For so many of these older Americans, Medicare is the only health insurance that they have. It does not make sense to deny them a benefit for prescription drugs. Prescription medication is the least expensive, most cost-effective way of dealing with illness. Seniors are demanding relief now, and we ought to give it to them.

Older Americans need a Medicare prescription drug benefit that is comprehensive, guaranteed, and affordable.

Every senior should have access, no matter where they live or what their income.

Let us pass a prescription drug benefit that will work for all the American people and ensure that our Nation's seniors will have the medications they need to keep them healthy, active, and vital. In the long run, a prescription medication benefit will not only save the lives of millions of older Americans, it will save billions of taxpayers' dollars.

TRIBUTE TO EVELENA THOMPSON

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

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, Ms. Evelena Thompson retires from the United States court system, probation office, in Charlotte, on June 30 of this year after 27 years of service.

She was born in Bennettsville, South Carolina; grew up in Scotland County, North Carolina; graduated salutatorian of her class in 1964; and graduated from Barber Scotia College in 1968.

She started with the U.S. probation office, again in Charlotte, in 1975 as a clerk, and she rose to the position of supervising U.S. probation officer in 1991, a true success story.

After the tragic death of her son in 1992 by a drunk driver, she became very active in the organization of Mothers Against Drunk Driving, and she received the 1994 Citizens Activist Award presented by the National Commission Against Drunk Driving.

A devout Christian, Ms. Thompson served with her late husband, himself a pastor, in the West Central Conference of the AME's Zion Church.

Whether through her work as a U.S. probation officer or the many civic duties that she performed, Evelena has always exhibited those very treasured American characteristics of integrity, dedication, devotion, and perseverance.

AMERICAN CORPORATIONS MOVING HEADQUARTERS OVERSEAS TO AVOID PAYING TAXES

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the Republican majority leader, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY), defended the actions of corporations that moved their headquarters overseas to avoid taxes. He said it is just like families taking an itemized deduction. Well, I have got to say it is not exactly like that because Americans who take itemized deductions are paying taxes at a much higher rate than these corporations.

Citizenship has its privileges. It also has some obligations. In a time of crisis, for some of the largest and most profitable corporations in this country to be engaging in a tax dodge to avoid their obligations to our Nation, at the

same time shovelling more burden on to working Americans, and then for the majority leader of the Republican Party to say, hey, this is fine, that is a new low for the United States House of Representatives.

More than 90 million tax paying American families every April 15 are obligated to pay, but the CEOs and some of the largest corporations in this country, they do not pay anymore. Tyco International is one of the ones who has moved down there. Enron, another corporate citizen. He said it is about competitiveness. It is not about competitiveness. It is about corruption and theft.

DEMOCRATS MISLEADING AMERICANS ON DEBATE ON PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE

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

Mr. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, the Democrats are misleading the American public over the debate on prescription drug coverage for our seniors, and I am very disappointed to see our friends on the other side of the aisle once again employing the politics of demagoguery and fear.

To illustrate to my Democratic friends how our plan will help States, in Kentucky, which has 615,000 Medicare beneficiaries, a half of those seniors live at 175 percent below the poverty level. In Kentucky, HHS estimates that the State savings under our plan would be \$549 million in the fiscal years 2005 through 2012.

In a time when seniors and State governments are experiencing financial difficulties, our plan provides seniors with an affordable benefit to Medicare and immediate savings. States also benefit by saving about \$40 billion estimated over the next several years.

Our plan is the only fiscally responsible choice for both seniors and government and should be supported next week as we bring it to the House floor. The Democrat plan, it remains an \$800 billion pie-in-the-sky boondoggle which misleads seniors and would require higher and higher taxes.

So in a time when seniors deserve honesty and transparency, I encourage them to join our efforts to provide a responsible, reasonable, and double relief for our seniors' prescription drug needs now.

AMERICAN PEOPLE WILL NOT BENEFIT FROM REPUBLICAN PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I am going to make a prophecy. Next week we will pass a bill that will not give senior citizens economic security in the area of prescription drugs. Why?

Very simply, because it is based on the theory that we will throw the old folks into the arms of the insurance companies who will then arm wrestle the drug companies down in their prices.

If my colleagues believe that, they must have been unaware of what went on last night. The reason this bill is going to pass is last night the bill was paid; \$30 million came in from the insurance companies and the drug companies through the Republican Party fundraiser.

I am sure they must have sung at least one chorus of an old song we used to sing in the camp meetings in Illinois when I was a young kid called, "Bringing in the sheaves, bringing in the sheaves, we shall come rejoicing bringing in the sheaves." But the people will not benefit from this bill.

It is a bill that is designed to privatize Medicare with a little sweetening wrapped around it called a drug benefit. The old folks will be watching and they are going to want us to vote "no" on that bill.

ASSISTANCE NEEDED IN ANTHRAX INVESTIGATION FROM COALITION PARTNERS

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, as much of America continues to focus sadly on 9-11, I rise to urge my colleagues and the administration to focus on "five eleven," five dead Americans, eleven infected with the anthrax virus, dozens of offices affected here in Capitol Hill, including mine, that was closed for 4 months during decontamination.

As I learned earlier this week, despite media accounts, Mr. Speaker, the FBI investigation is ongoing and employing hundreds of investigators and dozens of laboratories. Our domestic investigation is moving forward; but it seems, Mr. Speaker, that our investigation of an international connection is being hampered by a lack of cooperation by the supposed partners in our coalition.

There are some nations who profess to stand with us who are not, Mr. Speaker, cooperating with this anthrax investigation. I call on the administration to bring all diplomatic pressure available to bear to insist on the assistance of all of our coalition partners to fully cooperate in the anthrax investigation. It is totally unacceptable to profess a partnership in the war on terrorism and not provide the information necessary to investigate and protect our citizenry.

EXPANSION OF NATIONAL SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES ON NATIONAL SERVICE DAY

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

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, today I join my colleagues in calling for the expansion of national service opportunities on National Service Day. Creating a strong system of voluntary national service has been a signature New Democrat idea since the founding of the Democratic Leadership Council.

National service promotes the New Democrat tradition of opportunity, responsibility and community. In Oregon, more than 37,000 people of all ages, all backgrounds are helping to solve problems and strengthen communities through 95 national service projects across the State.

President Clinton's AmeriCorps program, the domestic Peace Corps, will provide over 700 Oregonians with the opportunity to spend a year serving in their local communities. In return, AmeriCorps participants will receive up to \$4,725 to help pay for college.

Seniors can also contribute their time and talents to one of three programs that make up the Senior Corps.

National service volunteers have served their communities by providing tutoring, mentoring to students, giving support and information to new parents, repairing the homes of elderly and disabled residents, and establishing additional volunteer programs in the community. This should not be a special chance for a few but a way of life. We should all volunteer.

AMERICANS CAN COUNT ON THE REPUBLICANS' PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN

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

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, when Medicare was founded in 1965, Republicans and Democrats left drugs out of the program; but today, Republicans and Democrats agree we should update Medicare by covering prescription drugs. The difference is cost.

An extravagant \$1 trillion promise by the minority party is a promise they cannot afford to keep. They will break their promise to America's seniors because it is too expensive to maintain.

Seniors know there is a war on. Seniors know Social Security is under financial pressure. They want a plan to cover drug costs for needy seniors, one we can afford.

Our majority affordable program promised is one that people can count on. They cannot depend on a \$1 trillion program that will collapse from its own costs. Count on the program we can afford to keep. Count on the Speaker's prescription drug plan.

□ 1100

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

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