



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 111th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 155

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2009

No. 127

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

Dean George Werner, Trinity Cathedral, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, offered the following prayer:

Gracious God, we meet in a challenging moment of Your history. We cannot control all that may endanger us, but we can choose our behavior and the example we set as leaders.

Facing overwhelming challenges, the signers of our Declaration of Independence pledged "their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor." In Romans, Paul, too, encourages us to "outdo one another in showing honor."

Please send Your Holy Spirit among us, strengthening our vision and courage to do right, especially when no one is watching. Not for just this great House, but for all levels of government; for all corporations, institutions and organizations; for financial, industrial, commercial, academic, military, including our religious and altruistic communities, which sadly have not been immune from dishonor; that our beloved country may continue to be a beacon of light to a troubled world, and that government for, by, and of the people shall not perish from the face of this Earth.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Florida (Mr. KLEIN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KLEIN of Florida 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.

HONORING THE VERY REVEREND GEORGE L.W. WERNER

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Pennsylvania, Congressman ALTMIRE, is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. ALTMIRE. Madam Speaker, it's my great honor to welcome the Very Reverend George L.W. Werner, who today serves as the guest chaplain for the United States House of Representatives.

As the dean emeritus of the historic Trinity Cathedral in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Dean George Werner has earned a special place in the hearts of Western Pennsylvania and especially the Episcopal Church. A well-known volunteer and leader in the community, Dean Werner is involved in countless community and civic organizations, including the Ireland Institute of Pittsburgh, the St. Margaret's Foundation, and the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, just to name a few.

And it's altogether fitting that by opening up today's House session in prayer, Dean Werner is the first person to stand at that center podium where President Obama stood last night to talk about the need for health care reform, because Dean Werner has literally made a career out of advocating for fairness for all of our citizens and helping those less fortunate.

It's my distinct honor and privilege to welcome to the House today my good friend, Dean George Werner.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to five further requests for 1-

minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

IF IT'S TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE, IT PROBABLY IS

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

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, last night the American people and many in this Chamber listened intently as President Obama made the case for major reform of our health care system. But I must admit I was dismayed, like a growing number of Americans, over the fact of what the President said—and what the Democratic leadership in Congress has already done in the form of H.R. 3200—simply doesn't add up.

We all remember the old saying that if it's too good to be true, it probably is. Last night, the President promised a plan that would insure more people, provide better coverage, and would cost less money. However, missing from that equation is one basic question: How are we really going to pay for all of this? Sadly, that's the \$900 billion question.

And when the President said that he won't sign a bill into law that adds one dime to the deficit, what he failed to say is this: You, the American people, are going to pay for these changes with more taxes and with cuts to popular programs like Medicare.

Republicans want to take this President at his word, but it would help if the details and the numbers added up with the rhetoric.

MIKE MCCARVILLE

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

Mr. BOREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 30th anniversary

☐ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., ☐ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

H9399

of an influential Oklahoma publication, the McCarville Report, and to acknowledge its author, Oklahoman Mike McCarville.

Born in Enid and later raised and schooled in Del City, Oklahoma, Mike has spent his entire professional life in the field of journalism. Throughout his 35-year career, Mike has written or contributed to almost every notable Oklahoma newspaper. However, it has been the very popular McCarville Report that has solidified his influence in Oklahoma politics and culture.

The McCarville Report provides daily insight into the policy positions and issues that face Oklahoma's elected officials. It is an important resource to me and to thousands of Oklahomans that read it every day.

Congratulations, Mike, on 30 years of providing Oklahomans with the McCarville Report. Your hard work does not go unnoticed.

NEW SPEECH, SAME PLAN

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

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, the President's speech in this Chamber last night was the 28th speech about the same old tired plan, and it totally ignored the facts. Rhetoric and empty promises are not going to solve the health care challenges Americans face. Americans have spoken in number and force against the same proposals the President endorsed last night.

Americans want health care reform that will not expand government intrusion into health care or undermine what works in our health care system today.

