

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, the Saudis this past week expressed a sincere concern about an anti-American backlash if we start bombing Baghdad. We should not ignore the feelings of the Saudis. If a neighbor can oppose this bombing, we should be very cautious.

In the next week or two, we may have a resolution coming to this floor endorsing the bombing and, in essence, allowing for a declaration of war. Saddam Hussein does not pose any threat to our national security. We should be going very cautiously. Bombing might cause some accident regarding biological warfare. It may cause an irrational act by Saddam Hussein with one of his neighbors. It is bound to kill innocent lives, innocent civilians in Iraq. It could kill many American flyers as well. It costs a lot of money.

And even if we do kill Hussein, what do we do? We create a vacuum, a vacuum that may be filled by Iran. It may be filled by some other groups of Islamic fundamentalists.

There is no real benefit to pursuing this. Our own military has said this is like putting on a show. It is political, not a military operation.

□ 1015

PATIENT BILL OF RIGHTS

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, there is a bipartisan coalition formed in Congress to pass a patient bill of rights to curb abuses from health maintenance organizations, from HMOs. This bill would give people the right to know all their medical options, not just the cheapest: the right to choose the doctor they wanted for the care they need, the right to emergency room care wherever and whenever one needs it, and the right to keep medical records confidential.

A majority of Congress, almost all the Democrats and a fairly large number of Republicans, support the bill. So what is the problem? The problem is Speaker GINGRICH, Republican leadership in this House, Republican leadership in the other body and the insurance industry. Not so long ago there was a memo passed around from one of the top Republican leaders in the other body talking about opposing this legislation and he said, quote, get off your butt, get off your wallets. He talked about spending money and raising money from insurance companies, spending that money to defeat this bipartisan legislation. Again, Mr. Speaker, it is the right thing to do. It is too bad the Republican leadership will not get out of the way and let the House pass it.

THE COMPREHENSIVE HOLOCAUST ACCOUNTABILITY IN INSURANCE MEASURE

(Mr. FOLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, during the Second World War and the years preceding it, life insurance companies throughout Europe sold numerous policies to Jews and other minorities worth an average of 400 deutsche marks. As the Nazis seized power and began their anti-Semitic practices, laws were passed to deprive the Jews of their property. In fact a 1933 German law confiscated the property of Jews who emigrated to escape the Nazis. But with sickening irony, Jews who were forcibly deported to the Nazi death camps were considered emigrants, and their property, including any life insurance policies, was confiscated according to German law.

At the war's end death camp survivors and the heirs of those who perished attempted to collect on the life insurance policies that were due. But because many policies had been paid out to the Nazis or because of the companies' unwillingness to pay out the claims, there was no money for the rightful heirs.

Over the years much of the insurance companies' collusion with the Nazis became evident. Some companies attempted a small amount of restitution, but the vast amount of money owed the Holocaust survivors has never been paid.

I have crafted a bill to help these Holocaust victims get restitution.

The Comprehensive Holocaust Accountability in Insurance Measure will prohibit foreign insurance companies and their American subsidiaries from conducting business in the United States or conducting business with a United States bank unless the insurance company fully discloses all financial dealings they have with individuals who are known to have survived or perished during the Holocaust years. Today survivors and surviving heirs are still struggling to regain their property.

I urge Members to cosponsor this bill.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, today our Republican friends are talking about naming airports. What America should really be concerned about is the "NAMing" of our airports. That is right, NAM, the National Association of Manufacturers, is having a corporate fly-in today.

The corporate jets line the runways out at the airport here in Washington, and the special interests fill this Capitol. And what is it all about? They are heeding the cry of the Republican Party to come to Washington and block a consumer bill of rights for health care consumers who are enrolled in managed care: the right to see your own doctor, the right to be able to go

to the emergency room without having to ask someone's permission, the right to hold accountable some insurance plan that denies you access to health care, the right of all Americans to begin to do what Texans can already do, and that is to hold accountable these managed health care plans.

But NAM and the Republican Party, they have the NAM slam of this plan. It is really a NAM scam. It is a scam to deny the American people the rights they should have as health care consumers.

HONORING RONALD REAGAN

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

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Speaker, I would remind my good friend, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT) that the last time a slew of corporate jets converged upon Washington, DC, those executives were not filling the Capitol. I believe they were filling the Lincoln bedroom.

That aside, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about another President: Ronald Reagan. I am pleased to support naming Washington National Airport after him. He was a President whose legacy was not being written by supermarket tabloids. President Reagan's great legacy included 20 million new jobs created, a substantial drop in poverty rates, an increase in middle class and real farm income, and the doubling of women-owned businesses. Under President Reagan, African-American employment increased 46%, and Hispanic employment increased a whopping 84%.

More importantly, Mr. Speaker, he was a President who gave us a romance and patriotism about our country that we knew long since, and had lost for awhile. We recovered that splendid sense under his leadership. It is time to honor President Reagan with this simple, yet well-earned, tribute.

MANAGED CARE REFORM

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

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, today the American people will get an opportunity to see the spectacle of the dreaded special interest groups. That is right. The National Association of Manufacturers have flown into town to oppose managed care reform.

Congress has in the works the Patient Access to Responsible Care Act, a bipartisan bill, Democrats and Republicans working together to protect patients rights. The President refers to it as a patients' bill of rights. It would guarantee access to emergency rooms, access to specialists. It would make the decisions or put the decisions in the hands of doctors, not medical insurers or bureaucrats or medicrats. It would guarantee that the American people

have the kind of access to health care that they deserve.

