

much of the research was paid for by the American taxpayers through the NIH.

What is more troubling than that is that we bought this box of Tamoxifen a few weeks ago at the pharmacy at the Munich airport in Germany, and we bought this Tamoxifen for \$59.05 American. This same box of drugs in the same label under the same everything, the same dosage, here in Washington, DC, sells for \$360; \$59.05 in Munich, Germany; \$360 in the United States. It is outrageous.

Then you hear that 29 percent of Americans fail to have their prescriptions filled because they cannot afford the drugs. Our own FDA is standing between Americans and the drugs that they need.

We hear all the time that we have to pay a lot of money for prescription drugs because it is for research. She begins to break down in her book how much actually goes to research. Of the \$100 that we might spend for a typical prescription in the United States, use, for example, Lipitor, 35 percent of the cost that you pay is for marketing, advertising and administration; 26 percent is for what they call "other," such as manufacturing, executive pay, worker costs, labor and so forth; 24 percent is pure profit; and only 15 percent actually goes to research.

Madam Speaker, as I have said before, I am not here to say, shame on the pharmaceutical industry, although more and more people are. People who are doing the research are saying, shame on the pharmaceutical industry. The truth of the matter is it is shame on us, because we have created an environment where we literally hold American consumers hostage.

Imagine, for example, if there were two stores in town. One consistently had dramatically lower prices on the same products, and then there was another store that had dramatically higher prices. But yet your own government said you have to shop at the higher-priced store.

In an era with bar-coding technology and all the new technology we can use in terms of counterfeit-proofing these packages, we can come as close as humanly possible in guaranteeing this is, in fact, Tamoxifen, and whether you get it from Geneva, Switzerland, or Munich, Germany, or the local drug-store, your local pharmacist ought to have the ability to shop around and get you the best price.

Finally, let me explain how big a problem this is. Our own Congressional Budget Office tells us over the next 10 years seniors, just seniors, will spend \$1.8 trillion on prescription drugs. Conservatively we are spending 35 percent more than the rest of the G-7 countries on average. Thirty-five percent of \$1.8 trillion works out to \$630 billion.

Then some people say we cannot afford a prescription drug benefit. Of course we cannot afford a prescription drug benefit if we make American consumers pay the highest prices in the world, not just a little higher.

Do not take my word for it. There are several groups that are now doing the research. I do not know why the FDA does not do the research, because a drug you cannot afford is neither safe nor effective. Americans deserve world-class drugs at world-market prices.

FCC SHOULD ALLOW PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida.) Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, this past Monday I hosted a forum in my district with Federal Communications Commissioner Michael Copps about his agency's rules on media ownership. We had nearly 400 of my constituents packed into an auditorium at Dominican University in San Rafael. As their attendance testified, the FCC rules on media ownership is an extremely important issue and an issue that, unfortunately, has been underreported by the very media that will be most affected.

In fact, as proof of that, as proof of underreporting, today, just an hour or so ago, over a dozen concerned Democratic Members of Congress held a press conference on this very issue, the issue of media consolidation, and not one member of the press showed up, until, that is, a member of Roll Call, our newspaper here on the Hill, came to experience a press conference without press. We were glad that that individual showed, but that was as far as it went.

So, what is this all about? Well, on June 2, the Federal Communications Commission has scheduled a vote on new regulations that have the potential to drastically change the face of broadcasting and newspaper ownership, and, in so doing, the flow of free information.

First, the proposed changes to FCC rules would break down the decades-long firewall between media ownership in single markets. Gone will be the prohibitions against corporations owning newspapers and TV stations in the same town, or cable TV stations and TV stations in the same town. Gone also will be the limits on the number of TV stations and cable TV stations a corporation can own nationally. Also allowed would be cross-ownership of print media and broadcast media in the same media market.

In the 1996 Telecommunications Act, similar rules were proposed, but they were stopped by the threat of a veto by President Clinton. Now, under the Bush administration, the FCC Chairman, Michael Powell, who is an avowed free marketer, has said that these proposed rules should come back. Chairman Powell has scheduled a vote on the rule changes in less than a month, and, with a Republican majority on the Commission, these changes are pretty certain to pass.

It is a sham, and it is a shame, that the FCC has not scheduled official hearings across the Nation like the official one that Commissioner Copps and I hosted Monday in my district. The FCC has held only one, only one, official hearing on this subject, just outside the Beltway in Virginia.

If it was not for FCC Commissioners Copps and Jonathan Adelstein, it is doubtful that this discussion would have gone beyond a few lobbyists and public interest activists in the first place.

I am against the proposed deregulation, and I believe we should look back to the relaxation of radio ownership under the Telecommunications Act of 1996. We should use that for our guidance, because virtual elimination of radio ownership restrictions has resulted in a reduction of radio ownership by at least one-third across our Nation. In the San Francisco market alone, seven stations are now owned by Clear Channel Communications, seven by Infinity Broadcasting and three by ABC. Across the Nation, 10 companies broadcast to two-thirds of the Nation's radio audience and receive two-thirds of the broadcast revenues.

Let me say that again: Since the 1996 Telecommunications Act, 10 companies broadcast to two-thirds of the radio audience and receive two-thirds of the broadcast revenues nationwide.

Has the quality of radio broadcasting improved because of these changes? Is there more local programming, more local news, a greater variety of programming? Is there free flow of information, or is there censorship? Ask the Dixie Chicks.

Madam Speaker, my colleagues and I are cosponsoring House Resolution 218 that calls on the FCC to examine and inform the public of the consequences of the new round of deregulation. It asks that the FCC allow for extensive public review and comment on any proposed changes to media ownership rules before issuing a final rule.

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

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

MAKING AMERICA'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS WORSE

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

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, May 31 is going to be quite a sad day in the history of the United States Congress, but I believe that the real tragedy is for 36,500 Ohioans and over 2 million Americans whose unemployment benefits will expire on May 31.

I do not understand how we can look these people in the eye. I think it is