

our attention, and our increasing economic distress, I am not surprised that the House takes little interest in the unemployed. Poor people must live on another planet, not in the United States.

But there has been a recent wake-up call that spreads deep into the middle class, and that is recently released figures on a 2-year decline in the number of uninsured after what had been some steadiness. Recent figures show a decline in health care coverage among many working Americans. I think the Washington Post says it best: There is new evidence that a weakened economy is having adverse ripple effects on ordinary people.

What we see is a drop in the proportion of people who have health benefits. That is usually working Americans who have gotten them as a result of their employment. At the same time, we are seeing a mediocre rise in health insurance costs, up 12.7 percent this year, and then, of course, there is the completely unsustainable increase in prescription drug prices at twice the rate of inflation. All of these health care indicators at the same time show the kind of distress that urgently needs our attention.

Much of the drop in health insurance costs comes from small businesses, 10 percent of it in the last 2 years, but that is where the jobs are. That is where people with health insurance are, and if we want some indication that we are now striking at the heart of our economy, we need only look at the fact that most of those who have lost their health insurance are working men.

Of course, the population that is most without health insurance in our country today are Latinos. A third of Latinos have no health insurance benefits.

What the statistics do not show, Mr. Speaker, however, is where the greatest effect is, I believe, being held, and that is the shift in health care costs from the employer to the employee. When an employer cannot sustain the cost of health benefits anymore, and he shifts to his employee, then we have what in effect is a cost in pay and a lowering of the standard of living, and we know that is what has occurred because 2 weeks ago the Census Bureau reported that the household incomes fell 2.2 percent.

We have not paid any attention in this House to the very rapid increase in unemployment because it started so low, from 3.9 percent 2 years ago to 5.7 percent today. We cannot let it continue to rise that fast. Now we see really the fatal indicator, the health insurance indicator.

This House is about to go home with token health to seniors on prescription drugs, which leaves most of them exactly where they were before that pittance of a bill passed. We have an equally dangerous indicator left on the table, left to fester, and that one is one we should have learned in the past to

take note of, and that is the urgent loss of health care benefits to millions of Americans who had them this time last year, who had them this time 6 months ago, who are afraid more of the loss of health care benefits than they are of the loss of employment. We ought to be very, very careful about going home and leaving people without health insurance.

COMMUNICATION FROM CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; which was read and, without objection, referred to the Committee on Appropriations:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE,

Washington, DC., September 26, 2002.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,

Speaker of the House, Washington, DC

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Enclosed are copies of resolutions adopted on September 25, 2002 by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. Copies of the resolutions are being transmitted to the Department of the Army.

Sincerely,

DON YOUNG,
Chairman.

There was no objection.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. J. RES. 112, FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS, FISCAL YEAR 2003

Mr. SESSIONS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 107-718) on the resolution (H. Res. 568) providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H. J. Res. 112) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2003, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

□ 1730

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

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take the time allocated to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

TRIBUTE TO CARL SCHULTZE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I am 44 years old; and although that is a short time of life, it has been a time of enormous changes. Yet there have been few things that have been consistent. One thing that has been consistent that I have observed in my life is a friend of mine who just passed away, Carl Schultze. He was Mr. Consistency, Mr. Collinsville, Mr. Holy Cross, Mr. Public Servant, Mr. Community Leader.

The record of public service, love of God and family and community has ended with the death of Carl Schultze. Carl Willoughby Schultze, 73, of Collinsville, Illinois, was born July 31, 1929 in Collinsville. Carl started his working career as a car salesman in 1947 for Norwin Chevrolet in downtown Collinsville, Illinois, and retired in 2001 from Jack Schmitt Chevrolet in Collinsville, Illinois.

Carl was an active member of Holy Cross Lutheran Church, the church I attend. He was involved in the church choir. His booming thunderous voice, always on key, served as the foundation of a successful church choir whose sole goal was to glorify God. He was past congregation president, financial secretary, elder, member of the school board and various other boards. He was a past member of the Collinsville Jaycees, was a Collinsville Tepee Adult Board president, and a member of the Collinsville Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and Collinsville Progress Board of Directors, having been president for 9 years.

In May 2002, Collinsville Progress renamed the Improvement of the Month Award as the Carl Schultze Improvement of the Month Award, presented by the Collinsville Progress. He was a past board member of CMT YWCA, that is Collinsville, Marysville, Troy YMCA, and a past member of the United Way board, serving as chairman in 1990.

He was on the board of directors of the Collinsville Building and Loan Association for 22 years, having been made a board member emeritus, and was a board member of the Collinsville Chorale. He was a very active and involved member of the Kiwanis, an organization that he got me to join, having served as president for two terms, past lieutenant governor of Division 34 of Kiwanis, and received the distinguished lieutenant governor pin, and was a past board member and received the Kiwanian of the Year Award, Hixon Fellow Honor, and the Amador Fellow Honor.

Carl received other awards: the CHS, Collinsville High School, Alumni Award in 2001, the Spirit of Excellence Award in 2001, and the Irvin Dillard Award by the Collinsville Lion's Club. Over the years, Carl enjoyed singing for weddings and funerals, working outside in his garden, and was a dedicated husband, father, and grandfather.

He is survived by his loving wife and high school sweetheart, Mary Lou, and three compassionate and loving daughters, daughter Belinda Schultze, Laura