But the special interests are in town, and they are here to try to scare Americans, to try to convince Americans that if you have a health care bill of rights, you will lose your health insurance, that employers will not be able to offer health insurance to their employees. My colleague says it is a scam. I think he is right. We need to stand up to the dreaded special interest groups.

NEW BIG GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, what would you call a leader that wants to begin spending money before he even has it? Irresponsible? Liberal? Slick? Well, the budget just submitted by the President calls for spending on 39 new big government programs with tax revenues that the government does not yet have. Using the usual sleight of hand, the President's budget makes assumptions about billions of dollars from a tobacco settlement that does not even exist. Spending money based on tax increases that do not even exist adds new meaning to the expression tax and spend liberal. Now we have a liberal who spends first and hopes that a tooth fairy Congress will give him a tax increase later.

Mr. Speaker, the middle class has gotten the shaft long enough. The middle class is tired of promising something for everyone and sticking their families with the bill. Mr. President, do not break the balanced budget agreement with these new big government spending programs and entitlement expansions. It is time to say no to more big government.

PRESIDENT'S HEALTH CARE TASK FORCE

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it seems as though we are beginning this year on the same note as last year but with a different tune. Today we are going to vote on House Joint Resolution 343, an effort to deny the legitimate payment of bills incurred by the President's Task Force on National Health Care Reform convened in 1993. Some Members of this body do not want to pay the bills because they did not like the recommendations.

Let us be serious. Let us get on with the real business of this country like providing health care to indigent children, protecting Social Security, fixing our roads and bridges, providing day care, creating jobs with livable wages, hiring teachers and lowering class size.

Let us vote down House Joint Resolution 343 and get on with the real business of the American people.

RONALD REAGAN

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

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, later today we are going to vote on a very important resolution concerning former President Ronald Reagan. I love President Reagan for many reasons, but he was a great storyteller. I wanted to relate a story that he told, and I quote:

I remember one day I was sitting in the principal's office. I was not invited there for a social visit. He said something that fortunately stuck in my mind and I remembered. He said, Reagan, I do not care what you think of me now. I am only concerned with what you will think of me 15 years from now. Thank the Lord I had the opportunity to tell him shortly before he died how I felt about him 15 years later, after that visit in his office. And I was very grateful for the influence he had on my life.

Mr. Speaker, President Reagan was a man who worked for the people. He was a man concerned about the people. He was a man who put the people first. It has not been 15 years since President Reagan left office, but I believe we, the people, can honor his life by renaming our national airport after him.

CORPORATE SPECIAL INTERESTS

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

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, today the corporate special interests are responding to the call of the Republican leadership to get off their wallets. Today they start spending millions of dollars, with the National Association of Manufacturers fly-in, to kill the bipartisan effort to pass a patients' bill of rights to protect people against the excesses of managed care, to make sure that people know that doctors are making the medical decisions and not insurance companies, to make sure that patients have a right to appeal the denial of services, to make sure that people understand that these medical decisions are theirs and between them and their doctors.

But, no, the Republican leadership in the House and the Senate have told the special interests lobby to come to Washington to spend millions of dollars to deny us the right to have a bill that has over 220 cosponsors, Republicans and Democrats, who know that their constituents need these protections against managed care. We have got to respond to the need of our people, not to the corporate interests and their million-dollar campaign.

UNFAIRNESS IN TAX CODE: MARRIAGE TAX PENALTY

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

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, today I wanted to stand up and rise and speak towards an issue which deserves bipartisan support. That is the issue of eliminating the marriage tax penalty. I believe that the best way to frame the issue of the marriage tax penalty is to ask some very simple questions: Do Americans feel that it is fair that a married couple with two incomes who both work pay higher taxes under our Tax Code? Do Americans feel that it is fair that a married working couple, two incomes, pays higher taxes than an identical couple who choose to live together outside of marriage? That is just not unfair, Mr. Speaker, that is wrong.

On average, 21 million married working couples pay an average of \$1,400 more in taxes under our Tax Code today just because they are married. Here in Washington that is a drop in the bucket. Back in the south suburbs of Chicago, \$1,400 is a lot of money for the average of those 21 million married working couples: down payment on a car and a home, a year's tuition in a local community college. Let us work together in a bipartisan way and eliminate the marriage tax penalty.

HMO REFORM

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

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, today the special interests are swarming around this Capitol to defeat HMO reform, reform that will hold the HMOs accountable for their actions. The American people of both political parties want to make their health care decisions with themselves and their doctors and not with some accounting clerk, who is neither a doctor or a nurse or other health care professional, make that decision which often denies them the care that they paid for with their insurance premiums, where the accounting clerk often gets an incentive for denying that care.

Both political parties have put forth a bill to reform HMOs, but the special interests are now swarming over this Capitol to deny the right of the American people to get what they paid for when they paid their insurance premiums, the right to see the specialists they need, the right to know that they can go to the emergency room and not be turned away, the right that their doctor can send them somewhere and know that the patient that they send will get the care they deserve.

I will save the special interests some trouble coming to my office. The people of Bergen and Hudson Counties, New Jersey want HMO reform, and they will not let the special interests stop us from doing the right thing.