

The Democrats were saying that would not work, and we came up with a prescription drug program under Medicare. We basically said that just like under Medicare now, they can pay so much per month in a premium to get their doctor bills paid. Most seniors pay a premium, so much per month under what is called part B of Medicare; and after the first \$100 deductible, 80 percent of the costs of their doctor bills are paid for by the Federal Government. We propose, as Democrats, doing the same thing with prescription drugs. A senior would pay about a \$25 per-month premium. They would have a \$100 deductible for the first \$100 in drugs; and after that, 80 percent of the costs would be paid for by the Federal Government for all the prescription drug needs up to \$2,500 a year, at which time everything would be paid for at 100 percent by the Federal Government.

What we did in our Medicare benefit program in our proposal, by contrast to the Republicans, is we said the Secretary of Health and Human Services would be mandated to negotiate lower prices for all the seniors that were in the Medicare program, about 30 to 40 million seniors. Following up on what the Federal Government does with the Veterans Administration or with the military, we said the Secretary of Health and Human Services would be mandated to bring down costs for prescription drugs in the Medicare program because he would have the power to negotiate. We estimate that would bring down the cost of prescription drugs maybe 30, 40 percent over what they are now.

The Republicans totally rejected the idea of expanding Medicare to include prescription drugs. They just want people to go out and buy their own private health insurance, and they put in their bill which passed the House of Representatives that the head of the Medicare program or the head of the prescription drug program that they were proposing would not have any authority to negotiate price reductions, in fact, would be forbidden from doing so.

Why are they doing this? They are doing this because they do not want anything to negatively impact the drug companies. What the drug companies have been doing in this House of Representatives is very clear. From the very beginning they were giving huge amounts of money to the Republicans. They had a big fund raiser for them one night a couple of months ago when we were actually having these bills in committee being marked up, when they wrote the bill, the Republican bill, to make sure it was not an expansion of Medicare and did not impact costs in any way for drugs; and then they started putting up ads on TV where they promoted the Republican candidates for Congress or the Republican incumbents who voted for their own drug bill and said that people should vote for them because they are doing a very good job and providing people with a

prescription drug benefit, which is simply not true.

We heard that this year United Seniors, which is basically a front for PHARMA, for the prescription name drug industry has pumped another 10, or I do not know how many, millions of dollars into an ad campaign. The bottom line is that the drug companies are going to do whatever they can with their Republican allies in Congress to make sure the issue of price is not addressed.

What are the Democrats saying about price? We heard my colleague from Ohio. He has introduced a bill similar to what passed the Senate that basically tries to encourage generic drugs by eliminating some of the barriers that the name-brand drug companies have put in place that make it more difficult under the patent system for generic drugs to come to market.

□ 1300

Mr. Speaker, we can address this in so many ways, but we have to get to the cost issue; otherwise we are not going to get to the problem.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KERNS). Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 1 minute p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord, You are our light and our salvation. In Your hands is the faith of this Nation, for we place all our trust in You.

You claim the hearts of the powerful. Bestow Your wisdom upon the Members of the House of Representatives, that they may draw from the foundation of Your counsel and place You in all their thoughts and deeds.

The many talents of these women and men in government reflect Your splendor and manifest the diversity of this Nation. May their work today give the world hope and joy. For You are Lord of all and work through all, both now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. MORELLA led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

PRIVATE CALENDAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is the day for the call of the Private Calendar. The Clerk will call the first individual bill on the Private Calendar.

NANCY B. WILSON

The Clerk called the bill (H.R. 392) for the relief of Nancy B. Wilson.

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be passed over without prejudice.

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

There was no objection.

JAMES D. BENOIT AND WAN SOOK BENOIT

The Clerk called the Senate bill (S. 1834) for the relief of retired Sergeant First Class James D. Benoit and Wan Sook Benoit.

There being no objection, the Clerk read the Senate bill as follows:

S. 1834

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. REQUIREMENT TO PAY CLAIMS.

(a) PAYMENT REQUIRED.—The Secretary of the Treasury is authorized and directed to pay, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to James D. Benoit and Wan Sook Benoit, jointly, the sum of \$415,000, in full satisfaction of all claims described in subsection (b), such amount having been determined by the United States Court of Federal Claims as being equitably due the said James D. Benoit and Wan Sook Benoit pursuant to a referral of the matter to that court by Senate Resolution 129, 105th Congress, 1st session, for action in accordance with sections 1492 and 2509 of title 28, United States Code.

(b) COVERED CLAIMS.—Subsection (a) applies with respect to all claims of the said James D. Benoit, Wan Sook Benoit, and the estate of David Benoit against the United States for compensation and damages for the wrongful death of David Benoit, the minor child of the said James D. Benoit and Wan Sook Benoit, pain and suffering of the said David Benoit, loss of the love and companionship of the said David Benoit by the said James D. Benoit and Wan Sook Benoit, and the wrongful retention of remains of the said David Benoit, all resulting from a fall sustained by the said David Benoit, on June 28, 1983, from an upper level window while occupying military family housing supplied by the Army in Seoul, Korea.

