

lives. Dr. Stein's company is one of many across the United States working to prevent infections and improve American's quality of life.

ANTIBIOTICS REDUX: MEDICINES THAT CHANGE THE COURSE OF HISTORY

DATELINE: APRIL 1945. HILL 913, NORTHERN ITALY

The 22-year old second lieutenant didn't know if it was the machine gun, mortar round or artillery shell blast that got him. Ordered to take out the machine gun nest hidden in a mountaintop farmhouse all he recalled was that he was dragging his platoon's wounded radio operator to safety when he felt a searing pain in his upper back, then nothing. The platoon medic took one look at the wounded lieutenant, injected him with the maximum survivable dose of morphine, indicating this by marking the letter "M" on his forehead in his blood, then, assuming he would not survive his wounds, left to treat other wounded platoon members. Although his initial wounds, which included a damaged spine, an obliterated kidney and a mangled right arm did not kill him outright, the lieutenant was shipped home with little expectation he'd survive. His parents were called to his hospital bedside three separate times for a death vigil.

APRIL 1945. RUTGERS UNIVERSITY

Four-thousand miles west of Hill 913, 25-year-old graduate student Albert Schatz, having recently submitted his patent application for his discovery of the antibiotic Streptomycin, was trying to figure out how to make enough of it for human testing. Tests in guinea pigs showed that Streptomycin was safe and effective in the treatment of infections caused by gram-negative bacteria and *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. What motivated Schatz was that in the first half of the century bacterial infections—pneumonia, tuberculosis and blood stream infections—were the top three causes of death in the U.S. Wounded servicemen from World War II were especially prone to infections from gram-negative bacteria and the only other widely available antibiotic at the time, penicillin, was largely ineffective against these pathogens. As a child Schatz had experienced close friends dying of tuberculosis and as a medical bacteriologist stationed in an Army hospital in Florida during the early years of World War II, Private Schatz sat helplessly by the bedside of dying soldiers whose infections did not respond to penicillin or the experimental antibiotics then available. He was passionate and highly committed. Schatz produced Streptomycin from the soil bacterium *Streptomyces griseus* growing in 1-liter fermentation flasks running 24-hours a day in his basement laboratory at Rutgers. By the end of 1945 he had produced what he believed to be enough to treat one patient.

MARCH 1946. PERCY JONES ARMY HOSPITAL, BATTLE CREEK, MICHIGAN

The attending doctors had virtually encased the lieutenant's body in ice in a desperate attempt to lower his body temperature. His weakened immune system made him susceptible to infection and he had developed a severe lung infection that subsequently spread to his blood with resultant high fever. Massive doses of penicillin were ineffective. He was dying. Word of his condition made its way to Rutgers and Albert Schatz who subsequently rushed the first experimental dose of Streptomycin to Percy Jones Hospital to treat the lieutenant. The effects were nothing short of miraculous. The lieutenant's fever broke within 24 hours and his lung infection cleared within a week. He would survive. Later that year Streptomycin would go on to become the world's

first experimental medicine to be tested in a double blind, placebo controlled clinical trial—the gold standard in clinical research—where it was shown to be effective and safe for the treatment of TB.

The lieutenant's name? Bob Dole. Yes, that Bob Dole who would go on to become Senate Majority Leader and, in 1996, candidate for the Presidency of the United States.

TODAY.

What is instructive about this true story of how an antibiotic altered the course of history is that we are presently on a retrograde course back to the early 20th century with respect to the treatment of bacterial infections. In the five-year period from 1983 to 1987 there were 16 new antibiotics approved, whereas from 2008 to 2012 there were only two. At the same time, there is an explosive emergence of multidrug resistant bacteria that are rendering existing antibiotics largely ineffective. Combat veterans returning from the Middle East have been diagnosed with drug resistant strains of the gram-negative pathogen *Acinetobacter baumannii* for which there are virtually no treatment options. The multidrug resistant NDM-1 strain of *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, which initially emerged from India, has spread globally. One in three people in the world are infected with a dormant version of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* and a growing number of these, reported in 60 countries, have emerged as the highly virulent XDR-TB strain which is resistant to both first- and second-line TB therapies and can only be treated with a multiyear regimen of toxic drugs. Indeed, today's situation would likely ignite the same sense of urgency in Albert Schatz that he felt in 1945.

