

The gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN) should be commended for his dogged pursuit of the truth. The American public should wish him well.

#### PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN

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

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise again today to talk about the high cost that Americans pay for prescription drugs, particularly relative to the industrialized world.

As I have mentioned on the floor before, we believe that Americans should pay their fair share in terms of the cost of the research and development of these miracle drugs. We even feel that it is fair enough that we should subsidize some of the developing countries, such as those in sub-Saharan Africa. We think, however, that it is outrageous that we are required to subsidize the starving Swiss.

Let me talk a little bit about what we did in the last 3 weeks. I was in Germany 3 weeks ago, and one of my staffers was able to go to one of the pharmacies at the Munich airport. Most of us know that when we buy things at the airport, that is usually not the cheapest place to buy things; and we went to the pharmacy there at the Munich airport and bought some drugs.

Among those we bought was Glucophage. Glucophage for 30 tablets, 850 milligrams, we bought at the Munich airport for \$5 American. That same drug at a pharmacy in Minnesota back in my district is not \$5 but \$29.95.

Cipro is a very effective antibiotic made by a German company by the name of Bayer. They came up with Bayer aspirins. They have been around a long time, but Cipro became very important when we went through the anthrax scare here in the Capitol complex. We purchased it at \$35.12 for 10 tablets at 250 milligrams. That same package in Minnesota sells for \$55; \$35 dollars in Germany, \$55 in the United States.

Actually the story gets worse. Another very popular drug, Zestril, we bought for \$25.04 American. It sells in the United States for \$59.95, more than double the price for the same drug, and the list gets worse.

One of the worst examples is this. This is a drug called Tamoxifen. Tamoxifen is a miracle drug. It is probably the best drug ever developed in terms of treating breast cancer. We bought this drug at the Munich airport at the pharmacy there, 60 tablets, 20 milligrams for \$59.05 American. This same drug, if we buy it here in pharmacies in Washington, D.C., will sell for \$360; \$60 in Germany, \$360 for exactly the same drug here in the United States.

What makes this story even worse is that the taxpayers paid for almost all of the research costs to develop this miracle drug. It was developed essen-

tially by the NIH. The company went out and got the patents, and now Americans are paying again.

Many of my colleagues say, well, shame on the pharmaceutical industry; and it is easy to say that, but I do not say shame on the pharmaceutical industry. I say shame on us. We are the policymakers. We are the ones who have created an environment that the pharmaceutical companies are taking advantage of; and shame on us for letting this happen, and let me give my colleagues another shame on us.

There was research that came out just a few days ago, the first time I had seen it; and what it said was that 29 percent of the prescriptions written to seniors in this country go unfilled because they cannot afford them. Shame on us.

We have created an environment where seniors today cannot afford the prescriptions that doctors write for them to save their lives. Shame on us. That is the problem.

The answer is open up markets. We have open markets for virtually everything else. The Food and Drug Administration allows hundreds and millions of tons of food to come into our country with virtually no inspection; but if a senior tries to import Tamoxifen to save their lives from Munich, Germany, they are treated as common criminals. Shame on us.

The answer is to pass commonsense, reimportation language this year. We are going to be talking about prescription drug benefits under Medicare here in the next several weeks in the Congress; but if we do not start seriously talking about affordable, if we do not talk about what we are going to do to control prices in this whole thing, there is not enough money in the Federal Treasury to pay for that benefit because we know the Congressional Budget Office tells us that over the next 10 years seniors in this country will spend \$1.8 trillion on prescriptions. We have allotted \$400 billion in this budget resolution over the next 10 years to take care not only of a prescription drug benefit but also to modernize Medicare, which is the right thing to do, and equalize the reimbursements.

The bottom line is that there is not enough money in this budget or any budget to pay for these huge disparities. Americans deserve world-class drugs at world market prices.

#### TEXAS REDISTRICTING

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

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, hypocrisy. According to the dictionary, hypocrisy is defined as a feigning to be what one is not or to believe what one does not.

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Mr. Speaker, I think hypocrisy is a good description of the recent state-

ment of the Texas Speaker of the House, Tom Craddick.

