

would then be used to create a national database containing the medical history of all Americans. Establishment of such an identifier would allow federal bureaucrats to track every citizen's medical history from cradle to grave. Furthermore, it is possible that every medical professional, hospital, and Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) in the country would be able to access an individual citizen's record simply by entering the patient's identifier into the national database.

As an OB/GYN with more than 30 years experience in private practice, I know better than most the importance of preserving the sanctity of the physician-patient relationship. Oftentimes, effective treatment depends on a patient's ability to place absolute trust in his or her doctor. What will happen to that trust when patients know that any and all information given their doctor will be placed in a data base accessible by anyone who knows the patient's "unique personal identifier?"

I ask my colleagues, how comfortable would you be confiding any emotional problem, or even an embarrassing physical problem like impotence, to your doctor if you knew that this information could be easily accessed by friend, foe, possible employers, coworkers, HMOs, and government agents?

Mr. Speaker, the Clinton administration has even come out in favor of allowing law enforcement officials access to health care information, in complete disregard of the fifth amendment. It is bitterly ironic that the same administration that has proven so inventive at protecting its privacy has so little respect for physician-patient confidentiality.

Many of my colleagues will admit that the American people have good reason to fear a government-mandated health ID card, but they will claim such problems can be "fixed" by additional legislation restricting the use of the identifier and forbidding all but certain designated persons to access those records.

This argument has two flaws. First of all, history has shown that attempts to protect the privacy of information collected by, or at the command, of the government are ineffective at protecting citizens from the prying eyes of government officials. I ask my colleagues to think of the numerous cases of IRS abuses that were brought to our attention in the past few months, the history of abuse of FBI files, and the case of a Medicaid clerk in Maryland who accessed a computerized database and sold patient names to an HMO. These are just some of many examples that show that the only effective way to protect privacy is to forbid the government from assigning a unique number to any citizen.

The second, and most important reason, legislation "protecting" the unique health identifier is insufficient is that the federal government lacks any constitutional authority to force citizens to adopt a universal health identifier, regardless of any attached "privacy protections." Any federal action that oversteps constitutional limitations violates liberty for it ratifies the principle that the federal government, not the Constitution, is the ultimate arbitrator of its own jurisdiction over the people. The only effective protection of the rights of citizens is for Congress and the American people to follow Thomas Jefferson's advice and "bind (the federal government) down with the chains of the Constitution."

For those who claim that the Patient Privacy Act would interfere with the plans to "simplify"

and "streamline" the health care system, under the Constitution, the rights of people should never take a backseat to the convenience of the government or politically powerful industries like HMOs.

Mr. Speaker, the federal government has no authority to endanger the privacy of personal medical information by forcing all citizens to adopt a uniform health identifier for use in a national data base. A uniform health ID endangers the constitutional liberties, threatens the doctor-patient relationships, and could allow federal officials access to deeply personal medical information. There can be no justification for risking the rights of private citizens. I therefore urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Patient Privacy Act.

TRIBUTE TO DR. GENO
SACCOMANNO

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 1998

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize an individual, who for the past 50 years, has donated his life to the ongoing fight against cancer. Dr. Geno Saccomanno, a cytologist from Grand Junction, CO, is a simple, dedicated man with a personal history that rivals most in accomplishment and commitment. Some of his most notable achievements both professionally and philanthropically, include his groundbreaking and world-renowned cancer research methods, his two popular cytology texts, his scholarship fund for underprivileged high school graduates, his St. Mary's Saccomanno Education Center, and the Catholic school and church that will be built on land he recently donated near his home. As you can see, Dr. Saccomanno is a man who works for the good of all people, in every area of his life.

When Dr. Saccomanno arrived in Grand Junction as a pathologist in 1948, he was the first to pay appropriate attention to the most pressing local cancer issue. As he had noticed in some of his doctoral studies at St. Louis University, Dr. Saccomanno saw correlations between cancer incidence and the coal mines working in Western Colorado and Eastern Utah. His analysis of this issue set the stage for a long life in lung cancer research and diagnosis.

Considered today by colleagues and professionals worldwide as one of the world's foremost pioneers and prophets in lung cancer research, Saccomanno's research techniques are considered a standard in laboratories around the world. His first method of cell separation to detect mutation utilized his wife Ginny's blender and a few simple medical tools. Through the years, his techniques have grown and developed with the aid of technology so much that his research methods are widely praised and world renowned. In fact, the American Cancer Institute is currently attempting to duplicate his processes with a computer.

Dr. Saccomanno has won several well-deserved awards and published a myriad of medical reports during his 50-year career, all that have led to a considerable reputation among a wide range of people. He is revered by everyone, from his colleagues at St. Mary's

to VIP's at the Department of Energy to his friends at the National Cancer Institute.