Fortunately, we have passionate and committed contemporary versions of Albert Schatz working to develop new antibiotics. Because of the enormous capital requirements and complex regulatory pathway for antibiotics, however, these individuals are now largely found in small biotech companies where the truly innovative antibiotics are currently being developed. It is unclear which, if any, of these companies will succeed in delivering critically needed medicines to the market. As drug resistant bacterial pathogens continue to proliferate, regulatory headwinds and market dynamics have made antibiotic development extremely challenging. While it is encouraging that this disconnect is receiving growing recognition and action amongst regulatory authorities, these small antibiotics companies, such as Trius Therapeutics where I am CEO, wait to see whether these regulatory incentives, such as the GAIN Act recently passed by Congress, can be implemented in time to make the development of new antibiotics clinically feasible and financially tractable. It will certainly be a race in which the outcome could alter the course of history and yes, save lives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 31, 2012

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent on December 30, 2012 and missed rollcall votes 649 through 651. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall votes 649, 650, and 651.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF ELIZABETH COX

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 31, 2012

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Elizabeth Cox of Summit, New Jersey. Betty gave her life to public service in New Jersey and her contributions will long be remembered.

Betty was elected to the New Jersey General Assembly in 1972 to serve an unexpired term. Betty would continue four decades of public service as a founding member of the Women's Political Caucus, as a master poll worker for the Union County Board of Elections, as a staff member in the Department of Community Affairs and as an officer in the Summit, Union County and New Jersey Republican Committees.

Betty will be remembered as a dedicated public servant, a parliamentarian and a champion of women's issues. I was honored to call Betty a friend and colleague.

PAUL KRUGMAN AND THE ECONOMIC CASE FOR FAIRNESS

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 31, 2012

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, Paul Krugman has consistently and articulately defended programs that are essential for the quality of life for our most vulnerable residents, and exposed the flawed morality and impaired logic of those who seek to use the existence of a large national debt as an argument for exacerbating inequality in the United States. His column for Monday, December 31 is an excellent example of this, and I hope all Members will pay attention to its message.

BREWING UP CONFUSION

(By Paul Krugman)

Howard Schultz, the C.E.O. of Starbucks, has a reputation as a good guy, a man who supports worthy causes. And he presumably thought he would add to that reputation when he posted an open letter urging his employees to promote fiscal bipartisanship by writing "Come together" on coffee cups.

In reality, however, all he did was make himself part of the problem. And his letter was actually a very good illustration of the forces that created the current mess.

In the letter, Mr. Schultz warned that elected officials "have been unable to come together and compromise to solve the tremendously important, time-sensitive issue to fix the national debt," and suggested that readers further inform themselves at the Web site of the organization Fix the Debt. Let's parse that, shall we?

First of all, it's true that we face a time-sensitive issue in the form of the fiscal cliff: unless a deal is reached, we will soon experience a combination of tax increases and spending cuts that might push the nation back into recession. But that prospect doesn't reflect a failure to "fix the debt" by reducing the budget deficit—on the contrary, the danger is that we'll cut the deficit too fast.

How could someone as well connected as Mr. Schultz get such a basic point wrong? By

talking to the wrong people—in particular, the people at Fix the Debt, who've been doing their best to muddle the issue. For example, in a new fund-raising letter Maya MacGuineas, the organization's public face, writes of the need to "make hard decisions when it comes to averting the 'fiscal cliff' and stabilizing our national debt"—even though the problem with the fiscal cliff is precisely that it stabilizes the debt too soon. Clearly, Ms. MacGuineas was trying to confuse readers on that point, and she apparently confused Mr. Schultz too.

More about Fix the Debt in a moment. Before I get there, however, let's move on to Mr. Schultz's misdiagnosis of the political problem we face.

Look, it's true that elected politicians have been unable to "come together and compromise." But saying that in generic form, and implying a symmetry between Republicans and Democrats, isn't just misleading, it's actively harmful.

The reality is that President Obama has made huge concessions. He has already cut spending sharply, and has now offered additional big spending cuts, including a cut in Social Security benefits, while signaling his willingness to retain many of the Bush tax cuts, even for people with very high incomes. Taken as a whole, the president's proposals are arguably to the right of those made by Erskine Bowles and Alan Simpson, the co-chairmen of his deficit commission, in 2010.

In return, the Republicans have offered essentially nothing. Oh, they say they're willing to increase revenue by closing loopholes—but they've refused to specify a single loophole they're willing to close. So if there's a breakdown in negotiations, the blame rests entirely with one side of the political divide.

Given that reality, think about the effect when people like Mr. Schultz respond by blaming both sides equally. They may sound virtuously nonpartisan, but what they're actually doing is rewarding intransigence and extremism—which, in the current context, means siding with the G.O.P.

I'm willing to believe that Mr. Schultz doesn't know what he's doing. The same can't be said, however, about Fix the Debt.

You might not know it reading some credulous reporting, but Fix the Debt isn't some kind of new gathering of concerned citizens. On the contrary, it's just the latest addition to a group of deficit-scoold shops supported by billionaire Peter Peterson, a group ranging from think tanks like the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget to the newspaper *The Fiscal Times*. The main difference seems to be that this gathering of the usual suspects is backed by an impressive amount of corporate cash.

