

interests and enabling them to continue to profit from the harm they are imposing on our oceans and on our atmosphere.

It would be nice if the laws of government could supersede the laws of nature. It would be nice if we could repeal the laws of physics, the laws of chemistry, the laws of biology, but we can't. It is arrogance to presume we could. The fact of what the carbon pollution is doing to our world can be denied in this Chamber, it can be denied down the hall in the House of Representatives all day long and all night long, and it is not going to change the result. It is actually only recently that there was a denial industry attacking the problem of climate change and trying to minimize it, trying to mock it, trying to distract people from it.

In the past, the denial industry was pointed elsewhere. In the past, the denial industry was supporting the tobacco companies in convincing people it wasn't that bad for them. The science isn't complete yet. Don't worry. There is still doubt.

It deployed itself against lead. When the dangers of lead paint became known, the denial industry went to bat for the lead industry. It denied that lead was very poisonous, said it only happened to very poor people, went through all their rigmarole. The same process: create doubt about a scientific concern in order to prevent action being taken to protect people. Now they have turned on carbon pollution.

But before they turned from tobacco and lead to carbon pollution, it was pretty well accepted how basic this science is. The first scientist to determine that carbon dioxide would have the effect of warming the atmosphere if its concentration increased was a scientist named Tyndall. I think he was Irish and wrote in England in 1865. Around the time of the Civil War, this was discovered.

By the year I was born, in 1955, there are basic texts that describe that the more carbon pollution we put into the air, the more it traps heat, the warmer the climate gets.

It is virtually indisputable what is happening to the oceans. We are not talking projections. We are not talking estimates. We are talking measurements, and the measurements show the acidity of our oceans and the increase in acidification is happening faster than it has in 3 million years. The extent of the carbon dioxide in our atmosphere now, measured, is outside of a bound that has been maintained on the surface of our planet for 800,000 years—8,000 centuries. That is a long time. We have only been farming as a species for about 10,000 years. So 800,000 takes us way back to a very primitive species. Through all that time, we have been in this bandwidth of carbon in our atmosphere and now we are out of it. We are flying out of it, and it is getting worse all the time.

Instead of taking it seriously in this building, we are listening to the siren

song of the big-money polluters, as if the laws of government, the laws of Congress could repeal the laws of nature that we know—the laws of physics, the laws of chemistry, the laws of biology that are causing this to happen.

I appreciate very much the Presiding Officer, the junior Senator from Minnesota, having been so energetic and helpful in continuing to bring this thought to the Senate floor. I think we had an effective and important colloquy on the floor several weeks ago discussing this very point. I think it is important that from time to time we stand and remind our colleagues that there is a truth to this matter. The truth is that we are releasing unprecedented, massive amounts of carbon pollution into our atmosphere that, as a matter of science, the laws of physics, warm the atmosphere, and that warming atmosphere creates dramatic changes in our weather, in our coasts, in our sea levels. Our coasts are probably going to be hit the hardest of any place, and Rhode Island is a coastal State.

The ocean absorbs the pollution, so the harm is not just in the atmosphere and to the climate, it is to the ocean itself as its pH level changes from the absorption of carbon. Nobody doubts that the ocean absorbs carbon. There is no credible debate on that. You can measure the ocean's pH.

It is important that every once in a while we tell the truth on this because the time is coming very close when it will be past the tipping point of taking the action we need to take to protect ourselves, protect our coasts, our economy, our national security.

I wanted to take this moment as the week ended to come and share my thoughts again on this subject. I will continue to do it from time to time because I think it is important that America be a country that tells the truth about problems, and I think it is important that Rhode Island, as an ocean State, be as protected as we can from the changes we see coming.

The IPCC just reported on the weather effects of climate change and said that you cannot assign a particular storm to the effects of climate change, but in various areas you can connect the threat to climate change with varying degrees of certainty. With respect to the threat from sea-level rise and from worsened storms driving that raised sea ashore and causing flooding and damage, the certainty range was 90 to 100 percent. If we are not going to listen to warnings that the scientists now tell us are 90 to 100 percent certain, we are really making a grievous mistake.

