

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, Rabbi Milton Balkany, Dean of Bais Yaakov in Brooklyn, New York, is an acquaintance of mine. He has been an active participant and leader in the Jewish community in New York City for many, many years. Rabbi Balkany has worked hard to bring the community together in order to continue traditional religious and cultural values. Not only does he help younger generations understand the intrinsic and extraordinary Jewish culture to which they belong, but he also welcomes others of all religions to engage in prayer, meditation and community.

I applaud you, Rabbi, on this special occasion and welcome you as the guest chaplain of the House of Representatives.

REGARDING AMENDMENT TO INTELLIGENCE BILL

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, yesterday in debate over H.R. 2417, the intelligence bill, the chairman of the committee refused to commit to an Intelligence Committee audit of all telephone and electronic communications between the Central Intelligence Agency and the Vice President to determine whether or not the Vice President influenced intelligence produced by the CIA on Iraq's alleged weapons of mass destruction, the cause of war. First, the chairman said the material may be classified and, second, working documents of the executive are respected and privileged. Some Members want the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence to have jurisdiction over the issue which top committee members clearly do not want to investigate. If an executive official pressured or manipulated CIA analysts to disseminate false, raw, unreliable information to justify a war, that matter should be neither classified nor shielded nor privileged. My amendment to the intelligence bill would direct the Inspector General of the CIA to audit all electronic communications between the Office of the Vice President and CIA to get to the bottom of numerous public reports which raise questions as to whether or not the Vice President played a role in making false information to become the public reason the President went to war in Iraq.

MEDICARE MODERNIZATION

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

Mr. FORBES. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of a comprehensive prescription drug benefit for all seniors. The Prescription Drug and Medicare Modernization Act of 2003 will guarantee prescription drug coverage to all our seniors and future genera-

tions. I firmly believe that no senior should be forced to choose between putting food on the table or buying the medicines they need. The Prescription Drug and Medicare Modernization Act would build on the strengths and successes of the current Medicare system while guaranteeing that all seniors will have access to a prescription drug benefit.

Just the other day the Secretary of Health and Human Services released a study which says that seniors will get an up-front drug discount of 25 percent. That is a significant savings for many of the seniors in my district. The reforms in this legislation will put patients before paperwork and ensure that doctors will continue to serve seniors through Medicare. The House has acted in the past and will work with the Senate to provide affordable, voluntary coverage for every senior immediately. Let us pass this important legislation. Our seniors have waited too long for this much-needed relief.

MEDICARE MODERNIZATION

(Mr. DEFAZIO ASKED AND WAS GIVEN PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE HOUSE FOR 1 MINUTE.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, the Republican Medicare prescription drug bill will provide unprecedented benefits and protection. Unfortunately, the benefits and protection under this perverse legislation will all flow to the pharmaceutical and insurance industries, not the seniors who need help paying their prescription drug bills. That is right. The biggest beneficiaries are the wildly profitable pharmaceutical industry and the anticompetitive insurance industry. You cannot provide a meaningful benefit unless you deal with the obscene price of prescription drugs. And this bill does nothing, not reasonable pricing, not reimportation, not negotiated lowering of prices, nothing, because that would hurt the profits of the pharmaceutical industry. The insurance industry, they will get a subsidy under this bill to offer some sort of benefit without any requirement what those benefits might be, without any limit on the premiums they might charge, without any requirement who they might provide coverage to or exclude, all beginning in 2006.

We just heard about the great affordable plan we are going to offer today. This begins in the year 2006 and seniors who pay \$4,500 a year for drugs will get \$3,500 out of their pocket and a thousand from this bill. This is the pharmaceutical industry and insurance industry protection legislation.

HONORING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL DRAFT GOLDWATER RALLY

(Mr. 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. Madam Speaker, yesterday was the fu-

neral for a great statesman from Arizona, former House Armed Services Chairman Bob Stump. I was reminded of another late Arizona statesman, Senator Barry Goldwater. In fact, next week marks the 40th anniversary of his significant step in the historic presidential campaign he waged in 1964. On July 4, 1963, the National Draft Goldwater Rally was held at the Washington National Guard Armory. I was honored as a young teenager to come on a bus from South Carolina with some of the founders of the modern Republican Party, Drake Edens, Floyd Spence and Rusty DePass. This failed presidential campaign actually was spectacularly successful in launching a political revolution for limited government and expanded freedom. Especially in the South, Republican conservatism has risen from virtual nonexistence to majority status on the local, State and Federal level.

I am grateful for the lasting influence of Barry Goldwater, who inspired victory over communism, achieved by Ronald Reagan, and an emphasis on expanding freedom by reducing taxation, promoted by George W. Bush.

In conclusion, God bless our troops.

MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT

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

Mr. COOPER. Madam Speaker, today is the day that our seniors have been waiting for for many, many years, the day that we will pass a Medicare prescription drug benefit. Unfortunately, the real debate took place last night upstairs in an attic room in this building in the dark of night, literally starting after midnight, from 1 to 4 a.m., burglar hours, not lawmaker hours. In that debate, they foreclosed real debate on this floor today. They allowed only two bills to be considered, the Republican plan which is deeply flawed, which will end Medicare as we know it, and another plan which is too large to fit within the budget window. I supported the Dooley alternative, a much more sensible piece of legislation. Our seniors deserve better, much better than will be done for them on this House floor today.

□ 1015

PRESCRIPTION DRUG LEGISLATION

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

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, as Congress considers the prescription drug legislation today, I think it is important for the American people to remember a few simple facts. This would be the biggest new Federal entitlement since 1965 when Medicare was created.