Contrary to the President's claim that Republicans have no solutions, I support H.R. 3400, the Republican solution: health reform that will expand coverage to those who need it regardless of preexisting conditions. It also expands insurance pools across State lines and encourages young, healthy people to buy insurance to bring down costs for everyone.

Individuals and small businesses can be encouraged to band together to purchase group health coverage for themselves or their employees, and we can save billions by limiting frivolous lawsuits against physicians that have driven many out of business altogether.

REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

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

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on Friday we mark a sober anniversary in the history of our Nation—the anniversary of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. As time has passed, our resolve has not faltered. We remain committed to rooting out terror and evil wherever it may hide and protecting our homeland against all who threaten our way of life.

I'm proud that, because of legislation we passed here in Congress and the President signed into law, September 11 is now a day of national service and remembrance. I encourage all Americans to spend time giving back to their communities to honor the spirit of service that unified our country and the world in the aftermath of the attacks.

Especially in these turbulent times, it is important to remember that no matter what our political party or what other things divide us, we are all Americans and we stand together in solemn reflection and steadfast commitment that we will never forget the innocent lives lost that day.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. AUSTRIA. Mr. Speaker, I spent the last months listening to my constituents throughout all eight counties in my district in Ohio about health care. Whether talking to my health care advisory committee, meeting with senior citizens, listening to soccer moms on the soccer field, or hosting a live townhall meeting, I heard loud and clear the concerns of the citizens of my district.

The American people are concerned about the proposed government-run option and the uncertainty of this bill. They want lower health care costs and are worried about being able to maintain their doctor-patient relationship. My father was a doctor, my mother was a nurse, and families across Ohio and our Nation deserve a health care system that maintains quality, lowers costs, and improves access.

Mr. Speaker, it's time for Congress to listen to the American people and work together to provide real solutions for these issues.

□ 1015

HONORING THE LIFE, SERVICE, AND SACRIFICE OF NORTH ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA, POLICE OFFICER RICHARD CRITTENDEN

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

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and public service of North St. Paul police officer Richard Crittenden who will be laid to rest tomorrow.

On Monday morning, Officer Crittenden was responding to a domestic dispute call. He was killed protecting a woman from a man who had repeatedly abused her. North St. Paul is a wonderful community of 11,000 people where I raised my children and served on the city council. To lose an officer in the line of duty is a tragedy for every resident. It is a tragedy for all of us.

On behalf of my constituents and all Minnesotans, I extend our prayers and deepest sympathies to Officer Crittenden's wife, Christine, his children and grandchildren. Their loss is tremendous. To the North St. Paul officials and residents and especially to the members of the police department, I extend my condolences at this time of great pain and loss.

Officer Crittenden gave the ultimate sacrifice, his life, in the line of duty. His service as a peace officer was always respected, but his courage and sacrifice make him a hero who shall be remembered and honored always.

HEALTH CARE REFORMS

(Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, last night the President spoke about health care. And despite what some may portray as big rifts, there is much room for agreement. And so I urge we work on these health care principles to get this job done. Everyone should have the choice to purchase in groups, the choice to purchase across the Nation competitively, the choice to have your plan portable and permanent across jobs, and the choice to purchase a basic plan that covers emergency and hospital care.

The President used the analogy of buying car insurance. But let's keep in mind that with auto insurance, you can buy a very basic liability plan and add to it if you choose. Keep health insurance very basic, and you can keep it very affordable. But there should be no choice to cut coverage because a person is sick or was sick at one time, and there should be no choice to have plans and hospitals that tolerate waste, fraud and inefficiency. This includes stopping hospital-based infections.

With these changes, we can make health care more affordable. With these changes we can supplement payments for lower cost, high-quality health insurance for those who cannot afford it, and that does not have to include the government running an insurance company. There's lots of room for agreement. Let's solve this problem for America. That's good medicine.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, we in this House of Representatives have the opportunity to participate and help shape history. Last night during the joint session, President Barack Obama was part of that great train of history of our Nation. He spoke in the great tradition of Teddy Roosevelt who first spoke about national health care, and Eleanor Roosevelt who talked about it, and Harry Truman who spoke 60 years ago from this well about that need in this Nation. And he spoke in the great