

Weberman from the Michael-Ann Russell Jewish Community Center for their tireless efforts in making this rally a giant success. The event included a variety of speakers from different religious denominations, parochial schools, youth groups and community organizations.

The rally provided an opportunity for folks to voice their support for the State of Israel and gave them specific information on the different ways that they can help both of our countries fight the international war on terrorism.

I want to especially thank those organizers of the Interfaith Solidarity with Israel rally for uniting our community in its support for this embattled country.

AMERICA'S SENIORS WANT GUARANTEED ACCESS TO MEDICINES

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

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, left to the Republican sham prescription drug bill, our parents, including individuals with disabilities, will find themselves at the mercy of private HMOs having to search for a plan. America's seniors want guaranteed access to the medicines their doctors prescribe at prices they can afford, and they depend on that guarantee for help and for life.

The only bill on the floor today guarantees no prescription drug benefit. The plan the Republicans are trying to force on this country does nothing to curb soaring drug prices, not enough to restore provider payments and does everything to benefit private insurance companies.

Our plan, the Dingell bill, honors our responsibilities to this Nation's seniors, gives them coverage for any drug their doctor prescribes, and guarantees that beneficiaries always have coverage, with lower monthly premiums and a lower out-of-pocket maximum. Our plan beats theirs any day and in any way. That is why we are being denied a chance to offer it.

That is not fair to us, their colleagues, and it disrespects those who sent us here; but it is most unfair to the seniors and their families who need real help with medication now.

ENERGY INDEPENDENCE THROUGH FUEL CELLS

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

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to highlight the promise and the potential of fuel cells in hydrogen to help us gain greater energy independence in a way that is safe, clean and renewable.

Often called minipower plants, fuel cells could hold the key to energy independence for America. In an article en-

titled "Squeaky Clean," the magazine The Economist referred to fuel cells as the next big thing, and the most promising fuel cells operate on hydrogen, which the magazine Physics Today referred to as the fuel of the future.

We know their potential. Zero emissions. Water and heat are the only by-products, and when both heat and electricity are used, fuel cells can obtain more than 80 percent efficiency.

Researchers at our national science labs, corporations, universities and small businesses are working hard to help us realize the potential of fuel cells.

America has the ingenuity and the expertise to meet our future energy demands, and fuel cells can help us to do so in an environmentally responsible way that sets a standard for the world.

WOMEN AND PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

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

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, women in this country need a Medicare drug benefit now. In the State of California, 56 percent of Medicare recipients are women. These elderly women have on the average spent about 10 percent of the cost for prescription drugs there, but this year alone their costs went up about 20 percent; and for people from my district particularly, this is a very, very extreme hardship.

Most are on fixed incomes and cannot afford those costs, and they believe the plan that is being proposed by the Republicans today will actually make their lives worse. I know that because their plan will help to benefit HMOs and insurance companies and it is a farce. They are saying that our current drug benefit program is a Soviet-style form of government. That cannot be farther from the truth.

When I go into my senior citizen centers, the first thing people ask me is, HILDA SOLIS, you are my representative, why is there not a better benefit program so I can pay for my treatment that I need to control my diabetes, to get my insulin, to pay for the things that I need to survive?

Let us do the right thing today. Let us vote for a Democratic substitute that is fair for all people.

ASTONISHMENT AND OUTRAGE AT RULING OF NINTH CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS

(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, today I rise to express my astonishment and outrage at the ruling of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, which declared the Pledge of Allegiance to be unconstitutional. Mr. Speaker, what could this court be thinking? Under their reasoning, our money would be uncon-

stitutional, the Presidential oath would be unconstitutional, and yes, this very Chamber, the House of Representatives, would be unconstitutional.

To call the Pledge of Allegiance unconstitutional is the highest embarrassment for our judicial system, and this ruling undermines everything our Nation stands for, principles set back in 1776, as well as the Declaration of Independence, which by the way includes the word God as well.

Mr. Speaker, is the very document that announced our Nation's independence also unconstitutional? Next week we will be celebrating our Nation's independence, and I hope every American will remember and celebrate our Nation's traditions, including expressing our unity as one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all, and may God bless America.

REPUBLICANS DENYING OUR SENIORS RELIEF THEY NEED

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, today Republicans refuse to permit consideration of a prescription drug plan for our seniors on the very same day that one of their leaders condemns the basic Medicare program as a Soviet-style program. The Republicans have no prescription drug plan, only a scheme to privatize Medicare and to protect prescription drug manufacturers. They want to turn seniors over to HMOs with no guaranteed deductible, no guaranteed premium, and no guaranteed benefit. Some plan.

The House Republican leadership has once again pledged its allegiance to the pharmaceutical manufacturers who are the price gougers that forcing our seniors to pay the highest prices of any people in the entire world. Little wonder that these same manufacturers are already on the airwaves across America paying millions for ads to defend their Republican House partners who are trying today to deny our seniors the relief they so very desperately need.

