

by requiring disclosure of utilization review procedures, financial incentives for providers, and all services and benefits offered under the health plan.

That disclosure may be half the battle, because I think no insurance executive will be willing to stand up and defend these outrageous practices once they are out in the open.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE
HONORABLE RON BROWN

SPEECH OF

HON. RONALD V. DELLUMS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 1996

Mr. DELLUMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a dear friend, a visionary, a dream-maker, and trailblazer, the Honorable Ronald H. Brown. Although I am deeply saddened by his sudden passing, I am inspired and encouraged by the legacy Ron has left for all citizens of the United States. Ron Brown was not only a personal friend, but a friend of our country.

Elected the first African American Chairman of the Democratic National Committee, he utilized his experience and successes, in reuniting the Democratic Party and ensuring a victory for President Clinton.

As the first African American Secretary of Commerce, Ron not only pursued the expansion of American trade opportunities, but also sought to extend the American Dream to improve the quality of life for all people throughout the world. His vision for the Department of Commerce included providing economic opportunities for all Americans, opening and expanding markets globally, and generating jobs through his national export strategy which allows U.S. companies—big and small—to maximize their export potential. In addition, he wanted to ensure an enhanced technology base and infrastructure and utilization and growth for the Information Superhighway. In doing so, he transformed America into an export superpower, creating over \$80 billion in foreign agreements for U.S. businesses. A champion of civil rights, he fought for diversity within the Department, as well as increased opportunities for minority-owned businesses.

Ron was a trailblazer. The list of accomplishments which inspires not only African Americans, but all working men, women, and minorities is commendable. He, as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was an effective communicator, a passionate civil rights advocate, keen political strategist, skilled negotiator, and compassionate bridge builder. A man of action, Ron Brown not only dreamt, but more importantly, realized his dreams for himself and others.

I will personally miss our heart to heart conversations and political discussions, Ron's enthusiasm for life, and most of all, his infectious smile.

As my friend, the Reverend Jesse Jackson so eloquently described him, "We must re-

member Ron Brown—freedom fighter, social servant, patriot, dream-maker . . . A monument to his success is opening the door for coming generations." We must always hold a special place in our hearts for Ron Brown. Ron was truly a man for all seasons who we will sorely miss. Thank you, Ron, for all you've done. We love you, brother.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE
HONORABLE RON BROWN

SPEECH OF

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 1996

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, people from all walks of life, professional, personal, religious—friends, colleagues and strangers alike—found themselves binding together over the past 2 weeks in mourning the loss of Ron Brown, U.S. Secretary of Commerce, who died tragically in a plane crash in Bosnia. As could be expected, Ron was lost to us while on a mission of peace as he sought to repair the fabric of war-torn Bosnia.

Today, in honor of his memory, I would like to add my voice to those of hundreds of thousands—perhaps millions—of others who spoke of Ron Brown the man, the husband, the father, the friend of Democrats, the beloved advisor to President Clinton.

I begin by extending my personal condolences to his wife, Alma and their children, and to the families and friends of all others who gave their lives as well, and to assure them that they are in my thoughts and my prayers; may they be comforted by God's love and the outpouring of grief, love, and the many tributes coming from people throughout the world.

I also convey condolences to the family and friends of William Morton, a native of Huntington, WV, located in the district I represent, who was also aboard the doomed plane over Croatia. To them I extend my deepest sympathies and offer my prayers on their behalf that will always be comforted knowing that William died on a mission of peace, as a patriot of his country, doing the job he was committed to doing and doing well, at the side of his mentor, Secretary Brown.

I pay particular tribute to Ron Brown, Secretary of Commerce, for while he excelled in all aspects of every endeavor or job or position he ever held in public life, it was as Secretary of Commerce that he won my everlasting admiration and esteem.

As the Representative in the House of the people of the third district in West Virginia, one of my major goals is to do all that is possible to increase economic development opportunities and the job creation that follows such incentives, for my people. We live in the heart of Appalachia where unemployment in some areas still remains in double-digits, and where economic development is integral to our effort to create a stronger, stable economic base for all West Virginians.

Ron Brown won my heart by requiring his entire department staff to memorize a one-sentence mission statement that ought to be the mission statement of every person in government, and that sentence was: "Our mission is to ensure economic opportunity for every American."

Ron Brown, having achieved the American dream for himself, spent the rest of his life seeking to make it a reality for those bound over by poverty and despair. His life stands as a testament to the power of educating our people, to a sound work ethic meaning a willingness to work hard, and a dedication of ourselves to work for the common good of all.

In West Virginia, Ron will be remembered more for local economic development projects through the Economic Development Administration [EDA], and the Office of Economic Adjustment perhaps, then for his global view on trade initiatives between the United States and the rest of the world. He was a friend of towns and cities large and small throughout the Nation, and became the catalyst for change in social and economic circles that were long overdue, by reminding American capitalists that their prosperity was inextricably linked to the prosperity of all Americans.

Whether Ron was in an American city, the Middle East, or Bosnia, he believed that participation in economic success would go a long way in healing racial, ethnic, and religious differences.

Secretary Brown ran the Commerce Committee like no other Secretary before him—by actively involving businesses in securing jobs for Americans. He took a page from the investment strategy book of the Japanese Government whose economic growth excelled for many years because of the direct involvement of government in the Japanese business community, issuing a challenge to America's economic thinking.

Ron Brown learned from that, and he acknowledged the power and importance of businesses great and small in the United States, and encouraged greater investment in business and industry, rather than ignoring them as his predecessors had done. Under his stewardship, the American economy rebounded over the past 3 years, largely due to his personal involvement and the involvement of his department staff who had memorized the one-sentence mission statement: "Our mission is to ensure economic opportunity for every American."

Ron Brown was many things to many people, and he was remembered as having great charisma, of being able to walk into a room and energize it, drawing people to his side. He was known for his sense of compassion, his willingness to listen to both sides. He was also known for his sense of humor and, needless to say, for his outstanding political acumen, and his ability to make friends anywhere and everywhere he went, working on behalf of the America he loved.

That is Secretary Brown's legacy to us all, and we must not forget.