

news, I guess, in Mexico: as a result of this NAFTA stuff, there is one gentleman named Carlos Slim Helu, a big guy in telecommunications coming from the poor country of Mexico, now the richest guy in the world, worth \$60 billion; he passed Mr. Gates. You have a guy worth \$60 billion, poverty in Mexico increasing, and small farmers driven off the land.

We can create trade agreements which work for working people in this country and working people abroad, not for the CEOs of large corporations, and that is what we have to do.

I think given the failure of trade agreements, it is time to take a moratorium to stop these trade agreements until we get them right.

On another issue, we have discussed, as you know, a whole lot about the SCHIP program. I strongly support what the leadership here is trying to do. But let us be clear. Let us be clear. While it is a good step forward, bringing 4 million more kids into the SCHIP program, there are millions of children, after we pass this legislation, or if we can override the President's veto, who will still not have health insurance. We are living in a nation in which 47 million Americans have zero health insurance. Even more are underinsured.

I met recently in Burlington, VT, with a group of young people who said: Yes, they have health insurance. They have to pay 50 percent of the cost of the health insurance. There is a large deductible. So at the end of the day, despite the health insurance they have, they are paying out a lot of money for health care.

It is time that we place on the table the fact that we are the only Nation in the industrialized world, the only one that does not have a national health care program which guarantees health care for every man, woman, and child.

The programs are different in Germany than Canada, than in the United Kingdom, than Scandinavia. They are all different. But essentially what every other major country on Earth has said is that health care should be a right, not a privilege—a right.

Meanwhile, we spend twice as much per person on health care as any of the people of any other country. Yet, if you look at the health care index situation, our infant mortality rate is very high; in many countries people live longer than we do.

Our health care system is disintegrating and the time is long overdue that we have the guts to take on the pharmaceutical industry, the insurance industry, and move toward a national health care program which provides health care to all people as a right of citizenship.

Lastly, I am on both the Energy Committee and the Environmental Committee. Both committees are working very hard on one of the great crises facing our planet today; that is, global warming. It is clear to me that as a nation, we have got to radically

change our course, which for many years under President Bush has almost denied the reality of global warming. We have got to move away from that and not only understand its severity but move in an aggressive way to reverse greenhouse gas emissions and to make sure our kids and our grandchildren can live on a planet with the quality of life we enjoy today.

In addition to that, as the tragedy in Minnesota a few months ago indicated, our infrastructure is in very serious shape. The engineers tell us we need to spend over a trillion dollars to rebuild our bridges, our culverts, our waste water systems, and our water plants.

In my view, we should be investing substantially in sustainable energy, in energy efficiency, in solar technology, in wind technology, and geothermal. When we do those things, we will accomplish two goals: No. 1, we are going to reverse global warming, and, secondly, we will create millions and millions of good-paying jobs. Instead of spending \$10 billion a month on the civil war in Iraq, we should be rebuilding our infrastructure and moving away from fossil fuels to energy efficiency, to sustainable energy as we take a leadership role in this world to reverse global warming.

Let me conclude by saying it is no secret that the American people now are not looking terribly favorably on the White House or the Congress. I can understand why. I think one way we can begin to win the respect of the American people is to at least acknowledge the reality of their lives, to acknowledge what is going on, and then to begin to start addressing some of those problems.

I yield the floor.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN JOE WAGGONNER

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, it is with sadness that I come to the floor today to pay respects to one of our former congressional leaders who passed away earlier this week.

Congressman Joe Waggonner represented the Fourth District of Louisiana from 1961 to 1979. Literally up until the last weeks of his life, he stayed very active in the Fourth District. He was active on what went on there both at a political level and a civic level, lending his voice to many important efforts in the community—and I emphasize literally up until the last few weeks of his life.

He was always engaged, always open, always welcoming to leaders coming

into the Shreveport area. He was not from the big city in that district, Shreveport, LA; he was from a small town called Plain Dealing. It was actually a very fitting name for this Congressman because he was a very straightforward, plain-speaking, progressive-leaning Congressman from this small town called Plain Dealing of only a thousand people. That small community of loving and supportive families, made up of farmers and small business owners and churchgoers, provided a great foundation for Joe Waggonner as he grew and came into his professional life and then became a Congressman from this small town. He was down to earth, he was honest, and he was a Congressman who represented his constituents with a lot of enthusiasm and intelligence. He was a Congressman who would see an issue from all different sides and then make the best decision he could. His favorite saying was: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." So he was always quite courteous and respectful in the way he treated other people.

He was a natural leader. He was a lieutenant commander in the U.S. Navy during World War II, and after returning from service there, he began his political career as a school board member. Throughout his career, he carried an enthusiasm and excitement and energy for school issues and for the children of the Fourth District in our State. In 1961, he won a special election after longtime U.S. Representative Overton Brooks died in office and again continued that great tradition of representing the Fourth District.

I can't name all the things Joe did for our State. It would be such a long list. But there are a few things that cannot be overlooked. Because of Congressman Waggonner's work in his congressional district, Barksdale Air Force Base is now one of the largest and strongest Air Force bases and is home to the mighty 8th Air Force. This base had been scheduled to close some decades ago, but because of his efforts and others, led by many of the business and civic leaders in that district but primarily because of this Congressman, Barksdale is not only open, but it is now going to be the proud home of U.S. Strategic Command's Cyber Command.

Joe was also known for being a pioneer of interstate highways in their early days, wanting to put Shreveport on the map. Shreveport and Bossier City today are growing in large measure because of his fierce advocacy for ports and airports and transportation hubs, as well as the Barksdale Air Force Base.

Along with my predecessor, Senator Bennett Johnson, Joe's efforts created a whole new image for Shreveport because of the work they did regarding the Red River. With their hard work they opened it to trade and transportation. Also, this river is now home to several "floating" casinos that have transformed Bossier City and Shreveport, LA, from very sleepy small towns

to really booming commercial developments attracting gaming interests from all over the region and contributing mightily to the economy in north Louisiana.

I personally say many thanks to his family—his wife Mary Ruth Carter Waggoner, his two children, Carol and David, and his three grandchildren—for the contributions they made supporting a man through many careers in public service in Louisiana. David is a personal friend and I know him and his son, Peter, are mourning the loss of their father and grandfather. He was a man of tremendous faith. He made Louisiana proud. He served us with distinction and with honor. He will be remembered as a very distinguished and dignified leader for our State, particularly north Louisiana.

Joe Waggoner was a straightforward, straight-thinking man from Plain Dealing, LA. He was a graduate of Louisiana Tech University and was very proud of his alma mater and very proud to call Plain Dealing home. His leadership and friendship will be missed.

CHIP

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, a few weeks ago, in this Chamber, we passed the Children's Health Insurance Program and passed it by a big majority, passed it bipartisanship, when almost two dozen Republicans joined, I believe, all the Senate Democrats in passing a program that has worked for 10 years.

I was in the House of Representatives when we initially wrote the Children's Health Insurance Program. It was written by a Democratic President, with a Republican House and a Republican Senate. It has worked splendidly for the last 10 years. It has, in fact, provided health insurance for literally millions and millions of American middle-class families—families making a little bit too much to qualify for Medicaid but families either not earning quite enough to buy insurance or not working in a place that offers insurance at a decent, reasonable rate. We know the children who are in the Children's Health Insurance Program are sons and daughters of working parents—again, working parents overwhelmingly making between about \$20,000 and \$50,000 a year.

The Senate passed the Children's Health Insurance Program expansion, which would have meant, in addition to the 6.6 million children in our country receiving health insurance under the Children's Health Insurance Program today, it would have added about another 4 million American children. About 200,000 children in my State—from Ashtabula to Hamilton, from Wauseon to Marietta—now receive coverage under the Children's Health Insurance Program. This would have added tens of thousands more to the Children's Health Insurance Program.

Unfortunately, a couple weeks ago, the President of the United States de-

cidated to veto this legislation even though it passed with more than four dozen Republican votes in the House joining almost every Democrat and passed with almost two dozen Republican votes in the Senate.

I wish the President, before he vetoed this legislation, had done what a lot of us did. I know the Presiding Officer from Missouri has done this. So many of us have talked to families in our States. I have talked to families in Lima and in Canfield and in Columbus and in Dublin and in Springfield about what the Children's Health Insurance Program means to them.

Eleven-year-old Tanner Stainbrook of Toledo has cystic fibrosis. Both of his parents work. They are playing by the rules, working hard, and paying their taxes. But without CHIP, without the Children's Health Insurance Program, Tanner cannot get the care he needs.

Seth Novak is a 3-year-old boy who lives in Lebanon, OH, down in the southwest corner of the State near Cincinnati. Seth has Down's syndrome and needs the Children's Health Insurance Program to help him stay healthy. Again, his parents are working, but they simply cannot get the insurance, in part, as with many of these children, because of a preexisting condition and also because of the finances the family faces and the lack of health coverage.

Emily Danko of Columbus also has Down's syndrome. Without CHIP, Emily has no health insurance.

I wish the President had talked to the Stainbrook family and the Novak family and the Danko family and talked to them about their situations. I am not sure he would have vetoed this bill if he had done that.

Unfortunately, the President made the decision to veto this bill. When he did, he mentioned several things. I would like to briefly touch on what he said and what the truth really is.

The President of the United States said this will result in all kinds of families shifting their children from private health insurance to Government health insurance. Were it so that all those families he talks about had private health insurance—if they all had private health insurance—we would not be concerned about this Children's Health Insurance Program. But the fact is, most of these families—the overwhelming majority of these families—who will be on this Children's Health Insurance Program expansion are not getting private insurance or they are getting very inadequate private insurance.

The President said families making up to \$80,000 a year could get this insurance. That is patently untrue. If a State wants to do that, they have to apply to the Federal Government, and the President has already said no to the State of New York. He could say no to other States. So that is clearly, simply not true.

The President also said the Children's Health Insurance Program is

just too expensive—a \$7 billion-a-year increase over the next 5 years; \$7 billion a year to insure 4 million children a year; \$7 billion a year contrasted with what we spend on the war in Iraq: \$2.5 billion a week; \$7 billion a year for 4 million children versus \$2.5 billion and climbing per week for a war we never should have been in, a civil war the President continues to immerse our Nation in, with no plan to end.

The last thing the President said is this program is socialized medicine, that we are going down the path of socialized medicine. The President forgets to say he and many Members of Congress get health care from Bethesda—go out to Bethesda and get their health care, with Government doctors taking care of Members of Congress and the President.

The President also forgets to mention that when he calls it socialized medicine, that, in fact, this legislation was supported bipartisanship 10 years ago in a Republican House, Republican Senate, and with a Democratic President—hardly socialized medicine supported by that many conservative Republicans back then and today. This legislation is supported by 68 Senators, including 18 Republicans; is supported by 43 Governors, including 16 Republicans; is supported by more than 270 organizations, representing millions of Americans.

The beauty of this legislation is for 10 years it has worked for America's children. And 6.6 million children have insurance today because of the Children's Health Insurance Program. We can expand this program at the cost of about \$3.50 a day to cover a child through the Children's Health Insurance Program, and do that for 4 million children. It makes sense for our children, it makes sense for our communities, and it makes sense for our country.

HONORING REPRESENTATIVE GEORGE SANGMEISTER

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a great man, Representative George Sangmeister, a great servant of Illinois who passed away on October 9.

George served Illinois in more ways than anyone I know; his was a lifetime of dedicated public work, and honesty. I had the good fortune to work as a staff lawyer in the Illinois State Senate when George was serving there. He was kind and determined, and these traits have shown through his work, his family life, and his long battle with leukemia.

Not surprisingly, George came from a family of dedicated Illinoisans. His father was mayor of Frankfort from 1923 to 1955 and a great political influence on his son. George attended Joliet Junior College before entering the military to serve in the Korean war. He was always proud of his service, and it informed many of his initiatives. He always took time to pay tribute to our warriors and veterans.