I will conclude by thanking the Presiding Officer again for his support and help. I hope the time comes when this body can actually treat this problem in a serious and sober way and the dark hand of the polluting industry tapping on our shoulders and whispering in our ears and telling us what we can and

cannot say is pushed back and instead we stand in the light of day, in the light of science and fact, and behave responsibly about the changes that are coming and our role in causing these changes.

I see the distinguished Senator from Georgia in the Chamber, and I yield the floor.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO FURMAN BISHER

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, next week the annual Masters Tournament will begin in Augusta, GA. It is a beautiful time of the year in our part of the world, and certainly Augusta is a little piece of Heaven, particularly this time of year.

As that tournament begins next week, there is going to be a sad note in the air because of the fact that Furman Bisher, a giant in the world of journalism, a man who has covered the Masters for the last 50 or so years, died last week at his home in Atlanta. He died at the age of 93 and passed away peacefully in his home after a storied career as one of the Nation's foremost sports writers. It was a career that lasted an astonishing 60 years.

After nearly six decades of elegant observations of the sports world for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Furman pecked out his final column before his October 2009 retirement on the thinning keys of his trusty Royal typewriter. His choice of instrument to convey his thoughts in this age of instantaneous, inane chatter says a lot about why newspaper readers after so many years continued to seek out Furman's Bisher's column in the AJC's sports pages.

It all came down to this: Furman's graceful prose, courtly voice and sharp observations were unfailingly backed up by old-fashioned shoe-leather reporting. He gloried in doing his homework, making that extra call, interviewing one more player or assistant coach or trainer, in order to breathe even more life into the game or the race or the fight for his readers.

It's also why Furman became a Georgia—and an American—institution. Simply put, Furman loved sports. And he loved journalism. At age 90, he was still driving out on summer nights to cover minor-league ballgames.

In his career, Furman scored many journalistic knockouts, including a 1949 interview with Shoeless Joe Jackson—the only one Jackson ever gave—regarding his involvement in the 1919 Black Sox scandal.

He got stock tips from Ty Cobb and watched Jack Nicklaus' 1986 Masters

victory. He sat in the press box at countless Falcons games at Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium and covered the Olympics, both winter and summer. He even had a hand in bringing professional sports teams to Atlanta.

He wrote 11 books, including co-authoring two editions of a Hank Aaron autobiography. And at The Masters Tournament in Augusta every April, Furman reigned among the azaleas and oaks as the dean of the sports press corps.

In a testament to his longevity in a tough business, until his retirement, Furman covered every Kentucky Derby since 1950, and every Super Bowl but the first one.

He even branched out into TV. Although I did not grow up in Atlanta, I have heard from many people that preachers across the city would cut sermons short so that their congregations could be home for Furman's kickoff on "Football Review."

Along the way, he earned the respect of his colleagues and the loyalty of his readers, garnering writing awards too numerous to mention. He served as president of the National Sportscasters and Sportswriters Association from 1974–1976, and of the Football Writers Association of America from 1959–1960. His features appeared in *The Saturday Evening Post*, *Golf Digest* and *Sports Illustrated*, to name but a few.

In 1961, *Time* magazine named him one of the five best columnists in the Nation. I would argue that that honor fit until the very end.

No less than the great Jack Nicklaus said of Furman's retirement: He might be turning in his last column for the newspaper, but Furman will never stop writing or giving his opinion. I guess you could say that when it comes to the last writings of Furman Bisher, I will believe it when I don't see it.

Furman would close every column with a single valediction—the word "selah"—a Hebrew word that ends many Psalms and that exhorts the reader to reflect.

It is appropriate, then, to reflect on Furman's long, fruitful life and career, one that began in Atlanta as the Korean War was starting, when Joe Louis was still boxing, when the Minneapolis Lakers were the NBA champs, before Willie Mays had joined the major leagues and before *Sports Illustrated* magazine even existed.

In all the ensuing years, Furman chronicled the triumphs and the travails of the sports world and its often-all-too-human heroes. As Furman would say, "Selah."