Americans have watched with interest over the last several days where 52 courageous Democratic legislators left the Texas Legislature, broke a quorum, and went to Ardmore, Oklahoma, in order to allow Texas citizens to have a voice in shaping their new congressional districts for the next decade. They were the ones that stopped a secret plan of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) and Mr. Craddick that very few people in Texas had seen; that would have eventually destroyed communities of interest, distorted communities of interest across our State. They stopped that from happening without public input or awareness.

I think these 52 Democrats are heroes. But Mr. Craddick, who did not like that walkout by those 52 legislators, called them, in effect, chickens, along with his other Republican colleagues. Whoops. Turns out that the Waco Tribune Herald, in my hometown in Texas, did a little research. Mr. Craddick forgot to tell the Texas people about this. It turns out in 1971, as a State House member, Mr. Craddick was part of a group called the Dirty 30 that did exactly what these members have done this week: He walked out of the Texas House of Representatives to express a protest over issues.

Hypocrisy. I find it interesting that Speaker Craddick has referenced the Alamo in regard to this incident. Well, in all due respect, Mr. Craddick is no Davy Crockett, and if he would review his Texas history, Mr. Craddick would remember that the defenders of the Alamo were committed people of conscience, committed to the high principle of fighting to see that all Texans had a voice in shaping their families' and their communities' destinies.

That is what these 52 courageous Democrats are doing in Oklahoma today. They are fighting with the courage of their convictions. They are profiles in courage trying to see that all Texans, not just Mr. DELAY and Mr. Craddick, who, with a secret, behind-closed-door map, are trying to shape the future of our congressional districts in our great State.

Hypocrisy, I think, is an apt definition for the statements of Mr. Craddick, given what he did in 1971, walking out of the Texas House of Representatives with 29 of his colleagues.

Now, one of the other things that I find very distasteful that we have watched in the last several days is that, with glee, Republican House Members in Texas put together playing cards to mimic the liberty cards that were put together to identify terrorists in Saddam Hussein's regime in Iraq. I find it deeply offensive, and I think most Texans will find it equally offensive, that Texas Republican legislators would try to compare Texas State officials, who have been elected by their citizens to stand up and fight for their freedoms and their opportunities, to

fight for their voice in shaping our government, comparing those brave Texans to people such as Hussein's Presidential adviser, the King of Spades; comparing them to the Republican Guard chief of staff, the Jack of Clubs; the Iraqi Intelligence Service, the Iraqi Armed Forces chief of staff, a jack of Spades; the Secretary of the Republican Guard and Special Republican Guard, along with other Iraqi terrorists who have been responsible for the death and murder and rape of hundreds of thousands of Iraqi citizens. Shame on Texas Republican legislators and whoever developed that cute little gimmick to compare our legislators in our country to Iraqi terrorists.

Mr. Speaker, a lot of folks in my district in central Texas are not yet aware of what would have happened had this Sunday night 52 Texas legislators not gone to Ardmore, Oklahoma, to break a quorum. This is the real story:

On Sunday, Mother's Day, when most families in my district were with their families honoring their mothers, Mr. DELAY and Mr. Craddick's forces had a different agenda that day. Their agenda was to put the final touches on a secret, unknown redistricting map that the public had never been able to see. It was going to dramatically change the 11th Congressional District in central Texas. I salute these heroes in Oklahoma for standing up to that kind of secret dealmaking that would have destroyed the 11th Congressional District as we have known it for over 100 years.

#### IN CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE TEXAS DEMOCRATIC LEGISLATORS

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am glad to follow my Waco, Texas, colleague. I come to the floor today to pay tribute, like my colleagues from Texas, to the very brave men and women of the legislature, those Texas heroes who have put their political lives on the line to ensure that the voting rights of all Texans will remain intact.

Again, I want to personally thank my State representatives, and of course there are 53 of them totally, but Rick Noriega, Jessica Farrar, Joe Moreno, Senfronia Thompson, Kevin Bailey, Scott Hochberg, and the other dozens of Texas heroes.

Yesterday, these Killer Ds, as they are now called, sent a letter to Texas Speaker Craddick, who I was honored to serve 13 years with in the statehouse. In this letter the members of the legislature said, "During recent interviews, you indicated you were not willing to negotiate with us regarding the issue of congressional redistricting. You stated you were concerned if you negotiated with us on this issue, we

would break a quorum every time we disagreed with you on other important issues of the day, such as our school finance, health care and homeowners insurance.

