

their contracts and kill people with impunity.

The HMO lobby has one last chance to defeat this legislation and that is to distort the issue. If they were successful, I believe they would find the end result of their success would be far less agreeable than the reasonable reforms of this bill.

We can correct the problems of managed care with responsible legislation right here in the People's House, or it will be corrected by the courts and the States, without the carefully crafted provisions to ensure that we do not disrupt our current health care system in the process.

For those who would oppose reforms, take your choice. But either way, the people, the Constitution and the rule of law will prevail in this room next week.

WORLD SMILE DAY

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize one of Worcester, Massachusetts' favorite sons, Mr. Harvey Ball, on the occasion of the first annual World Smile Day.

Born and raised in Worcester, Mr. Ball worked as a free-lance commercial artist. He first designed the yellow smiley face in December of 1963 as part of a campaign to enhance morale in his workplace. Since then, the smiley face has taken on a life of its own, developing into an international symbol of friendship, love and peace.

In the early 1970s, the smiley face image became a symbol for an entire generation of Americans, emerging as one of the most well-known images in the country. Recently, the smiley face was chosen to represent the 1970s as a part of the Celebrate the Century commemorative stamp program.

This morning, the United States Postal Service unveiled the smiley face stamp in Worcester, Massachusetts. The stamp will be officially issued this November.

Mr. Speaker, there are few symbols which so fully represent the American spirit of friendship, happiness and peace as the smiley face. It is therefore my great pleasure to congratulate my friend Mr. Harvey Ball, and the entire Worcester community, on the occasion of World Smile Day.

NO EPA OR IBWC EXTORTION

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

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about a situation in San Diego, California on the border with Mexico, and I rise to object to a move by our very own Environmental Protection Agency to attempt to block a plan, a plan to treat 50 million gallons

a day of raw sewage that flows from Mexico into the United States, a plan that was unanimously supported by this House of Representatives. The plan involves treating Mexican sewage that is flowing into the United States in Mexico. What can make more sense?

But the EPA supports a less comprehensive plan to build sewage treatment ponds in the United States. And to get its way, the EPA seems to be extorting support for the U.S. plant from Mexico. In fact, the EPA has told Mexico that if the sewage treatment ponds are built in the United States by their plan, rather than the House of Representatives plan, the EPA would have \$9 million left over to help Mexico with Tijuana-area sewage projects. And if the treatment plant were to be built in Mexico, according to the plan approved by this House, with a private firm's money, EPA says Mexico gets no money from the U.S. Government for their infrastructure needs.

Mr. Speaker, that simply does not make sense. It is extortion, if I may speak bluntly. If a private firm builds a plant in Mexico, then the EPA would have its entire fund of \$54 million available for infrastructure improvements in the Tijuana/San Diego area. It is hard to believe that the Environmental Protection Agency would not even consider working together with Mexico in this way to solve an international problem.

And to make matters worse, the International Boundary and Waters Commission, known as the IBWC, is a partner in this extortion. This is the bureaucratic sabotaging of a plan that the House voted unanimously to pursue. It thwarts the Mexican government's fair and open review of a proposal that promises environmental benefits to the United States and clean water for Mexico.

It is an outrage, Mr. Speaker, that this win-win international solution for the problem of sewage that has plagued us and our area for 50 years may never be fully explored. The EPA has a 2-year history of obstructing the consideration of any other proposal to conduct sewage treatment at our border. Mexico is where the sewage starts and Mexico, by right, owns the water from any treatment plant. Why is the EPA opposed to building treatment ponds, then, in Mexico? I cannot understand how an agency such as EPA, which I support in the main and which is charged with protecting the environment of the United States, can be preventing a long-term or comprehensive solution to this problem.

The gentleman from California (Mr. BILBRAY) and I share the problem of Mexican sewage on the beaches and in the riverbeds of our districts. We have asked EPA, we have asked IBWC to work with us and to work with this House to solve the problem. We want those agencies to assure the Mexican government that they can undertake a fair review of this House's proposal without facing the possibility of loss of

infrastructure help. We want the Mexican government, as supported by the gentleman from California (Mr. BILBRAY) and myself and hopefully with EPA and IBWC, to get Mexico to do a fair, objective review of this proposal and tell us how long it would take and what steps have to be done to implement it.

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Mr. Speaker, the bureaucrats in EPA and IBWC have employed spectacularly poor judgment on this issue. Let us hope that they come to their senses soon. We look forward to continuing to work with them to create a long-term solution that will protect the environment of our districts in San Diego, of the international border in the southwest corner of our Nation.

RESOLUTION ON POTENTIALLY LETHAL FOOD ALLERGIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, as we complete this week of business here in Congress, I wanted to remind my colleagues of a resolution I introduced a little earlier; it is H. Res. 309, because it is an important resolution expressing the sense of the House regarding strategies to better protect the millions of Americans with food allergies from potentially fatal allergic reactions and to further assure the safety of manufactured food from inadvertent allergen contamination.

The majority of the 5.2 million people who have serious and potentially fatal allergic reactions to foods such as peanuts, fish, shellfish, tree nuts are children. These children will never outgrow their allergies, and there is no vaccine to prevent these deadly allergic reactions. All that these children can do is avoid eating or coming in contact in any way with peanuts, fish, shellfish or tree nuts.

Even a small trace of peanuts or shellfish can produce a severe allergic reaction. Many children spend their day at school in fear, afraid to touch a door knob or a desk top that might have a smear of peanut butter. While it would be difficult to control the school or the work environment, there are steps that can be taken to protect children and adults from severe allergic reaction to food.

For instance, major commercial food processors and producers should produce products on separate dedicated manufacturing lines. Allergens in food should be identified in terms that are clear, understandable to the average citizen. Most consumers have no idea that products that are labeled with ingredients such as natural flavors contain peanuts or that shrimp extract is used to enhance the flavor of frozen beef teriyaki. Any food product that lists natural flavors as part of the ingredients should specify on the package that the product includes peanuts.