

His words ring very true to us, Mr. Speaker, as we again commemorate the Armenian genocide.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. COYNE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. COYNE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### PROPOSED SETTLEMENT FOR TOBACCO CONTROVERSY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. WHITFIELD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, last summer, State attorneys general, representatives of health care groups, representatives from the White House, and the tobacco industry met to see if they could come up with a settlement of a tobacco controversy regarding teenage smoking.

After many hard hours of negotiation, and in fact, many days of negotiation, an agreement was reached, and the tobacco companies agreed that they would pay the sum of \$368 billion every 25 years forever. In addition, they said that they would allow and agree that a health care agency, a third party, would set targets to reduce teenage smoking by a certain percent each year. If that target was not reached, the industry would pay \$80 million for every one percentage point that the target was not met.

In addition, the industry agreed that it would pay \$5 billion annually into a trust fund to take care of any court judgments obtained against the industry. In addition, the industry agreed that they would allow the Food and Drug Administration to regulate the tobacco industry, going far beyond the FDA regulations proposed by former FDA Commissioner David Kessler, in fact, going much further than had ever been recommended before. They agreed also that they would waive their constitutional right to advertise their product.

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In addition they agreed, and this is really almost unheard of because every citizen in America has a right to petition the government, to lobby the government, but the industry agreed that they would also ban and eliminate the Tobacco Institute which was their lobbying arm.

They also agreed that, like today, any individual that is harmed by using a tobacco product would have the right to continue to sue the tobacco industry to obtain damages for any injuries that they suffered.

And so the health care groups, the State attorneys general, the White House, all of those groups received exactly what they wanted from the industry.

Now what did the industry want in return?

Well the industry said that they would simply like to have settled the 40 State lawsuits brought by State attorneys general under an innovative new legal theory of reimbursing States for Medicaid costs that they expended in treating Medicaid beneficiaries who received damages from using tobacco products, and that was agreed to. They said, "Okay, we'll settle these lawsuits, and some of the \$368 billion that the industry is going to pay every 25 years forever will go to the States."

And so everyone left that settlement, and President Clinton said it was a great settlement, Vice President GORE said it was a great settlement, the tobacco industries were satisfied, the health care industries were satisfied, and even FDA Commissioner Kessler said that it represents the single most fundamental change in the history of tobacco control in any Nation of the world.

But yet when the bill started moving through the Senate, the administration changed their views, the health care industry changed their views, David Kessler changed his view, and they became greedy, to put it very bluntly. They wanted more. They had this industry on the run; they wanted more. And so I think they lost sight of the original goal, to reduce teenage smoking. They now wanted to punish an industry.

And under the McCain bill the \$368 billion that the industry agreed to pay every 25 years forever went to \$506 billion every 25 years forever. If the industry missed the targeted reduction, instead of paying \$80 million per percentage point, they now under the McCain bill would be paying \$240 million. And then, furthermore, the one thing that the industry received from it, immunity from these State lawsuits, they lost.

So it is not surprising that the tobacco industry said we are going to walk away from this agreement, and who could blame them really, because if the goal is to reduce teenage smoking there was plenty of money there. There was plenty of money to initiate programs to help teenagers reduce smoking. But as I said, people became greedy and they wanted to punish this industry, and so the whole thing has fallen apart.

And I would suggest to you today that the real problem facing teenagers is more the use of illegal drugs than tobacco.

I hope that we can retain some common sense and approach this problem to solve it, and I look forward to working with others in that effort.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. BARRETT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. MORELLA addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### DO NOT FORGET ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, like many of my colleagues, I rise today to remember the Armenian genocide of 83 years ago. We are asked why it is so important that we come to this floor and remember. We must remember to make sure that it never happens again, and we must remember because there is an organized effort to force us and convince us to forget.

Let us look back at the historical record. The American Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire was an eyewitness in 1919, and he recounts his discussion with Turkish authorities. He says in his memoirs, "When the Turkish authorities gave the orders for these deportations they were merely giving the death warrant to an entire race. They understood this well and in their conversations with me made no particular attempt to conceal this fact."

He went on to describe what he saw at the Euphrates River, and he said, as our eyes and ears in the Ottoman Empire in the year 1919 as a representative of the American government, "I have by no means told the most terrible details, for a complete narration of the sadistic orgies of which they, Armenian men and women, are victims can never be printed in an American publication. Whatever crimes the most perverted instincts of the human mind can devise, whatever refinements of persecution and injustice the most debased imagination can conceive, became the daily misfortune of the Armenian people."

As other speakers have pointed out, the first genocide of this century laid the foundation for the second genocide, and as a Jewish American I can never forget that 8 days before he invaded Poland Adolf Hitler turned to his inner circle and said, "Who today remembers the extermination of the Armenians?" The impunity with which the Turkish Government acted in annihilating the Armenian people emboldened Adolf Hitler to carry out the holocaust of the Jewish people.

And yet today there is an organized effort to expunge from our memory this genocide, and the focus is on the elites and academia.

I am a proud graduate of UCLA, and I would like to tell you a short story about my alma mater, for earlier this year and late last year UCLA considered the offer of over \$1 million from the Turkish government, \$1 million to be used to study Ottoman history, and

it is important indeed that we study the history and culture and language of Turkey. But this \$1 million gift came with strings attached, strings designed to make sure that the person who sat in that chair at UCLA would be a person selected by the Turkish Government to begin the process of covering up and concealing the Armenian genocide.