"We want to clarify this point so that your concern is addressed and no ambiguity remains. We are here because we strongly feel that congressional redistricting should only be taken up every 10 years, unless otherwise ordered to do so by the courts, and that it should not be a priority above other issues facing our State.

"If you are willing to assure us that congressional redistricting will not be taken up by the House during the remainder of this session and the special sessions to come, then we are willing to give you our word, through this letter, that we will not break a quorum on other issues during that same time, even when we disagree."

And I am sure that there will be plenty of things to disagree about.

"We had no intention to break a quorum on issues following this one, and if you need this guarantee, then this letter provides it. In our system, negotiations and compromise are often the only way to make progress and improve our State. To that end and in that spirit, we respectfully ask you to accept our offer. We hope you will respond as soon as possible today, so we can return right away."

And, again, this letter was sent yesterday.

"There is a lot of work we can do, and we would like to get that work done."

During my 20-plus years as a State legislator, 13 as a State House member and 7 as a State Senator in Texas, the thing I treasured the most was the bipartisanship that existed in both our chambers. The problems occurring in the Texas Legislature now are not what is normal. I remember in my 20 years there that we had redistricting bills, and we fought them based on Democrats and Republicans. We had election code bills, and we fought based on Democrat and Republicans. But to have redistricting overshadow the important issues facing the State of Texas, or any State for that matter, I think is frustrating.

We see sometimes that Washington politics, the partisan nature of that, has invaded our State legislatures. In all honesty, my friends on the Republican side that I have served with in the Texas Legislature both say we should sit down and talk about problems without it being such a partisan issue. Maybe we can learn something from our legislators here that say, wait a minute, we will fight over redistricting, we will fight over election codes, but when we talk about school finance, insurance reform, health care, or the State budget, you will not see us try to break a quorum in Texas.

Today, this Fort Worth Star-Telegram said, and I quote, "Once upon a time, TOM DELAY killed vermin and varmints and other disreputable crit-

ters for a living. Now he's trying to prove that he remembers how, by exterminating any remnants of bipartisanship in the Texas House."

And continuing the quote, "Little does DELAY, the U.S. House majority leader, care if he incites a blood feud in Austin; he'd just as soon suck the Democrats dry in his lust to make himself master of the universe. In his insatiable ambition to obliterate the two-party system, DELAY apparently expected the Texas House Dems to roll over on their backs like roaches on Raid and let his water boys roar undisturbed through the Capitol with a new congressional district map.

"When Texas Democratic House members hightailed it north of the Red River, it wasn't to avoid thorny problems still facing the State. It was out of exasperation that neither Mr. DELAY nor Texas House Speaker Tom Craddick would let earnest, hard-working lawmakers of both parties focus on the vital business that the legislature ought to be spending its energy on as this session winds down."

Mr. Speaker, I served with Mr. DELAY as a State legislator. I served with a lot of Members on the Democratic and Republican side, and I would hope that we could get past this partisan issue and let those folks go back and deal with the problems we have in the State of Texas. Hopefully, we will learn something from them and develop a better bipartisan spirit up here.

#### PARTISAN POWER GRAB IN TEXAS

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

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, the improper and purely partisan power grab by TOM DELAY and Washington, D.C., Republicans to redistrict Texas and destroy rural representation is an affront to the citizens and the voters of the great State of Texas.

This arrogant play is not about our State, our communities, our constituencies. This is political gluttony, selfishness. Even the Republicans' own witness in their 2000 redistricting battle has acknowledged that this plan is a partisan feeding frenzy. Listen to what the Republican witness said in a trial in 2001. The Republican expert witness, Rice University Professor John Alford, called the plan "a pro-Republican partisan gerrymandering, on top of an already pro-Republican existing plan." That is what their expert has said about the current map.

Mr. Speaker, in Texas, we say pigs get fat, hogs get slaughtered. Overreaching is apparently the word of the day. Mr. Speaker, this plan does not just destroy Democratic representation, this map destroys rural representation. This map displaces rural northeast Texas into a Dallas suburban district. Southeast Texas becomes dominated by Houston suburbs. Deep east Texas becomes a Tyler district just