SEC. 2. LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS FOR ATTORNEYS' FEES.

No part of the amount appropriated by section 1 in excess of 10 percent thereof shall be paid or delivered to or received by any agent or attorney on account of services rendered in connection with this claim, any contract to the contrary notwithstanding. Violation of the provisions of this section is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1,000.

The Senate bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANISHA GOVEAS FOTI

The Clerk called the bill (H.R. 2245) for the relief of Anisha Goveas Foti.

There being no objection, the Clerk read the bill as follows:

H.R. 2245

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS FOR ANISHA GOVEAS FOTI.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subsections (a) and (b) of section 201 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, Anisha Goveas Foti shall be eligible for issuance of an immigrant visa or for adjustment of status to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence upon filing an application for issuance of an immigrant visa under section 204 of such Act or for adjustment of status to lawful permanent resident.

(b) ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS.—If Anisha Goveas Foti enters the United States before the filing deadline specified in subsection (c), she shall be considered to have entered and remained lawfully and shall, if otherwise eligible, be eligible for adjustment of status under section 245 of the Immigration and Nationality Act as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION AND PAYMENT OF FEES.—Subsections (a) and (b) shall apply only if the application for issuance of an immigrant visa or the application for adjustment of status is filed with appropriate fees within 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) REDUCTION OF IMMIGRANT VISA NUMBER.—Upon the granting of an immigrant visa or permanent residence to Anisha Goveas Foti, the Secretary of State shall instruct the proper officer to reduce by 1, during the current or next following fiscal year, the total number of immigrant visas that are made available to natives of the country of the alien's birth under section 203(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act or, if applicable, the total number of immigrant visas that are made available to natives of the country of the alien's birth under section 202(e) of such Act.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This concludes the call of the Private Calendar.

THE NIH SECURITY ACT

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

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the critically impor-

tant National Institutes of Health Security Act.

After September 11, Congress authorized a 322-acre biomedical research facility to bolster its security by doubling its police ranks from 64 officers to 108. This decision was made by U.S. intelligence experts who determined that the NIH campus is vulnerable and a potential target for terrorist attack, infiltration or theft of protected materials and research. Unfortunately, the force has never come close to reaching those numbers due to the current pay and retirement system.

NIH police are one of the lowest paid in the Washington metropolitan area. Making matters worse, NIH police are not classified as Federal "law enforcement officers," and are thereby denied the superior retirement benefits that distinction affords. The result is in low retention of officers, difficulty with recruitment. Without retirements included, there exists a 77 percent attrition rate at NIH yearly.

Due to the severity of the situation and the resources that NIH protects, I am introducing legislation that would allow NIH to bolster its security force. This bill would add no additional cost to the Federal Government. It would simply allow some long overdue flexibility to be used by NIH.

Without these changes, we are undoubtedly allowing a prime target to remain vulnerable to terrorists.

I want to recognize NIH law enforcement personnel, specifically Clyde Bartz and the Fraternal Order of Police, for raising my awareness of this issue.

HONORING ENLACE AND GUILLERMINA GARCIA FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDUCATION

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

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the parents and volunteers who participated in the first Annual Walk for Success, sponsored by ENLACE, to raise the awareness of the importance of registering for school.

I would especially like to honor one mother in particular, Guillermina Garcia, for her dedication to her family and to the community. Like many Americans, Guillermina dreams of sending her children to college, and she wants her friends and neighbors to aspire to this lofty goal also.

Despite the many hardships that she faces, Mrs. Garcia finds the time to walk throughout her community door to door and to talk with parents about becoming more involved in their children's education.

Mrs. Garcia also finds time to attend a weekly math class which teaches her how to play games with her children to help them with math. Through her actions she has proven herself to be a role model for her children and for our community.

I would like to congratulate Mrs. Guillermrina Garcia and the ENLACE organization for working to educate Orange County residents about educational opportunities.

PASS H.R. 5272 TO LOWER DRUG PRICES

(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, according to industry experts, health insurance premiums will jump 13 to 24 percent next year. What is driving this increase? Mostly the cost of prescription drugs.

To deflect attention from these remarkably high prices, the drug industry argues that prescription medicines actually save money by reducing health care costs. If they were more reasonably priced, that might be true. There is no doubt that medicine helps alleviate the need for other health care services. But prescription drugs are priced so outrageously high that their inflationary impact far outstrips any savings. Skyrocket insurance premiums simply do not lie.

There is no excuse for the drug industry's pricing practices. There is no excuse for the tactics drug makers use to block lower-priced generic drugs from the market. There is no excuse for the drug makers' lobbying tactics to try to kill our legislation.

This body must act on H.R. 5272, legislation that will stop the gaming and deliver lower drug prices to the American people, an estimated \$60 billion in savings.

I urge House Republican leadership, all too often too close to the drug industry, to bring this consumer savings bill up for a vote before Columbus Day.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, September 13, 2002.
Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
The Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on September 13, 2002 at 4:43 p.m.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 5157.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAHL,
Clerk of the House.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair