

NATIONAL MEDIA GIVES FREE PASS

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as this replica of a check demonstrates, the national media are giving the Obama administration a free pass worth who-knows-how-much on any number of major national issues such as the economy, energy, and health care.

The national media seldom mentions that the President's budget would double the national debt in 5 years and triple it in 10. The national media don't tell the American people that the President's cap-and-trade energy plan will cost every family \$1,600. The national media don't report that the 46 million uninsured that is used to justify the President's health care plan is really only 10 million people after you deduct those who are eligible for Medicare and Medicaid, who can afford health insurance, and who are without health insurance for just a couple of months between jobs.

Americans don't want the media to give the Obama administration a free pass. They want the facts.

HEALTH CARE FOR ALL

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, there was much media speculation as to where Mr. Steve Jobs had a liver transplant. It came out yesterday that he had his liver transplant in Memphis, Tennessee, my home town, at the Methodist Hospital, a hospital known for its liver transplant center which has the lowest morbidity rate of any transplant center in the United States.

Memphis has been a medical center for years, with St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, the finest research hospital for children's illnesses, catastrophic illnesses, and cancer; for Southern College of Optometry; for LeBonheur Children's Hospital; for Campbell's Clinic for orthopedics and other particular medical specialties. We are proud of our medical community.

We are sorry Mr. Jobs had to have a liver transplant, but we are happy he came to Memphis and chose the best. But it shouldn't be that only the wealthy can come to Memphis and have the best medical care available. We need to pass a health care plan that is affordable and quality with a public plan to let every American have the opportunity to get the best medical attention that is available, and come to Memphis and receive it.

COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY PLAN NEEDED

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, Democrats are the ones with no new ideas. They always turn to their worn-out idea of tax, tax, tax. The American people don't want a national energy tax; they want energy independence. The House Republican plan is the comprehensive energy solution this country desperately needs. House Republicans recognize that as gas prices and home utility bills rise, American families are dealt a greater economic hardship.

The Democrats' answer to the worst recession in decades is a national energy tax that will lead to higher energy prices and further job losses. Thousands of dollars in extra energy costs and millions of jobs lost is a high price to pay for an energy plan that will do little to clean up our environment. The American people deserve better. The American Energy Act introduced by Republicans is an all-of-the-above plan that will provide independence, more jobs here at home, and a cleaner environment.

The American people don't want a national energy tax. They want energy independence. The House Republican plan is the comprehensive energy solution this country desperately needs.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, the United States has the most expensive health care in the world, which is a tremendous burden on the American family and businesses and threatens our economic future. The status quo is unsustainable and unacceptable, and I applaud all of the committees for their hard work on the draft proposal released last week. It is an important step forward to ensure that every American has access to quality, affordable health care.

But I believe if we are to meet the stated goals of reform, it is also critical that a robust public plan option be linked with the strengths of Medicare. It is a system that we know and, in particular, has an existing health provider network so that a public plan can truly compete in the private market and lower costs for all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, health care must be accessible. And in order to be accessible to Americans living in both rural and urban areas, it has to be accepted by providers. It has to have doctors. I am concerned that the initial version does not provide the provider infrastructure already in place for Medicare. We know it and we can use it, and this is a serious oversight that needs to be revisited.

Mr. Speaker, I know we can meet the challenges for health care for all Amer-

icans, a uniquely American plan unparalleled in quality, low cost and real choice. Let's do it.

PRESERVING CAPITALISM IN AMERICA AMENDMENT

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

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, a growing number of Americans are concerned about the future of capitalism in this country. The current economic recession has opened the door to government intervention in private enterprise on a scale many have never seen. A majority of Americans oppose the government takeover of the auto manufacturers and want the government out as soon as possible.

Just as troubling as the government's rapid control over private industry is the failure to present an exit strategy. With no apparent limit on the government's ability to expand its ownership of business, the only solution is a constitutional amendment.

Yesterday I introduced H.J. Res. 57, the Preserving Capitalism in America Amendment. The constitutional amendment would prohibit the acquisition of any stock or equity interest in private corporations by the Federal Government. This amendment was introduced with 102 cosponsors, nearly a quarter of the membership of the House. Eight States currently have constitutional prohibitions against government investment in private corporations, and I believe similar action is necessary on the Federal level to limit government intrusion.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.J. Res. 57, the Preserving Capitalism in America amendment.

AMERICAN CLEAN ENERGY AND SECURITY ACT

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

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, Americans are the most innovative and the most entrepreneurial people on the face of the Earth. That is the reason that the people want us to pass the American Clean Energy and Security bill this week. This bill will give Americans what they want: More energy independence; less pollution; and most importantly, millions of new jobs of Americans building the new businesses, putting up solar panels, putting up wind towers, and stringing new electrical wire that we need.

Now, what is this going to cost Americans? According to the Congressional Budget Office, approximately the cost of one postage stamp a day: 47 cents. Do Americans want to rid ourselves of the scourge of addiction to Saudi oil for a postage stamp a day? You bet.

Do Americans want us to limit pollution and make polluters pay so Americans can have cleaner air for the cost of a postage stamp a day? You bet.

Do Americans want 3 million new jobs in this country for the cost of a postage stamp a day? You bet.

We are going to pass this bill. Americans want it.

COMPETITION IS NEEDED FOR HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, as we continue to learn more about the single-payer, government takeover of the health care system proposed by my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, I would like to point out why this isn't a good idea.