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LIBERAL COURTS ERR AGAIN

(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, our liberal friends in the Federal courts have erred again. The 14th amendment says that no State, and I quote, "shall deprive any person of life, liberty, or property without due process of law." Yet late last year the Supreme Court ruled that this guaranteed doctors the right to impale partially-born babies in the skull with scissors and extract them dead from their mother's birth canals.

The first amendment says America cannot have an official State church,

like England has, and I quote, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion." Yet a Federal judge in my district has recently ruled that the Ten Commandments have to be taken down from the county courthouse wall where they have stood for 82 years.

The first amendment says, "Congress shall make no law prohibiting the free exercise of religion." Yet, despite this, the 9th Circuit court ruled yesterday that in school children are not allowed to recite the Pledge of Allegiance any more, even though they have been doing it since 1892.

Mr. Speaker, the judicial branch of government is out of control. They are making a mockery of our Constitution. The Congress and the President must stand up to the radical activist judges and make things right again.

HOUSE DIVIDED ON PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN

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

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, 9 months ago I stood on this floor and talked about the attack upon my great city, the City of New York. Never before in my 4 years in this Congress had I felt this House and this country more united than at that moment.

The pundits began to speak, and they began to ask questions like, how long would it last; how long would this House stay united; and would it be the Democrats or the Republicans who would blink first? Unfortunately, it has been the Republicans.

Today, they offer a prescription drug plan without giving the opportunity for this side of the aisle to present our plan, without having a fair vote up and down on both. They know the Democratic side would win. This bill, our bill, would win the day.

It appears in the middle of the night that there was an election held, that there are now 436 Members of Congress. Robert Ingram, I do not know which State he is from, but he has already proven himself to be a great fund-raiser for the Republican side of the aisle. He has raised \$250,000 from GlaxoSmithKline, apparently his former company; from Pfizer, \$150,000; from Merck, \$150,000. The money is where this bill follows, and the American people are going to know about it.

This House has been brought asunder not by the Democrats but by the Republicans today, by their actions. It is intolerable, and the American people should know about it and know fully what happens today.

PRAISING MANCOR CAROLINA

(Mr. JOE WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the

50th anniversary of Mancor Carolina, located in Lugoff, in Kershaw County, South Carolina.

In 1987, Mancor opened a manufacturing business with 45 employees, serving customers such as Dana Corporation and Mack Trucks.

In 1998, Dilip Teppara became Vice President and General Manager of Mancor Carolina. During the last 4 years, under Mr. Teppara's leadership, Mancor has more than doubled its sales; and the company has grown to nearly 175 employees.

Mancor Carolina is now a major supplier to companies such as Dana in Lugoff, Freightliner in Gaffney, John Deere in Augusta, Komatsu in Newberry, Caterpillar, and Mack Trucks in Winnsboro. Mancor is one of the largest private employers in Kershaw County, and the company is undergoing a multimillion dollar expansion which will create new jobs for the community.

I want to commend Mr. Poul Hansen, Mr. Preben Ostberg, and Mr. Art Church for their vision in making Mancor Carolina a world-class manufacturing company. Most importantly, though, the success of Mancor Carolina is due to its employees and their families. Mancor would not be where it is today without their commitment, sacrifice, and dedication.

KEEP MEDICARE PUBLIC

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, 37 years ago, the majority Republicans voted against the creation of Medicare, which has turned out to be probably the single best program the U.S. government has ever sponsored.

Republican leader Newt Gingrich said that Medicare should wither on the vine. The Republicans, in the late 1990s, proceeded to cut \$250 billion from Medicare. Today, our Republican leader in the Committee on Rules labeled Medicare a Soviet-style program. In my 10 years in Congress, the only people I have found that are hostile to Medicare, that do not like the Medicare program, are my Republican friends on that side of the aisle.

Today, we have a choice. We have a choice between a Medicare prescription drug plan written for America's seniors or a private insurance plan written, the Republican's private insurance plan, written by and for the drug companies, which will privatize Medicare.

Let us keep Medicare public, let us pass a prescription drug benefit that works for seniors, not for the drug companies.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2003

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 461 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 461

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5010) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2003, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. Points of order against provisions in the bill for failure to comply with clause 2 of rule XXI are waived. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 8 of rule XVIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order, any rule of the House to the contrary notwithstanding, to consider concurrent resolutions providing for adjournment of the House and Senate during the month of July.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). The gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. MYRICK) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FROST); pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of the resolution, all time yielded is for purposes of debate only.

Yesterday, the Committee on Rules met and granted an open rule for H.R. 5010, the fiscal year 2003 Department of Defense Appropriations Act. The rule provides for 1 hour of general debate equally divided between the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations.

This is a fair and open rule for a very important bill. It cannot get any better than that. The rule allows any Member to offer any amendment to the bill, as long as their amendment complies with the normal rules of the House.

The defense appropriations bill provides the tools and the resources for our military to wage an aggressive war against terrorism while defending our Nation against an ever-changing military threat. In our global campaign against global terror, our military must have every resource, every tool, every weapon and every advantage they need for the missions to come.