While I am proud that the National Institutes of Health spends almost $599 million on Alzheimer's disease research, that number seems insignificant in light of the cost of this disease. We must do more to study the causes and risk factors of Alzheimer's and to develop a new way to diagnose the disease, and to develop new methods for treatment and caregiving.

Five years ago, Congress made a commitment to double the budget of the NIH so more money could be invested to find a cure for many diseases, such as Alzheimer's. I have been a longtime proponent of doubling the funding for NIH, and hope we will be able to achieve our goal of doubling the NIH budget in this, the final year of that commitment.

But there are other things Congress can and should do to aid in the fight against Alzheimer's. We must ensure that the individuals who care for people with Alzheimer's have the resources they need to keep their family members at home as long as possible.

□ 1215

We should pass legislation which allows individuals to deduct their long-term care expenses from their income tax and would help alleviate some of the financial burdens on the family caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's. We should pass legislation which would provide respite care for these caregivers. These are just a few steps Congress should take.

I urge the leadership to take up these bills and do everything we can to support the millions of Americans who suffer from Alzheimer's. I would like to close with a quote from Patty Davis's article in Time magazine of last week: ''Perhaps the next time Members of Congress assemble to decide how much money to set aside for Alzheimer's research, they should be asked to listen to silence differently as if it were a jail sentence. Maybe then we would then look into their hearts and know that if stopping a disease that is stalking so many is not a top priority, maybe we have lost our collective heart as a Nation.''

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JEFF MILLER of Florida). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

FREE DEBATE OVER THE WAR WITH IRAQ

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, this morning before we began our legislative business, news rang out from Afghanistan that another car bomb had taken the lives of many individuals in one of their major cities.

Just a few months ago, we made the decision to ensure that those who committed the horrific act would understand that America takes care of its own. And I voted for that resolution to go after the terrorists. Today, however, I think it is important that the American people be informed on the recent raging debate regarding Iraq.

The best thing about what we are hearing is that this is not a political debate. It is, in fact, a debate of conscience, and a debate that rages among Democrats and Republicans and Independents. It is one that will require America to be informed. And I would simply say to those who may be listening as I bring this issue to the floor that we need to engage the American people and provide them with information. It is imperative that we go home to our congressional districts and have citizen summits so that information can be translated.

But let me begin to enunciate, if you will, what is the conflict and the confusion with such a debate. First of all, it concerns all of us that this debate would be raging in the press with no information that connects the need to investigate or to attack Iraq and reality.

It is interesting that we have noted by Members of the other body that there is no scintilla of evidence that connects at this point Iraq with the horrific acts that occurred in the past year. There is no evidence that Iraq at this point has nuclear weapons. The case has not been made. But we have not said to the American people this is different from Kuwait, when Iraq attacked Kuwait when we had the coalition of Arab allies as well as our allies around the world.

What is not being focused on is the loud and resounding voice of those who oppose even the mere discussion of what is going on, meaning our allies. For those of us who care about our friends around the world, and those in the region like Jordan and Israel, do we even know what the ultimate impact will be on those neighbors?

What is the difference of sending 75 to 100,000 troops and maybe more of our young men and women in this Nation, those U.S. military personnel who we love and respect, who at the drop of a hat will go and fight for our freedom and justice? What is the determination as it relates to them going on soil, foreign soil, where we know that a caged animal such as Saddam Hussein will do anything to survive? Have we told the American people how long and how costly? Have we proposed to the American people a resolution on the devastating economy that we are facing, jobs being lost across this land and people begging us to define an economic policy that will put them back to work, that will give them costly or cost-efficient health care, that will provide for their children going to school? Are we answering the hard questions of protecting their pensions and 401(k)'s? Are we telling my constituents that we are bringing relief to them? Every day their homes are on the foreclosure list because they have no jobs in Houston, Texas.

Are we letting them know that right now we are paying a billion dollars a month in Afghanistan and we do not know when it will end for the war we are waging there? And we have no endgame to any war with Iraq. One year, 2 years, 20 years, millions and millions and billions of dollars. And have we looked at the Constitution which clearly states that we as a Congress have a right to declare war. The War Powers Resolution of 1973 in its opening language said we are sending this forward because it helps to collaborate and to emphasize the relationship between the Executive and the Congress, and that the Congress has the purse strings and the right to declare war. And if there is need for a preemptive strike to protect this land, the Executive, the Commander in Chief can go in for 60, 90 days without the authority of Congress.

We were together in World War II when we were attacked in Pearl Harbor. We have been together before. But it is important for the American people to be informed. It is important for us to have an agenda, to put the economy first. It is important to ask the question why. What relevance is it? Are we in an imminent attack?

I ask, Mr. Speaker, that this debate be long and protracted and that no vote be taken without the American people knowing what is going on. That would be my voice, a continuous voice speaking out against this process and this potential attack without the American people.

NEEDED PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HAYES) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HALL).

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HAYES) for yielding to me. And I also really appreciate the fact that he, as the Speaker's designee, will talk on something as important as prescription drugs. Actually, it is a matter that we should have said stayed here during the month of August and worked on. It is a matter that we find our senior citizens missing meals in order to buy their prescriptions. That is something we should just not tolerate in this country.

We have tried everything in the world here on the floor and in our committees and in our visits with one another to solve this problem. We sent two bills over last session. Neither one of them came back from the Senate.

I have a practical solution that I am suggesting to the gentleman from

North Carolina (Mr. HAYES), and I will support him and work on with him on this. I want to tell him a small, quick story.

We have the President of the United States, a fine young man, courageous young President, Commander in Chief of our Army, Navy, Marine Corps and all of that; but he was also Governor of Texas at one time. And as Governor of Texas, he headed up the Texas Rangers. Texas Rangers are known for the fact that one Ranger can handle one riot.