First, we can't afford it. Cost estimates are now up to \$3.5 trillion of money we don't have. Medicare, even with heavy subsidies from private insurance, is on the course of bankruptcy. How will we afford a Medicare-for-all program?

Let me be clear, the government cannot be both competitor and make up the rules of the game. It would be like Microsoft being put in control of the Internet. How would other companies compete with Microsoft?

A single-payer system option will erode the private insurance market that is propping up the public health plan we have today. It is becoming very clear that the public option group has the ultimate goal of destroying competition and choice and substituting it with a government takeover of our health care system.

So what is the end game here? The end game is that once the Federal Government gains full control of our health care system and steps between you and your doctor, we will have exploding budgets which will lead to rationing.

□ 1030

DEMOCRATIC HEALTH CARE PLAN

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

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. The Democratic Party has a new and better idea about health care. The Democratic Party, under the leadership of Barack Obama, is going to give Americans and American businesses what they've been asking for—begging for—relief from the problems in our health care system.

For the first time, people who are considered uninsurable will not have to worry about how they're going to get the money to go to the doctor to take care of their child. They will be insured. Everybody in this country will be insured. There will be the insurance companies, but there will also be a public option so people who can't find health insurance who do not have jobs will be able to be insured.

I find it interesting that the opposing party talks about no competition and no choice. I have seen too many con-

stituents who have no choice; they can't go to the doctor, they can't get surgery because they don't have health insurance. And I have also seen the so-called "competition" refuse to insure some of my constituents because of preexisting health conditions. So what we have now is the ability to keep your insurance. If Americans want to keep their insurance, they should, but if they don't, or they can't, then they finally have a public option.

I urge my colleagues to vote for this health insurance plan.

REJECT THE CAP-AND-TRADE TAX

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

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, we just heard a speech a few moments ago about how jobs will be created through this national energy tax. Apparently those jobs will not be created in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in any significant way. In fact, I would like to share with my friends and the American people a letter from the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, three of the five commissioners who wrote me and told me about the impacts of this legislation. They said, "Pennsylvania is the fourth largest coal producer in the Nation, distributing over 75 million tons of coal each year. Roughly 7 percent of the Nation's supply is in Pennsylvania and 58 percent of all electricity used here comes from coal. However, if the Waxman-Markey bill were to pass, Pennsylvania is looking at a bleak scenario by 2020; a net loss of as many as 66,000 jobs, a sizeable hike in electric bills of residential customers, an increase in national gas prices, and significant downward pressure on the State gross product. The cost estimates are staggering." Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission.

I urge my colleagues to reject this national energy tax. The industrial and agricultural heartland States of America will pay and will pay big. It's time that we reject this tax.

PERMISSION TO EXTEND TIME FOR DEBATE AND MODIFY AMENDMENT DURING FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2647

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I ask unanimous consent that during further consideration of H.R. 2647, pursuant to House Resolution 572, debate on amendment Nos. 3 and 9 each be extended to 20 minutes, and that amendment No. 2 be modified in the form that is now placed at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COHEN). The Clerk will report the modification.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title X (page 374, after line 2), insert the following new section:

SEC. 1055. SENSE OF CONGRESS HONORING THE HONORABLE JOHN M. MCHUGH.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) In 1993, Representative John M. McHugh was elected to represent New York's 23rd Congressional district, which is located in northern New York and consists of Clinton, Hamilton, Lewis, Oswego, Madison, and Saint Lawrence counties and parts of Essex, Franklin, Fulton, and Oneida counties.

(2) Representative McHugh also represents Fort Drum, home of the 10th Mountain Division.

(3) Prior to his service in Congress, Representative McHugh served four terms in the New York State Senate, representing the 48th district from 1984 to 1992.

(4) Representative McHugh began his public service career in 1971 in his hometown of Watertown, New York, where he served for five years as a Confidential Assistant to the City Manager.

(5) Subsequently, Representative McHugh served for nine years as Chief of Research and Liaison with local governments for New York State Senator H. Douglas Barclay.

(6) Representative McHugh is known by his colleagues as a leader on national defense and security issues and a tireless advocate for America's military personnel and their families.

(7) During his tenure, he has led the effort to increase Army and Marine Corps end-strength levels, increase military personnel pay, reduce the unfair tax on veterans' disability and military retired pay (concurrent receipt) and safeguard military retiree benefits for our troops.

(8) Since the 103rd Congress, Representative McHugh has served on the Armed Services Committee of the House of Representatives and subsequently was appointed Chairman of the Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Panel before being appointed Chairman of the Military Personnel Subcommittee.

(9) Representative McHugh began serving on the United States Military Academy Board of Visitors in 1995, and he was appointed to the Board of Visitors by the Speaker of the House in 2007.

(10) In the 111th Congress, Representative McHugh was appointed Ranking Member of the Armed Services Committee of the House of Representatives by the Republican membership of the House of Representatives.

(11) On June 2, 2009, the President announced his intention to nominate Representative McHugh to serve as the Secretary of the Army.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Honorable John M. McHugh, Representative from New York, has served the House of Representatives and the American people selflessly and with distinction and that he deserves the sincere and humble gratitude of Congress and the Nation.

Mr. SKELTON (during the reading). I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be considered read.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the initial request of the gentleman from Missouri?

There was no objection.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 572 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. 2647.