Today, the 82-year-old Dr. Saccomanno continues his work in the field he has grown to love. Each morning he makes the daily trek from his home to the lab where he continues to look at his vast collection of tissue samples, lung X-rays, and secretions searching for a clue that would someday lead to a cure for cancer. Dr. Saccomanno's obvious dedication to his life's work and the medical field is something that is admired by all.

I would like to take a moment today to thank Dr. Saccomanno for both his efforts in finding a cure for cancer, as well as for all that he has done for his community. He is an excellent example of how important dedication and perseverance are in one's personal and professional life. He sets a standard that we should all strive to emulate. It is an honor for me to count Dr. Saccomanno as one of my constituents and to represent him in Congress.

HONORING DOUGLAS M. BARRETT

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 1998

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of a resident of Nashua, New Hampshire, Mr. Douglas M. Barrett, on the occasion of his retirement from Sanders, a Lockheed Martin Company. Mr. Barrett's 41 years of dedication to improving our Nation's security, and his devotion to his community, set a standard of commitment and excellence for which we should all strive.

Since beginning his employment at Sanders Associates in 1957, Mr. Barrett has been an integral part of the development and fielding of intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance systems that have been critical to keeping the peace when possible and prevailing at war when necessary. His devotion to getting the best possible technical solutions into the hands of our soldiers, sailors and airmen in the shortest periods of time, and at the best value to the government is to be greatly commended.

As the Vice President and General Manager of the Surveillance Systems Business Area of Sanders since 1982, Mr. Barrett has been instrumental to the growth and stability of the economy in and around Nashua through the creation of jobs. He has also played a major role in providing educational opportunities for the citizens of the greater Nashua area as a board member and past president of the Adult Learning Center.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join with me in recognizing the unwavering commitment and total dedication of Mr. Douglas M. Barrett to his company, community and country.

“LET'S GET TOUGH ON DRUGS”

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 1998

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask if the Clinton Administration has any defined position on casual drug use and any

specific strategy to fight drug abuse in our schools, our workplaces and our homes.

A few weeks ago, I was pleased to hear the White House drug policy chief Barry McCaffrey's harsh words of criticism for the liberal drug policies he observed while traveling through Europe. General McCaffrey strongly criticized the approach of the Netherlands, where marijuana and other drugs are legal, and called the result of their policies "an unmitigated disaster."

Mr. Speaker, there is absolutely no doubt that legalizing marijuana would have disastrous results for any society. General McCaffrey pointed that there are now over 1200 "pot clubs" in Holland alone. Crime has risen and the state is now responsible for thousands of heroin addicts that now require extensive methadone treatment.

According to today's Washington Post, General McCaffrey has once again modified his remarks and is now calling the drug policies of countries like Holland "very impressive." Mr. Speaker, I know General McCaffrey is tough on drugs. We've heard his 'zero' approach time and time again and I applaud him for that. However, I believe General McCaffrey was right when he first offered his opinion on policies of nations like the Netherlands when it comes to drugs.

Mr. Speaker, this Administration continues to send mixed signals on casual drug use. Meanwhile, children all over America are faced with the temptation to try drugs every day.

Those nations that choose to tolerate recreational drug use are going down a very dangerous path. The statistics of drug-related health problems and death in those countries can not be disputed. Mr. Speaker, it's time for this Administration to stop worrying about criticizing our friends in Europe and start worrying about the protection and welfare of our own children.

[From the Washington Post, Tues. July 21, 1998]

DRUG CHIEF MITIGATES SLAP AT DUTCH
AFTER TOUR, MCCAFFREY SOFTENS HIS
CRITICISM OF DRUG POLICIES

By Michael Grunwald

Less than two weeks ago, White House drug policy chief Barry R. McCaffrey sparked an international stir by attacking Dutch drug-fighting policies as "an unmitigated disaster." Yesterday, he offered a new description of their efforts: "very impressive."

McCaffrey is still no fan of the permissive Dutch attitude toward marijuana, and he was appalled by a "heroin provision" experiment for addicts he saw during a one-day dash through the Netherlands last week. But he said he was pleasantly surprised by aggressive Dutch efforts to rein in drug smuggling, "drug tourism" and drug-related violence.

He even said that the United States could learn a great deal from the expansive Dutch approach to funding drug treatment, especially methadone programs for heroin users.

"I am envious of their ability to deliver drug treatment and health care to heroin addicts," said McCaffrey, director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy. "Our program is inadequate in coverage."

It was quite a change of tune for McCaffrey, who made front-page news in the Netherlands with his "unmitigated disaster" comment during a July 9 appearance on a CNN talk show. McCaffrey said on the program that Dutch acceptance of marijuana as a harmless "soft drug" has fueled dramatic

increases in crime and warned that official toleration of nearly 1,200 "cannabis clubs" in the Netherlands was setting a terrible example for Europe. The Dutch ambassador to the United States, Joris Vos, responded that he was "confounded and dismayed" by McCaffrey's remarks.