My suggestion is that this President work with our present Governor and get some Texas Rangers, go down to Laredo, Texas, and cross the Rio Grande, go into Mexico and go to the first drug store they get to and go in there and ask that pharmacist to come out in the middle of the street and let that Ranger talk to him and let that Ranger ask him, How do you sell prescription drugs down here for 10 percent of what our people can buy them for in the United States when you buy yours from the United States?

If we can solve that riddle, we are on page one.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HAYES). I admire him. I am one of his great admirers in this body. I thank him for caring enough and taking the time to bring the prescription drug debate to a head on this very floor. God bless him.

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his leadership on this vitally important issue.

Mr. Speaker, as other Members of the body, I have just returned from a district work period. The major part of that district work period was spent listening very carefully to constituents in the eighth district of North Carolina. Not only about their concerns but asking them for their advice, their common sense, using their own experience to help us here in Washington make policy that solves problems back home.

As I traveled the district from east to west, one of the most consistent areas of comment, one of the most consistent problems that I faced that people unanimously talked about in the same tone and the same content was the need for a prescription drug benefit under Medicare.

Beside me is a list, a petition if you will, signed by senior citizens in Concord, Kannapolis, Charlotte, Raeford in Hoke County, Laurinburg in Scotland County, Troy and Mount Gilead in Montgomery County, Wadesboro in Anson County, Fayetteville in Cumberland County. Each one of the people that signed this petition said very clearly to me, we need a prescription drug benefit under Medicare.

On June 30 of this year we celebrated the 37th birthday of Medicare. In that period of 37 years many people in this country have been properly helped by Medicare. During that period of time, Mr. Speaker, a number of dramatic changes have taken place in the practice of medicine. Many diseases, many conditions that required treatment previously by extensive hospitalization or invasive surgical procedures are now able to be treated with medications. Given that and a number of other reasons, it is all the more appropriate that we provide a prescription drug benefit for our seniors, given not only the necessity for prescription drugs to improve the quality of life for our seniors and to give them the support that they so richly deserve for supporting us for many years, but the point is it is appropriate from a factual standpoint to upgrade our treatment of Medicare to reflect the modern-day miracles of the practice of medicine.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention and the body the following information from the Constitution. The House of Representatives has passed a prescription drug plan under Medicare in a bipartisan manner. The U.S. Constitution, article 1, section 7, clause 2 says: ''Every bill which shall have passed the House of Representatives must also pass the Senate before it becomes law.''

As I said, the House has passed a bipartisan prescription drug plan under Medicare for our seniors. There have been a number of bills debated in the Senate. A number of bills have been voted on in the Senate. They have not passed a prescription drug plan in the Senate which is controlled by Democrats. The Constitution is very clear. In order to become law, a prescription drug benefit must be passed by the House. We have done that. The Senate must pass a bill. The two bills will be combined in a conference committee and then the President can sign that bill into law.

Our seniors need and deserve the prescription drug benefit plan; and that is the only way, rightfully so, under our Constitution that we can get that done. And, again, I refer to the names, and I have many others on sheets of paper, who have looked at and are simply saying we need to follow the Constitution. We need to provide this for our seniors.

Medicare is a good program. It has been helping millions of older Americans meet their needs since that first day back in 1965, but we can and should strengthen Medicare to make it even better for our seniors. Again, we need to follow the Constitution. There is a bipartisan plan that we have passed here in the House. And let me give you some of the details of how it provides an affordable, immediate, and permanent prescription drug benefit.

Under the plan passed by the House, these are some of the things that would happen: it is a voluntary drug benefit available to all Medicare beneficiaries. All Medicare beneficiaries are covered. Those who want to stay with their current coverage will not be forced into a government plan. Extra assistance for lower-income seniors, fully subsidized premium and cost sharing for couples earning up to $16,000.

□ 1230

Partial premium subsidy, for couples earning up to $19,000.

This plan would provide immediate discounts on drug purchases. Seniors would benefit immediately from discounts, approximately 15 percent or more on their purchases through a Medicare-endorsed discount card program. Beneficiaries choose the plan that is best for them. A choice of at least two plans is included in the House package. It guarantees competition, and competition helps hold down costs.

Quality improvements: to improve health care for seniors; protection against adverse drug interactions; electronic prescribing to minimize potential medical errors; pharmacy therapy management for chronic conditions; mechanic modernizations; a rural relief package for underpaid rural hospitals. Again, vitally important pieces for the plan; and yes, this plan provides catastrophic coverage for those seniors most in need of financial assistance.

No senior should ever be forced to choose between buying their prescription drugs or purchasing food and other necessities. Our seniors have been promised prescription drug coverage. They deserve no less than immediate action.

Mr. Speaker, again, I would refer to article I, section 7, clause 2, and ask that we do our job. We have done it in the House. We would ask the Senate to pass a plan, any of the ones they have discussed, at which time the President can sign that into law and provide a badly needed and well-deserved benefit for seniors for prescription drugs under Medicare.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JEFF MILLER of Florida). The Chair would remind Members not to urge a particular action or inaction by the other body.

THE PRICE OF WAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, Thomas Jefferson spoke for the founders and all our early Presidents when he stated, ''Peace, commerce and honest friendship with all nations, entangling alliances with none, which is one of the essential principles of our government.''

The question is, whatever happened to this principle and should it be restored? We find the 20th century was wracked with war; peace was turned asunder and our liberties steadily eroded. Foreign alliances and meddling in the internal affairs of other nations became commonplace. On many occasions, involvement in military action occurred through U.N. resolutions or a Presidential executive order, despite