

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, this Congress has an unprecedented opportunity to give America's seniors an up-to-date Medicare system that includes more choices and better benefits like prescription drug coverage. Health care is being transformed by new drug therapies and active prevention. Yet in the current system, Medicare must pay for those treatments out of their own pocket or go without them. One third of the seniors on Medicare have no drug coverage at all, and that is about 90,000 American seniors.

Our seniors should have choices so affordable health care plans compete for their business and at the same time give them the coverage that they need. Medicare recipients who are happy with their current benefits will be able to stay in the current system with an added prescription drug benefit. So our program is voluntary. Those who want enhanced services, like more coverage for preventative care, will have that choice; and seniors who like managed care plans will have that option as well. This is a plan we Republicans passed out of committee, and this is a plan we will pass very soon here in Congress.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES IN THE KOREAN WAR

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the brave men and women who served in the Armed Forces and fought for the freedom of the Korean people. This week marks the 50th anniversary of the signing of the cease-fire agreement that ended the fighting of the Korean War. A peace treaty was never signed, leaving strained relations on the Korean peninsula until today. Armed Forces from over 20 countries came together to fight in what is often called the "forgotten war." Casualties in the United States Armed Forces totaled 54,260 dead, with 8,176 listed as missing in action or as prisoners of war.

I would also like to recognize Orange County resident Martin Markley, who recently received a Bronze Star for combat valor after surviving a bloody battle in Korea over 50 years ago, and I want to give my thanks to those veterans who helped defend for the Korean people; and I want to extend my sympathy to those who lost loved ones during that war. They have not been forgotten and their memory will always be remembered.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, parliamentary inquiry. May I use the name of a Senator, a sitting Senator in attributing a quote to him or her?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TERRY). During 1-minute, the gentleman may not refer to or quote Sen-

ate proceedings, but may refer to statements made generally with attribution.

SADDAM HUSSEIN AND WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, today we are going to be working on the intelligence bill, probably voting on it later this week; and we are going to be hearing a lot from the left in this Chamber that we have not located weapons of mass destruction in Iraq and somehow the President is at fault. I just wanted to remind my colleagues what some of their Democrat Members in the other body said.

Here is a Member from Indiana, October 3, 2002: "Saddam Hussein possesses chemical, biological weapons and, if events are allowed to run their own course, will some day possess nuclear weapons."

Here is another Senator from California, a woman. My colleagues get the choice which of the two: "I believe that Saddam Hussein rules by terror and has squirreled away stores of biological and chemical weapons." That was October 10, 2002.

Here is a Senator from West Virginia, one with a very common name: "The people of the United States and the rest of the world are at risk as long as Saddam Hussein has weapons of mass destruction," March 18, 2003.

And here is another one from a Senator from Maryland: "Over the last 12 years he's ignored U.N. resolutions and embargoes and has illegal chemical and biological weapons . . ." That was March 18, 2003.

Many, many leading Democrat liberals were in support of our going into Iraq in the name of weapons of mass destruction. I just want our colleagues to keep that in mind as we debate this bill today.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair reminds the gentleman from Georgia that he is not allowed to make such references to members of the other body.

MEDICARE ON THE HIT LIST

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, down-size, out-source, privatize, erode, dismount, turn back the clock, all buzz words which characterize the thought and actions of many of our Republican colleagues. And now Medicare is on the hit list. And our seniors are being told that they are going to get a prescription drug plan. Yes, we need a plan, but we do not need one that dismantles

Medicare. We do not need one that turns back the clock. We do not need one that skyjacks our seniors and prices them out of the market. They want real government for all people, including our seniors.

CHILD TAX CREDIT

(Ms. SCHAKOWSKY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. It is obvious that the Republicans cannot do two important things at one time. Remember the 12 million children whose tax credit was dumped from the tax bill to make room for millionaires, including 1 million children of families in the military?

Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Republican leader announced that they were just too busy. He said, We have a problem with simple logistics. That is why we cannot take care of the 12 million children.

He was referring to how busy the Republicans are steamrolling through a bill that turns Medicare into a voucher program, throws money at HMOs, lets drug companies continue to gouge, and leaves seniors with thousands of dollars in drug bills. The majority leader, the President, and everybody in this body knows that we could resolve the child tax credit issue in a matter of hours. All that has to happen is for the Republican leadership to stop holding these children hostage, demanding a ransom of \$82 billion unpaid-for tax package. All it takes is for the House to accept the Senate bill, as a majority of the House voted to do. All it would take would be for President Bush to interrupt his whirlwind fund-raising tour long enough to demand immediate enactment of the Senate bill. Surely we can find a couple of hours here so that 12 million children are not left behind.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later today.

□ 1030

ABRAHAM LINCOLN BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 858) to extend the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 858

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,