McCaffrey, a four-star general who served with distinction in the Vietnam War and the Persian Gulf War, has courted controversy since President Clinton named him to lead America's war on drugs in 1996. He was a bitter critic of needle exchange programs, then muted his criticism somewhat after Clinton endorsed them as a useful tool against AIDS. He praised Mexico's top anti-drug official, Gen. Jesus Gutierrez Rebollo, as "an honest man," then professed shock when Gutierrez was arrested in a corruption sting after just 10 weeks in office.

Yesterday, in a news conference about his week-long swing through six European countries, McCaffrey acknowledged that he had overstepped with his "unmitigated disaster" criticism of the Dutch. "In a more balanced vein, I'd suggest that there are areas of agreement and areas of disagreement," he said. "Friends can disagree with friends."

Dutch officials yesterday said they welcomed his more conciliatory tone. "I think he made a good visit and learned a lot," said embassy spokeswoman Madelien DePlanque. "He doesn't agree with everything we do, but he's entitled to an opinion."

McCaffrey visited a methadone program in Amsterdam and said he came away impressed by the ease with which Dutch heroin addicts can get treatment. In America, he said, methadone clinics are few and far between, and addicts who do find them often face a maze of bureaucratic obstacles; only 115,000 of the estimated 800,000 U.S. heroin addicts currently get methadone.

McCaffrey also said he now believes that the Dutch are doing an "excellent job" cracking down on serious drug crimes and getting tough with "drug-daze" foreign tourists who visit the country for its marijuana-selling "coffee shops."

But McCaffrey is not quite ready for America to go Dutch when it comes to drug abuse. He criticized the toleration of cannabis clubs as "legal hypocrisy." He distributed statistics indicating dramatic across-the-board increases in crime and drug-related deaths in the Netherlands since 1978. He said he was disturbed by his visit with Rotterdam scientists who are dispensing heroin to 750 addicts. And he warned that "this beautiful, clean, quiet little country" has become a production and distribution hub for much of the European drug trade.

"They just haven't connected their problems to their attitudes towards drug abuse," McCaffrey said. "They seem to think marijuana is benign. It's not benign."

McCaffrey refused to visit a cannabis club, explaining that he already knows what people look like when they smoke pot. But he's done calling Dutch policy an "unmitigated disaster."

"You can say it's a mitigated disaster," he said.

RELATING TO THE IMPORTANCE
OF JAPANESE AMERICAN RELATIONS

SPEECH OF

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 1998

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to urge support for H. Res. 392, relating to the impor-

tance of Japanese-American relations and the urgent need for Japan to more effectively address its economic and financial problems. I am an original cosponsor of this resolution as Ranking Member on the Asia and Pacific Subcommittee of the International Relations Committee.

One reason for this resolution was our appreciation of the vital contribution Japan makes as the world's second largest economy, to global economic growth, especially to the Asian Pacific region. The importance of maintaining the vitality of our security relationship with Japan in all its dimensions—economic, political, and military—is critical to American policy in the region. When Japan suffers, we suffer. When Asia is sick, Japan becomes ill too.

Curing one means helping both. We need that cure for our economic benefit. As one witness before the Subcommittee, Robert Grondine of the American Chamber of Commerce in Japan, pointed out, the Chamber represents over one thousand American companies doing business in Japan. It is in our economic self-interest to see a growing Japanese economy.

For many years, Japanese prosperity has permitted it to evade the need for the profound economic reforms which have been so obvious to both Japanese and foreign observers.

While there has been much discussion about the need for economic stimulus which will accelerate consumer demand, I am more interested in seeing the type of structural reform which will result in lasting economic change in Japan. Reform of the financial sector and greater market access for foreign competitors are particularly important.

I am confident that Japan will surmount its difficulties. The resilience and capability of the Japanese people have been proven through many times of trial.

In introducing H. Res. 391, Mr. BEREUTER and I hope that we will further the constructive economic dialog between our two countries in a way that deepens our ties.

NORTHERN IRELAND VISA FOR
PEACE AND RECONCILIATION

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 1998

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the Friends of Ireland and member of the Ad-Hoc Committee for Irish Affairs, I am inviting all of my colleagues to join us as cosponsors of the Northern Ireland Visa for Peace and Reconciliation.

Over the last few weeks, the world has witnessed events symbolizing both the hope for the future in Northern Ireland and the tragedy of its past. The politics of the gun has been replaced with the politics of the ballot box. A majority of men and women on all sides of the conflict have given their overwhelming support for the Good Friday Agreement and stood together in condemnation of last week's violence and murder. This initiative is aimed at helping those who are working for a new beginning.

In May, the Speaker of the Irish Dail, Mr. Seamus Pattison, led a delegation to Washington for a meeting of the U.S.-Ireland Interparliament. During those meetings, the Irish