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## House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. DAVIS of California).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, January 22, 2007.

I hereby appoint the Honorable SUSAN A. DAVIS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,  
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

### MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) for 5 minutes.

### HEALTH CARE INSURANCE

Mr. DEFAZIO. Well, the President has discovered that we have a problem with health insurance in the United States of America, and that is good news. Approximately 1 million more Americans have become uninsured for health care every year that the President has been in office, a record 46.1 million have no health insurance, 8.3 million of them are children, 609,000 people of them in my State of Oregon, alone.

The President goes on to say, having discovered this problem, that we must

address the rising costs so that more Americans can afford basic health insurance. I think there is a lot of room for agreement there. Unfortunately, the solutions the President is offering are straight out of the neoconservative and right-wing think tanks.

The same people who told us we would be greeted as liberators in Iraq are now giving the President the solutions for the uninsured in America. They are saying the problem is those who are insured have too much insurance. We should tax middle-class Americans, particularly union members, who have good health plans, those that actually provide for some dental and vision coverage, in order to provide health insurance to those who don't.

Now, what the President is ignoring here are a few problems with the wildly profitable insurance industry. First off, it is exempt from the antitrust law. There are only two industries exempt from the antitrust law, baseball and insurance. Now, I don't care that much about the baseball exemption, but insurance should not be exempt from antitrust. They should not be allowed to meet together and collude to jack up prices, collude to determine who they will cover and who they won't cover. Now those are big problems. If we dealt with those problems, that would dramatically drop the cost of health care.

The President is a free market forces guy; well, let's have free market forces in health care. We don't today; it is a cartel. They collude to set the prices; they collude to decide who won't get coverage. Those are big problems. They want to cherry-pick. They only want to insure people who aren't going to file claims. We all know about that with our homeowners insurance now; you file a claim? Whoops, sorry; we don't want to insure you anymore even though you have been paying us a premium for 20 years. This is an industry that must be reined in. But no, that is not what the President is going to do.

He is going to tax middle-class people. He is going to tax union members, people who have decent health care so that some money could then be provided as tax deductions for those who don't have health care. Well, there is another problem with that; of the 46.1 million people, remember, 8.3 million are children, no earnings there. And many of them come from families that earn less than \$50,000 a year. What is a Federal tax deduction worth to those families? Zero, nada, zip. Of course, the President doesn't understand that.

Actually, this will provide tremendous benefits to young, healthy people like, say, people who are millionaires at Google who have chosen not to buy health insurance, they will get a nice \$15,000 a year tax break. But for the family that earns \$50,000 a year, they will not get a tax break because they are not paying Federal income taxes. So the President's plan is worthless for those who most need it. It penalizes those who are getting by.

And who is the President to talk about gold-plated health care plans? He has socialized medicine. He doesn't pay a penny. He gets a \$20,000 physical exam for free every year, in addition to any other health care he might need. And he is talking about Americans, families with gold-plated plans who can actually take their kids to the dentist and get partial payment? Seniors who can actually get some new eyeglasses so they can see again? That is gold-plated in the President's world. Those people should pay taxes so that we can give a phony benefit to the uninsured. This is not the way to solve the problem.

If the President had any guts he would take on the insurance industry. He would join me in proposing to take away the antitrust exemption from the insurance industry, stop them from redlining people and cherry-picking, and that would make health insurance

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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cheaper for all Americans, not the posterous proposal he is putting forward.

#### WATER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today, all over Capitol Hill people are preparing for the State of the Union speech. Iraq, global warming, health care are all at the top of everyone's list. One that, unfortunately, will be suspiciously absent is the topic of a conference that is taking place just across the Potomac River, the third National Dialogue on Water Resources. Yet there is nothing that is more important than the discussion about water. Indeed, if you are talking about war and peace, climate change and health care, they are all directly related.

Water is not just a potential source of conflict, but of conflict resolution. You can actually measure water flows in quality. If the Israelis and the Palestinians can solve their water issues, who knows where it could lead.

Health. One-half the people in the world today who are sick are sick due to water-borne disease, almost all of which is preventable.

Global warming. We are concerned about global warming because of the impacts that are directly water-related: rising ocean levels, coastal erosion, storm surges, disappearing snow pack and polar ice, flooding, rainstorms; too much water too little water in the wrong places at the wrong time. Global warming is all about water.

It is my hope that regardless of what is discussed in the State of the Union and thereafter, that we can add this subject to the top of the list of the 110th Congress, to work with the administration and people on both sides of the aisle to build on one of the few areas of bipartisan progress that we have seen in the recent toxic atmosphere on the House floor.

In the 108th Congress, we were able to work to reform the flood insurance programs, before Katrina. In the 109th Congress, we had the landmark Water For the Poor Act that I was able to work on with Republicans Henry Hyde and Senator Bill Frist.

There are some simple steps that we can take now. I hope that Chair LOWEY and Ranking Member WOLF will fund our international water and sanitation commitments. I hope that out of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee we will update the hopelessly outmoded Corps of Engineers water principles and guidelines that are over a quarter century old and lead to bad decisions. I hope that we can continue Chair FRANK's commitment to further flood insurance reform.

Others are going to take more of a lift, but we can use water supply and

quality in the farm bill to pay farmers to do the right thing and make a profound difference on water around the country. We can shift our frame of reference to deal with basin-wide water management; and we can use the huge value implicit in water resources to fund our crying needs.

At core, Madam Speaker, it is time for us to match our policies on where the water comes from, which date back to the beginning of our country and were basically frozen in place by 1950, to overlap with our water quality and environmental and health protections which have been developed largely since that time.

Money is actually less of a problem because, while water is priceless, we are doing silly things with it; for example, subsidizing people to grow cotton in the desert. When we have an era where for bottled water, some people are paying up to \$8 a gallon or more, we are paying more than gasoline or cheap wine, there are ways that we can tap into that value. We spend too much on uncoordinated infrastructure investments with inappropriate pricing, poor planning and incremental fragmented management.

We have the possibility to refine those partnerships, both public and private, to bring together the Federal agencies, even Congress itself, to limit our stovepipe mentality with fewer subcommittees and more policy management. It is not really that hard. College students, farmers, local government officials, Girl Scouts and church youth groups understand these basic principles after the most basic of study. It is time for the rest of the players to catch up with them, and I hope starting with the 110th Congress.

#### GLOBAL WARMING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I rise today to talk about global warming and our energy future, the epic challenges of our time.

First, I want to applaud our leader, Speaker NANCY PELOSI, for recognizing the importance of this issue to our children and our grandchildren. And I think she is right to put a deadline for the House to act.

Energy independence and global warming are of paramount concern to the American people. Most polls show the American people, by 70 to 80 percent, think these are very serious problems.

Today, a significant development occurred on this front. In the Capitol this morning, the U.S. Climate Action Partnership issued its call for action. This group is composed of environmental groups, World Resources Institute, NRDC, Environmental Defense, the Pew Center on Global Climate Change;

industrial giants like Alcoa, BP, Caterpillar, Duke Energy and Dupont; and many others, including our power company in New Mexico, PNM Resources.

Listen to what they say in their report: "We know enough to act on climate change."

"The challenge is significant, but the United States can grow and prosper in a greenhouse gas constrained world."

"In our view, the climate change challenge will create more economic opportunities than risks for the U.S. economy."

"We need a mandatory flexible climate program."

This report is significant, because major U.S. companies have stepped up to the plate and called for action now. They are optimistic. They believe we can get this done. In the 109th Congress, the Udall-Petri legislation, H.R. 5042, had most of the components called for by this partnership. We will reintroduce it in the 110th and try and capture these up-to-date recommendations.

Udall-Petri stands for immediate action. Our bill is a mandatory cap-and-trade system that uses the marketplace. It puts a price on carbon dioxide emissions. Our bill has a safety valve which balances economic losses with emissions reduction achievements. And our bill provides the flexibility to unleash American business ingenuity.

I told the partnership their first agenda item should be to meet with President Bush. Their message needs to be heard in the White House. The President has called for a voluntary program. While his voluntary program has been in place, we have seen no reduction in carbon dioxide emissions. In fact, we have seen every year in the 6 years a 2 percent increase every year. President Bush should take note of these business leaders and let's join together to leave the planet a better place for our children and grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, this morning myself and several Senators and Representatives including the Senate Majority Leader REID and House Majority Whip HOYER had the honor of participating in an unprecedented meeting with the CEOs of DuPont, GE, Duke Energy, Lehman Brothers, PG&E, FPL Company, Caterpillar, Alcoa, BP America, and PNM Energy from my home state of New Mexico, and the heads of the Natural Resources Defense Council, the Pew Center on Global Climate Change, Environmental Defense, and the World Resources Institute. The United States Climate Action Partnership, as this organization of CEOs is named, has coalesced around the urgent need to enact a federal global warming policy, and to enact it now. I am humbled both by the commitment expressed by these leading global corporations and by the enormity and importance of the task we here in Congress have before us to craft policies to address perhaps the most pressing issue of our generation. I applaud them for their leadership and courage on this issue, and I look forward to working with them.

The time for debate about whether or not global warming is real and whether or not it is