

In the 1960s, we saw similar changes. For the first time we saw reliable drugs to fight hypertension become available. Anti-psychotics became available. Antidepressants became available. And in the midst of all of that scientific change, there also occurred a big change in that this Congress, or this House of Representatives, passed a bill that we now know as the Medicare bill.

In 1965 when Medicare was enacted, for the first time the Federal Government had a large footprint in health care in this country, and, of course, it has grown significantly since that time in ways that probably most of the people who are on the floor of this House voted for that bill would never have imagined that it would spend in excess of \$300 billion a year, but that's where we find ourselves now.

Think of where we are now on just the beginning of the dawn of the 21st century. The human genome has been sequenced. You can go on line and find a place that, for a little less than a thousand dollars, will investigate your human genome, will tell you your risk factors for diseases like multiple sclerosis, heart disease, diabetes, even being overweight. It's phenomenal to have that information literally at our fingertips. When I was a resident at Parkland Hospital in the 1970s, I never would have imagined that that type of information would be available to people so cheaply and so easily. I never would have imagined that there was anything called the Internet, but nevertheless, that information that could be so easily accessed.

We are indeed at a transformative time in medicine in this country. I referenced information technology. Think of the speed of change of information technology, how things are progressing and evolving so rapidly that it really isn't reasonable to ask the Federal Government to keep up and moderate those changes. We need to depend on the private sector to do that because it's happening so fast.

But as medicine is transformative, Congress, by its very nature, can't be transformative. We are transactional. We take money from one group and we give it to the next. That's what we do. We collect the taxes, we spend the money. Congress is inherently a transactional body. But Dr. DeBakey said Congress can do this; Congress can participate in the transformation of delivering health care in this country.

Well, I thank Dr. DeBakey for his wise counsel. I thank the American Medical Association for being up here this week. It is not easy taking time away from their families and their practices and their practices to come here and interact with legislators such as myself and other Members on both sides of the aisle to help explain and help us understand some of the very complex issues that they face on a day-to-day basis, yes, dealing with sick people but also dealing with this vast morass of regulations and rules that we lay at their feet every year.

And most of all, I want the American people over this next year's time to focus on this grand debate that we are going to have at the national level. Your future is dependent upon it. Certainly your children's future and your children's children's future is dependent upon it.

Think of the Congress back in 1965. It enacted Medicare and had no idea what it would be like 40 years hence. The same things apply today. The decisions we make on the floor of this body today, 30 and 40 years from now are going to look decidedly different. And I would say help us to make the right kinds of decisions so that the American citizens, 30 and 40 years' time from now, will look back and say the 110th Congress stepped up and did the right thing.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a long week, and with that, I am going to yield back the balance of my time.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. WOOLSEY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WATSON, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. PRICE of Georgia) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. POE, for 5 minutes, April 10.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, April 10.

Mr. PENCE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. WELLER of Illinois, for 5 minutes, April 8 and 9.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CONAWAY, for 5 minutes, today.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 36 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, April 4, 2008, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5841. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Flood Elevation Determinations — received March 10, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5842. A letter from the Director, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule — Mine Rescue Teams (RIN: 1219-AB53) received March 3, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

5843. A letter from the Deputy Director Office of Health Plan Standards and Compliance Assistance EBSA/USDOL, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule — Mental Health Parity (RIN: 1210-AA62) received March 18, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

5844. A letter from the Deputy Director, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing and Paying Benefits — received March 3, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

5845. A letter from the General Counsel, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Final Rule: Standard for the Flammability (Open Flame) of Mattress Sets; Correction — received March 18, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5846. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Fitness For Duty Programs (RIN: 3150-AF12) received March 13, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5847. A letter from the Assistant Secretary Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment to the International Arms Traffic in Arms Regulations: Sri Lanka [Public Notice:] received March 18, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5848. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator For Regulatory Programs, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Gulf of Alaska; 2008 and 2009 Final Harvest Specifications for Groundfish [Docket No. 071106671-8010-02] (RIN: 0648-XD67) received March 13, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5849. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Operations, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Reef Fish Fishery and Shrimp Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico; Amendment 27/14; Correction [Docket No. 0612243157-7799-07] (RIN: 0648-AT87) received March 13, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5850. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator For Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Groundfish, Crab, Scallop, and Salmon Fisheries of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No. 070711313-8014-02] (RIN: 0648-AV62) received March 5, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5851. A letter from the Under Secretary and Director, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Changes in the Requirement for a Description of the Mark in Trademark Applications [Docket No. PTO-T-2007-0035] (RIN: 0651-