Like all the Peterson-funded groups, Fix the Debt seems much more concerned with cutting Social Security and Medicare than with fighting deficits in general—and also not nearly as nonpartisan as it pretends to be. In its list of "core principles," it actually calls for lower tax rates—a very peculiar position for people supposedly horrified by the budget deficit. True, the group calls for revenue increases via unspecified base broadening, that is, closing loopholes. But that's unrealistic. And it's also, as you may have noticed, the Republican position.

What's happening now is that all the Peterson-funded groups are trying to exploit the fiscal cliff to push a benefit-cutting agenda that has nothing to do with the current crisis, using artfully deceptive language—as in that MacGuineas letter—to hide the bait and switch.

Mr. Schultz apparently fell for the con. But the rest of us shouldn't.

HONORING VERNE D. RIDER

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 31, 2012

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of a man I have had the distinct privilege of serving with during my time representing the people of Pennsylvania's 8th District, Verne D. Rider.

With the conclusion of this 112th Congress, Verne will be retiring for the fourth time, but I am sure it will not be his last.

Albert Einstein once claimed that "a life lived in service to others is worth living." If Mr. Einstein is correct, Verne Rider's continued life of service to his country is an example to each of us a life worth living.

When his country called him for the first time, Verne dedicated himself to decades of honorable service in the United States Air Force. During his proud military career, Verne flew missions over the fields of Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War and the deserts of the Middle East as part of operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield.

To this day, Verne always takes note of when he or one of his co-workers is dressed in their "Air Force Blue". A true patriot, Verne's service in the Air Force is just one example of his drive to serve others in any way he can.

Upon retiring from his time in the military, Verne recognized an opportunity to continue his service, this time in the name of his fellow veterans, including those who found themselves homeless and in need.

As a generation of military men and women reaches retirement age, some find themselves in need of assistance and guidance through a complex and often frustrating bureaucratic VA Benefits system.

When I began putting together my office staff for my first term in Congress I could think of no one better than Verne Rider to provide 8th District veterans with the help they needed. Whether that help comes in the form of a phone call to the VA, a letter to a federal agency, or often times just a shoulder to lean on, Verne is always ready and willing to do his best for his fellow veterans.

During those first two years, Verne became a staple of the veteran community in my home of Bucks County, and was known across the district as a true friend to veterans.

Between my terms in Congress, Verne insisted on continuing his service to his brothers in arms, and was able to fulfill a similar role for the late Senator Arlen Specter.

I was fortunate enough to have Verne return to office with me for the 112th Congress and everywhere I go, the veterans of my district remind me how lucky I am to have someone like Verne Rider on my staff.

While Verne's retirement from my office for the second time marks an immediate loss to our organization, I have no doubt that this will not be the last we see of Verne in service to our country.

I know this because I am able to share one of my proudest achievements as a member of Congress with Verne. Together, with the efforts of local leaders and allies in Washington, Verne and I were able to bring a national cemetery to Bucks County, providing our veterans with a final resting place on the historic

grounds of Washington Crossing, Pennsylvania.

Verne's continued work with the Guardians of the Washington Crossing National Cemetery will keep him firmly fixed in his position as a community leader.

After a lifetime of service to his country and its veterans, Verne will continue to dedicate himself fully to the most important role of his life as a loving husband, proud father and new grandfather.

On behalf of myself, my staff, and the people of Pennsylvania's 8th Congressional District, I extend my sincerest gratitude to Verne D. Rider for his decades of service to his country and to our community.

We are all looking forward to seeing where your drive to serve others takes you next.

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 31, 2012

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because in the coming week, most of us will sit down to a holiday meal with our families, friends, and loved ones.

And most of us will take this meal for granted.

But for 46 million Americans who rely on nutrition assistance, this holiday meal is not a guarantee.

The vast majority—more than 85 percent—of these 46 million Americans are living in households making less than \$22,000 for a family of four.

And of those 46 million, half are children, and three-quarters are households that include an elderly person, a disabled person, or children.

For these millions of families, food is not a certainty, and they struggle each day to make ends meet.

Sadly, due to the recession, an increasing number of Americans have lost their jobs and been forced to turn to the supplemental nutrition assistance program, or SNAP.

As the number of unemployed Americans increased 94 percent between 2007 and 2011, SNAP increased as well, rising 70 percent to meet demand.

At the food pantries in my district, pantry visits have increased between 8 and 30 percent from last year. While the economy is improving, the number of individuals in need of assistance is still elevated.

Rather than cutting food assistance right now, we should be bolstering it.

Unfortunately, some members of this body have targeted food assistance, arguing it should be cut to balance the budget and avert cuts to defense.

The Ryan budget proposed cutting SNAP by \$133 billion.

A cut of this magnitude would cut almost 10 million people off from food aid, or would result in a benefit cut of \$90 per month for a family of four.

For a family with a net monthly income of \$338—the average for most SNAP households—a \$90 cut would be devastating.

I agree with my colleagues on the other side of the aisle: We must reduce the deficit.