

Southern Maryland community has for Tubby Smith and for his family. It is important to learn Tubby's outlook on life, and I quote: "To never forget where you came from, never forget who you are, and never forget where you are heading."

I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in congratulating Coach Smith and the Kentucky men's basketball national championship.

#### REACHING A BALANCED AGREEMENT ON TOBACCO

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, I would like to thank the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) for those kind words of tribute to the Kentucky basketball coach, Tubby Smith. All of us from Kentucky are certainly quite proud of his accomplishments in his first year as the head coach of the University of Kentucky, and he certainly demonstrated the type of leadership and character that are so important to young men and women at the University of Kentucky. It makes us even more proud to know that he is from the State of Maryland.

I want to thank the gentleman for those kind remarks for our basketball coach at the University of Kentucky.

I also would like to point out that this afternoon I had the opportunity to visit with six high school students who came to my office to talk about some issues facing young men and women today. As we had our discussion, they pointed out that some of their greatest concerns on issues facing young people today were: One, teenage pregnancy; and two, the use of illegal drugs.

I found that quite informative, because over the last 6 or 7 months, our President of the United States, our Vice President, Mr. David Kessler and others have placed great emphasis and have drawn attention to the fact that tobacco and the use of tobacco products by young people may be one of the most serious issues facing young people. Yet, in my discussions with these young people today from Kentucky and other young people throughout my district, none of them really talk about the use of tobacco products as one of the major problems facing young people today.

As I listen to the debate on this tobacco issue and the universal tobacco settlement over on the Senate side, and as I have read the universal settlement agreement between the tobacco companies and the State Attorneys General, it has really caused me to do a lot of thinking about this issue. All of us recognize the importance of doing everything possible to prevent young people from using tobacco products, and that is why 50 States already prohibit the sale of tobacco products to young people throughout this country.

Yet in spite of that, the real issue in this universal tobacco settlement

seems now to me to come down to be a matter of money. In the settlement agreement, the tobacco companies agreed that they would pay \$368 billion every 25 years forever to reach this settlement, and, in exchange, they agreed that any individual would be able to bring a lawsuit against the tobacco companies to recover any damages suffered by using tobacco products; that those individuals would have that right to bring these lawsuits forever. The only immunity that the tobacco companies asked for in exchange for \$368 billion every 25 years forever was to simply settle the class lawsuits and the lawsuits filed by the States in these innovative legal theories, that were filed by the States to reimburse the States for Medicaid costs that the States incurred by individuals who voluntarily used tobacco products.

But as I look into this more and more, it seems that this issue is much broader than simply teenage smoking, because there are hundreds of thousands of individuals and their children who depend upon the tobacco product for their livelihood, for the education of their children, to take care of their families. As a matter of fact, there are 140,000 farm families in the United States alone that grow this product.

This discussion talks only about teenage smoking, and yet we are not giving any consideration to the impact, the economic impact, that this settlement can have on these hundreds of thousands of families who depend upon this product for their livelihood.

As I listen to the Senate debate, I am quite discouraged that more and more it seems to be a matter of wanting to punish an industry, to provide punitive damages against an industry that has grown and processed a legal crop, a crop that has been legal in America since Jamestown; a crop that, if you walk around the Capitol of the United States, you will see tobacco leaves at strategic points in this Capitol, a crop that has provided valuable economic interests to our Nation.

I would simply say as we continue our debate on the tobacco settlement, let us not forget the economic impact that this is going to have on farmers, workers, and many other people. I think we have a unique opportunity to reach a balanced agreement.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE LATE HONORABLE BELLA ABZUG

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

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise with sadness to express my personal condolence to the family of the late Bella Abzug.

Bella Abzug came to Congress in 1970. I had been elected 5 years previously. We quickly became very close friends and collaborators. Despite the fact that we came from very different backgrounds and from opposite corners of

this country, our concerns were the same. I had been fighting against the Vietnam War for 5 years. The few of us who opposed the war at that time had tried every parliamentary maneuver we could think of to end the war. Clearly, after 5 years we were exhausted and our struggles to turn the Nation's policies around needed help.

Bella's election to Congress gave us fresh vigor and new momentum. She was a tireless, relentless advocate for peace. From the moment she was sworn into office, she made her voice heard and fought with all her might and power to get this country out of the war in Vietnam.

She knew that she was effective and she knew that her voice made a difference.

Just as Bella fought for peace, she also fought for equality and justice. With all her heart and soul, she stood for the rights of the poor to be heard. She pushed her way to assure the poor a voice in the deliberations of the Congress. She was their voice, and they loved her for her commitment to their plight.

Justice was for Bella the right to earn a decent living and the right to be able to provide for your family. She fought against discrimination and championed the cause of equality for women. No one I know did more for women than Bella. Her life was given to that cause. No matter where she went, everyone knew by her presence that she was their voice for equality and for justice.

She challenged the conscience of America to prove its worth as a society by permitting women to claim their place as full and equal citizens. Bella's best efforts were in building networks and forging coalitions. She forced people to forget their turf wars and to work together for the greater good. Even after she left Congress, she continued in this work.

She organized huge demonstrations for abortion rights, for equal rights, for child care, for food for the hungry and for the AIDS programs. She led international conferences and taught women everywhere how their combined voices could make important changes in their lives.

When formal government conferences were convened, she called nongovernmental women together for massive counter-conferences. She angered Presidents by challenging them to do better for women, for the poor and the oppressed minorities. I counted Bella as one of my closest friends. We counseled together on many occasions, even after we both left Congress in 1976. We looked to each other for support and comfort in a world that seldom understood nor cared to understand women and politics. We knew that by joining together on many fronts, that we could double the volume of our voices so that no one could miss the message we wanted to convey.

Bella was a deeply caring and sensitive human being. She always asked