

I want to quote again from THAD-DEUS:

“Unfortunately, trapped in the past of a big government ideology and purblind to the people empowering wondering powers of our globalized world, the President and his Democratic majority cavalierly dismiss such sensible, affordable approach and determinedly toil behind closed doors to impose their radical health distribution scheme on unwilling Americans. If the Democrats prevail, their health redistribution will impel higher costs, lower quality, fewer choices and lost jobs during this painful recession. There is a better way, the Republican way: patient-centered wellness for our people powered world.”

This should not happen in the greatest country in the world. We must do everything that we can to stop this, and we will do everything we can to stop it.

VACATING 5-MINUTE SPECIAL ORDER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the 5-minute Special Order request of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is vacated.

There was no objection.

HEALTH CARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, today Speaker PELOSI, with a lot of fanfare and locked doors, invitation only, which didn't include any Republicans, just as the input in this bill included no Republicans, this is the bill, 1,990 pages. I haven't had a chance to read it. They just got it out today. I have been trying to get through it.

One of the frustrating things we have is we have had hearings and hearings, hours and hours of hearings on the Democratic health bill, H.R. 3200, hour after hour. Think about how many people in America have spent hour after hour reading H.R. 3200.

□ 2030

They carefully examined it because this was the law that was proposed by the Democratic leadership. And they were concerned that this may be voted into law, and they need to know because this is going to be country changing.

So they spent thousands and thousands of hours all across America to review H.R. 3200. Some have gone to the trouble and spent hundreds or thousands of hours, when you consider all the people in America are reading these bills because they're scared, reading the Baucus bill, reading some of the other bills. And then it turns out those were all red herrings. The American public, all the Members of Congress were tricked into wasting their

time, spending all those hours reviewing a bill that they knew they weren't going to introduce.

Mr. Speaker, you know, Thomas Jefferson laid out the rules that we follow. They're not Robert's Rules of Order. They're Thomas Jefferson's rules that get modified with each Congress. And that's what we're supposed to follow. And the procedure is well thought out. You have subcommittees that are supposed to have legislative hearings and bring in witnesses and consider all these different aspects, and after they've considered all this, someone starts working together with other people. You're supposed to have bipartisan support. We were told all year long we would have that. Yes, big joke there. So someone, though, is supposed to put together the bill and lots of people working together to get it done, and then you give everybody plenty of time to review the bill at the subcommittee level. And then you have a markup, it's called, in subcommittee, where some of those hearings are very long when they're done properly because they're open to any amendment by anyone on the subcommittee. Once it clears the subcommittee, if it gets voted out of the subcommittee, then it goes to the full committee. And anyone in the full committee can make amendments, as many as they want, and you stay as long as you have to get through all the amendments. That's the process. And then once the amendments are done and the committee votes it out, that is the bill that is supposed to come to the House floor. You bring the bill that was amended and agonized over.

Not in this Congress, oh, no. We're going to spend thousands and thousands of hours, and there's no telling how many of the trees in America got cut down to print out H.R. 3200 so that people could read it because this is going to be really country changing, as the President said. He's going to transform America. He didn't say to what, but he's going to transform America. And then it turns out after all those hearings, amendments, considerations, all that work, behind closed doors they were working on a bait-and-switch scheme. And today it played out. And now we're told by the Democratic leadership, well, we want to make sure you have 72 hours to review this bill.

Well, I'm telling you what. You mark my words. You mark my words. We've got 1,990 pages here, but by the time this bill is voted on, there will be hundreds of pages added, as we've seen over and over, in the wee hours of the morning, and people won't have time to read it. And just like the crap-and-trade bill, it will be up there and they won't even have the whole bill put together in time for us to read the whole bill before we vote on this transforming bill that's going to change and, I would submit humbly, end some lives in America. Not because people are going to be denied treatment but because they're going to be put on lists and be

required to wait an inordinate amount of time because you can't cut \$500 billion from Medicare and not expect to have some people not get treated.

Another thing you need to realize too, in this new bill, from what we've been able to quickly discern, this Pelosi bill, the 1,990 pages, reduces the size of affordable credits for patients to purchase insurance in the exchange, and instead it expands the eligibility for Medicare to 150 percent of the Federal poverty level.

Well, our seniors are not as stupid as some people in this body think they are. They get it. You're going to cut Medicare \$500 billion and you're going to expand coverage to people that have never been covered before, and we're supposed to feel good that we're going to get more coverage than ever? They're not stupid. They understand what's happening.

I have been joined by some of my colleagues here, and I would love to get their input because we've been scrambling to see what we are facing here with this bill.

I would love to yield to my friend Mr. BRADY.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. I thank my friend from east Texas, where our districts border each other and whom I have gotten to know and respect here in Congress. And I thank you for this leadership.

The timing is now. The bill has been introduced. The fight is on. And rarely in our lives do we have the opportunity to make such a difference on a bill that can take us down such a wrong road for America.

I will be brief, but what comes to mind is recently a national pollster whom you would know and recognize did a survey of Americans, and he asked them two questions, and he said, which one is most true: The first question is America is going to spend \$1 trillion of your tax dollars to reform health care and it won't add a dime to the deficit. The second statement was there is human life on other planets. By a three-to-one margin, people chose human life on other planets as more true than we can spend all this money and not add a dime to the deficit.

The American public is smart. I held more than 50 town hall meetings during August and September, roundtables, all types of forums, and the truth of the matter is this Speaker and this House didn't listen to any of them.

This bill, Mr. GOHMERT, you talk about and show today, 2,000 pages, \$1 trillion, 31 new Federal agencies, mandates and commissions that come between you and your doctor, who ultimately decide what doctors you can see, what treatments the government thinks you deserve, what medicines they think you can get.

This bill today, the fight we are engaged in, government will inject itself in our most intimate health care decisions. It raises the costs of health care. It increases the deficit for generations