Medicare currently costs seven and a half times what this Congress said it would cost when they invented it.

Seventy-six percent of seniors in America today already have prescription drug coverage and according to the CBO under some versions of this legislation more than a third of those Americans who enjoy coverage from a private employer from whom they have retired could lose that coverage.

If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do? Let us not in this Congress today sow the seeds to destroy the foundation of a free market system by creating a universal drug benefit in Medicare. The answer is the reforms the President called for giving Americans the same choices that the Members of Congress have. It is not to create a massive new Federal entitlement.

REPUBLICAN MEDICARE BILL

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I heard a strange rumor last night that the Republican Party was going to change its mascot from the elephant to the night owl. This would be fitting since most legislation these days is being discussed by Republicans in the dark of night behind closed doors without giving Democrats a fair chance to debate it here on the House floor.

Today we are going to vote on legislation that will provide the most significant reform in Medicare since its creation in 1965. This legislation will impact millions of seniors across the Nation, yet many of the Representatives in Congress will not have seen this legislation until today. Would someone sign their name on a long-term mortgage for their home if they had never stepped inside that house?

Moreover, many well thought out amendments today will not be debated. For example, my simple, cost effective proposal for a Medicare prescription drug benefit, they did not allow us to bring it to the floor to discuss it. The night owls have yet again ruined a perfect opportunity on what should really be bipartisan legislation. Ain't that a hoot.

HONORING SERGEANT JACOB BUTLER

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

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of a true patriot. It will soon be July 4, a date etched in America's heart. A day that serves as a time of reflection and celebration in the memory of sacrifices made; sacrifices made throughout history that granted us the freedoms that we enjoy today.

As our Nation celebrates our independence, it seems appropriate to pay

tribute to an Army sergeant that meant a great deal to Kansas and our country. Sergeant Jacob Butler, from Wellsville, Kansas, joined the Army as a private at the young age of 19. He later rose to the rank of sergeant and accepted the demanding task of a scout. Unfortunately, Jacob Butler was killed April 1 when a rocket propelled grenade hit his vehicle in Iraq. It was an honor to attend Jacob's memorial service and funeral with his parents, Jim and Cindy, his friends, his family, and his fellow soldiers. The ceremony reminded me once again that great sacrifices for the causes of freedom did not end on July 4, 1776. Sacrifices continue today.

Jacob is no longer only a blessing to his friends and family, he is now a blessing to an entire Nation. On behalf of the people of Kansas and this grateful Nation, I ask that we remember Sergeant Jacob Butler as a son, a friend, a soldier, and a patriot.

INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PENCE). Pursuant to House Resolution 295 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 2417.

□ 1020

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 2417) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2004 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes, with Mrs. BIGGERT (Chairman pro tempore) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Wednesday, June 25, 2003, a request for a recorded vote on amendment No. 6 printed in House report 108-176 by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) had been postponed.

SEQUENTIAL VOTES POSTPONED IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments on which further proceedings were postponed in the following order:

Amendment No. 4 offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS); amendment No. 5 offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH); amendment No. 6 by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

The first electronic vote, if ordered, will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY HASTINGS OF FLORIDA

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 4 offered by Mr. HASTINGS of Florida:

At the end of subtitle D of title III, insert the following new section:

SEC. 337. IMPROVEMENT OF RECRUITMENT, HIRING AND RETENTION OF ETHNIC AND CULTURAL MINORITIES IN THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.

(a) PILOT PROJECT TO IMPROVE DIVERSITY THROUGHOUT THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY USING INNOVATIVE METHODOLOGIES FOR THE RECRUITMENT, HIRING AND RETENTION OF ETHNIC AND CULTURAL MINORITIES AND WOMEN WITH THE DIVERSITY OF SKILLS, LANGUAGES AND EXPERTISE REFLECTIVE OF THE CURRENT MISSION.—The Director of Central Intelligence shall carry out a pilot project under this section to test and evaluate alternative, innovative methods to recruit and hire for the intelligence community women and minorities with diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds, skills, language proficiency, and expertise.

(b) METHODS.—In carrying out the pilot project, the Director shall employ methods such as advertising in foreign language newspapers in the United States, site visits to institutions with a high percentage of students who study English as a second language, and other methods that are not used by the Director under the DCI Diversity Strategic Plan to increase diversity of officers and employees in the intelligence community.

(c) DURATION OF PROJECT.—The Director shall carry out the project under this section for a 3-year period.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date the Director implements the pilot project under this section, the Director shall submit to Congress a report on the project. The report shall include—

(1) an assessment of the effectiveness of the project; and

(2) recommendations on the continuation of the project as well as for improving the effectiveness of the project in meeting the goals of increasing the recruiting and hiring of women and minorities within the intelligence community.

(e) DIVERSITY PLAN.—(1) Not later than February 15, 2004, the Director of Central Intelligence shall submit to Congress a report which describes the plan of the Director, entitled the "DCI Diversity Strategic Plan", and any subsequent revision to that plan, to increase diversity of officers and employees in the intelligence community, including the short- and long-term goals of the plan. The report shall also provide a detailed description of the progress that has been made by each element of the intelligence community in implementing the plan.

(2) In implementing the plan, the Director shall incorporate innovative methods for the recruitment and hiring of women and minorities that the Director has determined to be effective from the pilot project carried out under this section.

(f) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term "intelligence community" has the meaning given that term in section 3(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 401(4)).

RECORDED VOTE

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. A recorded vote has been demanded.