

their plan does not have to give it to them. They can only require them to see a physician. So many women want nurse midwives and have found that to be a comfortable way to give birth.

If they are terminally ill and their only hope is an approved clinical trial, the Republican bill would not allow it. So many of my constituents have said, "I beg of you to allow me to participate in a clinical trial. I will go anywhere, do anything to save my life or that of my loved one."

If they are about to deliver their baby at a hospital and their health plan drops their doctor, the Republican bill allows their plan to make them get a new doctor at the very time that they are in need. And if they are scheduled for a cancer operation and their health plan drops their doctor, under the Republican plan they have to find a new doctor.

My colleagues, what we did today was a travesty. I hope that we will be able to repair that and pass a bill, Mr. Speaker, that really responds to the life and the death of Mrs. Chiang.

#### UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI CONCERT SINGERS

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

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with my colleagues the wonderful news that the University of Mississippi Concert Singers won top honors last week at the World Choral Competition in Rome, Italy.

The group from Ole Miss, led by Dr. Jerry Jordan, is the first American choir ever to have qualified for this exclusive international competition and, of course, the first to win the top prize. Today, they are considered the best amateur choir on the face of the Earth.

To reach the Super Bowl of choral competitions in Italy, groups from around the world first had to qualify for and then win 1 of 6 international events. On their way to the finals, the Ole Miss singers won the grand prize in May of 1997 in a competition in Bulgaria. Then last week, the group outperformed choirs from Sweden, Hungary, Estonia and Taiwan, all of which had won international choral events in past years.

The Ole Miss concert singers are no strangers to performing on the international stage. During Dr. Jordan's 18 years at Ole Miss, his choral groups have toured on nine occasions; they have participated in international competition three times; and, in 1994, earned their only other trip to the grand event.

The Collegiate Choir Program at the University of Mississippi is recognized among the best in the Nation. Dr. Jerry Jordan is one of the country's most accomplished directors. He has conducted the American Symphony Orchestra at Lincoln Center in New York and is a regular conductor at Carnegie Hall.

Dr. Jordan's leadership and the exceptional talents of these students produced an unprecedented result in Rome. The judges said the group performed an extremely difficult and diverse program and did so flawlessly. The 50-member group sang seven songs in five different languages over the span of its allotted 30-minute program.

Mr. Speaker, there are at least five alumni from the University of Mississippi in the House of Representatives. And at this point, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Mississippi my colleague (Mr. PICKERING).

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) for yielding.

I rise with him to recognize the Mississippi Concert Singers and their accomplishment. They come from the University of Mississippi, the same place where the new director of the National Endowment for Humanities, Dr. William Ferris, the author of the Encyclopedia of Southern Culture.

In Mississippi, where we have the tradition of being the birthplace of blues, of rock and roll, and in my district, Meridian, the birthplace of country music with the grandfather of country music, Jimmy Rogers.

And today we celebrate our additional contribution to our State's culture and our Nation's culture to the world, the Mississippi Choral Singers, and the great achievement that they have won by being the first American choir to win this preeminent distinction and competition in Rome.

So I rise with the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) and to acknowledge and to appreciate this great accomplishment.

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I thank my colleague for his remarks. And one final word, Mr. Speaker.

This outstanding group of performers from the University of Mississippi has earned an honor reserved for a select few. They have earned the right to be called the best in the world, and they have made all Americans proud. I salute them today.

□ 1545

#### EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL).

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

#### MISSING AND EXPLOITED CHILDREN

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

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, as a father, one of my biggest fears over the years has been discovering perhaps that one of my daughters would be missing.

Sadly, last November, one of my constituents was living mine and every parent's nightmare when she frantically called the Texas City Texas Police Department after her ten year old daughter did not arrive home from school.

Recently, my district has been stricken with a stream of missing children. This issue has become my highest priority as well as that of the police departments in my area to try to put an end to this. The chief of police for Texas City, Texas, Jerry Purdon, last year visited the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and underwent training on developing a program for responding to a missing child alert.

One of the key elements in the department's new program was the actual response time, which they felt had been a key factor in previous failures. In this Texas City case, the department was able to flood the area with both police and informed neighbors to search for any sign of the missing child.

Hours went by until a man appeared in the middle of the neighborhood with the missing girl, stating that he had found her under some stairs. She was immediately rushed to the hospital while the man was questioned by the police.

Suspicious from the start, they were able to obtain a full confession. This man, who knew the girl, picked her up from school and returned to his home with her and after sexually abusing her he admitted that he intended to kill her and dispose of the body. In his words, he was prevented from carrying out his plan because, quote, every time I looked out my front window I saw a police car and every time I looked out the back, I saw a neighbor who knew what was happening, unquote.

Thanks to the quick response and organization of Chief Purdon and his officers, that little girl was returned to her family. I stand here proud of their efforts and would like to applaud each and every one who helped save the little girl. It is with forceful reactions to crimes like this that we hope to end the disappearances of our children and prevent all parents from experiencing this nightmare.

#### TRIBUTE TO HORACE ELLIS JONES

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

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor an individual, no not a Georgian by birth but is the essence of a Georgia gentleman.

Horace Ellis Jones is the grandfather of one of my legislative staff members. Today I pay tribute to Mr. Jones through the eyes of his grandson.