I am thankful for Furman Bisher. I am pleased to have been the recipient of reading many of his articles through the years and also very proud to have called him a very good friend over the years. He was a gentleman who will be missed for his professional career as well as just being a great person and a great individual.

HEALTH CARE

Mr. CHAMBLISS. The political world this week has been focused on the U.S. Supreme Court and the arguments that have taken place over there with respect to what has been referred to as *ObamaCare*.

I rise today to discuss how the 2-year-old health care law is forcing more government intrusion into the lives of Americans.

After all, what could be more intrusive than the Federal Government telling you the type of health care coverage you must purchase? "Purchase this product or face a penalty."

With this law, I believe the American people have recognized that Congress has exceeded its constitutional authority. Just this week, a poll conducted by The Hill found that 49 percent of likely voters believe that the Supreme Court will rule against the constitutionality of the health care law, while only 29 percent believe it will be upheld. The American people have to ask themselves whether we should be able to punish citizens based whether they purchase a product from the private sector.

The Commerce Clause only allows the Federal Government to regulate "existing activity" that affects interstate commerce. I hope this distinction will be recognized by our justices on the Supreme Court. With no end in sight to escalating health care costs, Republicans want to see innovation within the private sector to bring about changes to our health care system. Today, Medicare and Medicaid are running up our national debt and bankrupting our states. One would think less government involvement, not more, would help bring health care costs under control. Instead, the health care law builds on this administration's desire to have the Federal Government control Americans' health care decisions. To this end, the Obama administration has created 159 new boards, bureaucracies and programs under *ObamaCare*.

As of this month, the administration has released more than 12,000 pages of regulations related to the law. The secretary of Health and Human Services will have the power to make more than 1,700 rulings affecting Americans and the health care they seek. Time and time again, my colleagues and I have warned that adding more red tape and bureaucratic oversight that will affect the relationship between you and your doctor is not the prescription Americans are looking for.

We want to protect the relationship between the patient and physician. Consultation between the patient and the physician should be the determining factor in what procedures that patient chooses, not someone who sits on a panel in Washington, DC.

However, this may well be the case as the health care law concentrates power in the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force. This is the same task force that in November 2009 recommended that

women between the ages of 40 and 49 no longer obtain annual mammograms. These are the types of recommendations that Washington bureaucrats could make in the future. I especially understand the importance of early detection of cancer, having been there myself, and will fight to see that individuals, through the recommendations of their doctors, are in charge of determining their own health care procedures.

Throughout the debate 2 years ago we constantly heard from folks on the other side of the aisle that if you liked your health care coverage, you could keep it. Well, guess what. According to the latest CBO estimates, you can ask 5 million people who will see their employer-sponsored health care end in 2016 whether they had the opportunity to keep what they like.

Further, the incentives for employers to drop their coverage and move employees onto a taxpayer-subsidized plan means we could see up to 35 million Americans lose their current coverage over the first 10 years of implementation of this law.

Washington is now in the business of reducing the flexibility of consumer-driven health care policies such as health savings accounts and flexible spending arrangements. Congress created health savings accounts to allow health care consumers who wish to participate in the program more control over their own money and how they choose to spend that money for health care services. Now contributions to these arrangements will be limited to \$2,500 per year, and over-the-counter medications will require a prescription if they are purchased within these tax-free dollars. This is already leading to doctors having to fill out more paperwork so an individual can walk into a drugstore to purchase aspirin or cold medicine. Yet again this is another glaring example of bureaucratic meddling in the lives of American consumers.

Small businesses are also feeling the intrusive effects of *ObamaCare*. In the most recent survey of small businesses by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, an astounding 74 percent of small business owners surveyed said the health care law makes it harder for businesses to hire more employees. Think about that for a moment. Three out of four small business owners are having difficulty hiring because of the uncertainty of health care costs.

Finally, our States are also feeling the heavy hand of more government control. The Medicaid expansion that begins in 2014 will make it increasingly difficult for State leaders to balance their budgets due to strict maintenance of effort requirements. These requirements prevent States from designing health care programs specifically tailored for their own citizens.

Medicaid currently consumes about one-quarter of State budgets and *ObamaCare* creates the largest expansion of the program since its inception.