Now I am proud of many things at UCLA. I was there when Bill Walton led us to an NCAA championship. But I was never prouder of my alma mater than when UCLA said "no" to the \$1 million. And now that same \$1 million is being floated in front of the University of California at Berkeley and other institutions. I hope that academic institutions from one coast to the other will join in unison in saying America's academic integrity is not for sale; \$1 million, \$10 million will not buy the prestige of American universities and enlist them in the goal of denying the Armenian genocide.

Likewise, it is time for the State Department to go beyond shallow, hollow reminders and remembrances of this day and to use the word "genocide" in describing the genocide of the Armenian people at the hands of the Ottoman Turks.

You know the United States plays a unique role in the world today. Never before in history has a single Nation not only been the sole superpower but then accepted by all the other nations in the world as the sole superpower. We hold that position uncontested because other nations have allowed us. They have not joined in some sort of anti-American alliance but rather are happy to see America as the world's superpower. Why? Because our foreign policy is guided by morality.

Mr. Speaker, never again, never forget.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SMITH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SMITH of Michigan addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### REMEMBERING THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROGAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Speaker, Haig Baronian of Glendale, California in my district can recite history like few historians can. He has lived it. Last year he told the Daily News of Los Angeles that he had seen his mother pulled away, never to be seen again. The story he has to tell is like those echoed in history books, college classrooms and town halls across the Nation. However, he did not live in Bosnia, Uganda, Cambodia or Nazi Germany. As a child Haig lived in Armenia.

Between 1915 and 1923 over 1 million Armenians, who had inhabited their homeland since the time of Christ, were displaced, deported, tortured and killed at the hands of the Ottoman Empire. Families were split, homes were destroyed, lives were torn apart. In the years since, officials from what is now Turkey have dismissed these charges as a mere civil war. But men like Mr. Baronian tell a different tale, and today I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering his family and his neighbors, and to seek justice so that future generations will never again face tragedy at the hands of their own government.

Mr. Speaker, as their friends and family were killed before them, nearly a million managed to escape and build new lives in the United States. Of these, nearly 100,000 Armenians now live in the Los Angeles area. What is inspiring to me is witnessing their climb from tragedy to triumph as dedicated, informed and prosperous members of our community. And while the story of Armenians in America is truly a success story, an injustice to friends, neighbors and to history still remains.

Every April 24 we in Congress gather to recognize the contributions of Armenian Americans and to remember the Armenian genocide. As we look to a new century we must be mindful of our dual obligation both to diplomacy and to justice. Like my colleagues, I rise today in the interests of justice, to call on humanity to put to rest one of the darkest episodes in history.

Mr. Speaker, for 10 years the Ottoman Empire tried to strip the Armenian people of their dignity, their property and their lives. What they failed to do was rob them of their soul and their will to survive and prosper.

In recognition of Haig Baronian and his fellow Armenians, both at home and abroad, who suffered at the hands of the Ottomans, I ask my colleagues to join me and for Congress to commit itself to the interest of justice and to the cause of peace. I ask that we remember the past so, as we have been warned before, we shall not be condemned to repeat it.

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The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GILCHREST addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### TRIBUTE TO NANCY OSTER, BARBIE DEUTSCH AND THE BREAST RESOURCE CENTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mrs. CAPPS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a very brave woman from my district, Nancy Oster,

and to a very special organization, the Breast Resource Center.

Nancy Oster is a survivor of breast cancer. As a survivor, she is an example and a symbol of courage and persistence. She was determined to do something about that life-changing event called breast cancer.

Another example of resolve and bravery, Barbie Deutsch, is in the gallery today. She is from my district, and I am honored to be speaking in her presence.

A few weeks ago, Nancy Oster came to visit me here in Washington while she was attending the celebration of survivors in conjunction with the Race For The Cure. Seeing her here, I was once again struck by her bravery and her caring nature, and energized by her commitment to the unique breast cancer collaborative community project that has emerged in Santa Barbara. And I want to pay tribute to that effort.

Nancy Oster is President of the Board of the Breast Resource Center of Santa Barbara. This organization came about after a group of women diagnosed with the disease found it very difficult to obtain critical and objective information.

Ideally, they wanted a friendly place where anyone impacted by a breast cancer diagnosis could come and find information about local and national resources, and also find access to what they described as a breast cancer grapevine. People who are willing to listen, to share experiences, and to offer a reassuring hand.

Their brainstorming session took place in 1996. Just 1 year later, the dreams of these courageous women came to fruition and the Santa Barbara Breast Resource Center was born. A cottage on Pueblo Street is the home for this special organization in Santa Barbara.

I have been at the cottage, and it is indeed a warm and inviting place. There is a pot of chicken soup on the stove; there is a little garden outside; there is access to the Internet. There are many books and pamphlets, comfortable couches, and most of all, caring and concerned people.

Dr. Susan Love, its medical director of the Breast Cancer Institute in Santa Barbara, serves as honorary chair of the Breast Resource Center. She was the driving force in the formation of this group, and in her words, information is power, which helps to dispel the fear and vulnerability of a breast cancer diagnosis. The Breast Resource Center provides the Santa Barbara community the access to that power.

The central coast of California is unique in that we have so much and such easily accessible support for those battling this disease. I hold Santa Barbara up as a model for communities all around the country. It provides wonderful resources for women who often feel like they have nowhere else to turn.