

PROVIDING PRESCRIPTION DRUG
BENEFIT OUR SENIORS NEED

(Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, we come here each week to do the people's business, and we come hoping that we will do those things that are important to the American people. One of those groups of people are our seniors. They are waiting, Mr. Speaker. They are waiting to see just what we are going to do in terms of prescription drugs. Twelve million seniors are without prescription drugs, and yet we have sat, we have belabored this issue, and we have come to no conclusion.

I think if my colleagues look at the Democratic proposal, we will find the vast difference of the two between the Democrats and the Republicans. The Democrats are asking for a sound prescription drug proposal. The Republicans are not.

Mr. Speaker, it is high time for this body to do something for those who have done so much for our country, and those are the seniors. They are continuing to wait. They can wait no longer for us to do the business of this House, and that is providing the type of prescription drug benefit that our seniors need.

I yield back my time.

FARM POLICY

(Mr. SMITH of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to my colleagues' attention to a meeting I had yesterday with Senator GRASSLEY. We talked about the fact that there is no limitation on payments in the farm bill. We talked about the danger and the inappropriate farm policy, the inappropriate public policy for this Congress to give most of the farm support benefits to a very small percentage of the farmers. We are now, because there is no real limit on those price subsidy payments, giving millions of dollars of payments to the very biggest farmers.

I think it is going to be bad for farmers in the long run, and what we are doing is we are giving larger advantage to those great superfarms at the sacrifice of the traditional family farms. Work with us as we look for ways in the appropriation bills or elsewhere to have some kind of limit on farm payments so that we bring back and support what should be in farm policy, and that is supporting the traditional family farm.

CONGRATULATING SOUTH FLORIDA
REGIONAL CLEFT LIP AND
PALATE CLINIC

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the South Florida Regional Cleft Lip and Palate Clinic at the University of Miami for its outstanding dedication and treatment of those suffering from craniofacial malformations. I would like to especially recognize Dr. Seth Thaller, Dr. Magdalena Plewinska and Mrs. Maria Santiago, whose selfless devotion has made this clinic successful.

This clinic is the largest in South Florida, and it utilizes the expertise of community and university doctors, surgeons and dentists who graciously volunteer their time to treat their patients.

This outstanding treatment center is initiating a program entitled Adopt a Smile, which will allow corporate and private donors to identify patients and follow their treatment over the years.

The treatment of facial anomalies at the Cleft Lip and Palate Clinic at the University of Miami has improved the lives of thousands, and I congratulate all who are involved in it.

ARAFAT MUST GO

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, 31 innocent Israeli men, women, and children have been brutally murdered by Palestinian terrorists in the past 3 days, most recently a mother and her three children last night in their own home.

Yesterday, many of us felt the pain personally when we learned that Michal Franklin, age 21, the niece of Israeli's Ambassador to South Africa, Tova Herzl, was one of the murdered on Wednesday in Jerusalem. My colleagues may recall that Ambassador Herzl served as congressional liaison here in Washington just a few years ago. We extend to Tova and her family our deepest condolences and condemn the barbaric and cowardly act.

Permit me to quote from yesterday's Washington Post editorial, which states: "It is easy to understand why many Israelis would support the latest military campaign. There have now been at least 71 suicide bombings in 20 months that have killed some 247 civilians and wounded thousands more as they rode buses, shopped, sat in cafes, danced in clubs, or celebrated religious holidays. No democratic country could be expected to tolerate such a sustained campaign of murder."

Mr. Speaker, that Washington Post editorial succinctly sums up the critical Middle East situation, underscores why Mr. Yasser Arafat must go, and why President Bush should not at this time announce American support for any provisional Palestinian state.

RETIREMENT SAVINGS SECURITY
ACT OF 2002

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call

up House Resolution 451, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 451

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 4931) to provide that the pension and individual retirement arrangement provisions of the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 shall be permanent. The bill shall be considered as read for amendment. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) One hour of debate on the bill equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means; (2) the amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, if offered by Representative Matsui of California or his designee, which shall be in order without intervention of any point of order, shall be considered as read, and shall be separately debatable for one hour equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent; and (3) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LINDER) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, for the purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER) pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purposes of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 451 is a modified closed rule providing for the consideration of H.R. 4931, the Retirement Savings Security Act of 2002, a bill that makes permanent the pension and IRA enhancements contained within President Bush's 2001 tax relief program, the Economic Growth and Tax Reconciliation Act.

H. Res. 451 provides for 1 hour of debate in the House, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means. It also provides for consideration of the amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in the Committee on Rules report accompanying this resolution, if offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. MATSUI) or his designee, which shall be considered as read and shall be separately debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent.

H. Res. 451 waives all points of order against the amendment printed in the report and provides one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

Mr. Speaker, this is a fair rule which will allow the House to work its will on the underlying bill, H.R. 4931. This legislation helps to provide for a new national strategy to promote more retirement security by providing a supplement to Social Security by enhancing employer-provided benefits and giving companies and individuals incentives to save more money for their retirement.