

also consider an omnibus appropriations bill for fiscal year 1996. The House should finish business and have Members on their way home to their families by 2 p.m. on Friday, March 22.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I have one inquiry of my friend from Illinois, and that relates to the immigration bill, which he referred to in his statement.

The Committee on Rules is now meeting on the rule for that particular bill, and one of the most important pieces or one of the most important amendments that is being offered up in the Committee on Rules is a bipartisan amendment being offered by the gentleman from Kansas [Mr. BROWNBACK], the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. CHRYSLER], and the gentleman from California [Mr. BERMAN].

My question to my friend is, will that amendment be made in order? It is probably, if not the most important one, one of the most important amendments in that bill, and it deals with the question of illegal immigrants separate from legal immigrants. It is better known as the amendment that would split the bill and in light of the fact that the Senate Republicans yesterday did so in the other body, I would hope that we would be able to have a debate on that particular amendment on the floor.

I yield to my friend from Illinois for a response.

Mr. HASTERT. I thank the gentleman for yielding. It would be speculation on my part to try to presuppose what the distinguished Committee on Rules would do. I really do not have an idea of what that final decision would be.

Mr. BONIOR. I thank the gentleman.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, MARCH 18, 1996

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 2 p.m. on Monday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HOBSON). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

HOUR OF MEETING ON TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 1996

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns on Monday, March 18, 1996, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 19, 1996, for morning hour debates.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business

in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

TERM LIMITS GROUP NOT NONPARTISAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Colorado [Mrs. SCHROEDER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, it is hard for me to do this because usually when Members come to the well to talk about something from their State, they are popping with pride and they feel very good.

But I am here saying I am really ashamed, I am very ashamed that a group that originates in my State of Colorado is out saying they are one thing and really doing something else. I think this tells you how far we have fallen when it comes to this body and when it comes to playing politics and every other such thing.

In today's newspaper called Rollcall, there is an article about this. It talks about the two Democrats who are for term limits quitting this group because of what they have done and how partisan this group has become. This group is a tax-exempt Colorado-based group. It has a wonderful name that everybody should be for. When you hear this name you say, yes, it is Americans back in charge. And it also got tax exemption because, again, it said it was doing grassroots voter education and so forth on the issue of term limits.

Now, I will be very honest, I am not for term limits. But they have every right to do voter education, education on term limits as long as it is bipartisan and they are out there. But what have they done? Because the term limits legislation failed in this body, and I hope everybody realizes this body is not Democratically controlled right now, the Democratic Party does not control this body, that may be news to somebody, apparently it is news to this group in Colorado, but the term limits legislation failed in this Republican-majority Congress. And guess what they have done? They have raised \$3 million and targeted 14 Democrats. Not one Republican.

Now, there are Republican members of my delegation in Colorado who are not for term limits. But they did not target them. They did not target the local boys.

It is kind of embarrassing to think they did not know what the voting records were of people at home and,

they are targeting 14 people nationwide.

One of these people has now said that they are not running, so we are now down to 13 people. And they say they are going to spend \$3 million that people donated to them and got a tax exemption for because they thought it was voter education, \$3 million for radio ads and fliers against Democrats only.

Now, what does that equal? That equals about \$225,000-plus per district. That is a lot of radio ads. That is a lot of fliers.

I think a lot of us have gotten very concerned about how this money is collected under these wonderful sounding names, so people can deduct them and do all sorts of things, and then the next thing we know is it is being put to very political partisan usage.

I really salute the two Democrats who got off of this group and called it what it was, partisan, and saying it is doing one thing and really doing another. Those two Members were the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. MEEHAN] and the gentleman from Minnesota [Mr. MINGE]. And I must say, as a Coloradoan, I am ashamed to have to stand here and say I agree with this analysis. But I think the American people have got to wake up and as they see people targeted for these term limits that are only Democrats, maybe they should ask some questions about why did this group not target Senator THURMOND. He just turned 93. He is running again, and he is for term limits. Please.

That does not pass the straight-face test, and I could list a whole lot of others that are out there posturing as the poster children for term limits, yet when you look at their career and you look at what they are doing, it does not compute.

Now, again, I say one more time, this is America, and we have the right to debate term limits out front. But it is absolutely wrong when you blame only Democrats for the failure of the term limits legislation when the Democrats do not control this House and when there is absolutely no bipartisanship involved at all in this voter education and you are doing it with tax-exempt money under the name of voter education.

We in Colorado usually stand very firm for good government, clean government, and at least play by the rules. And if you say you are nonpartisan, be nonpartisan.

So all I say is, to those 13 Members who are going to have this \$200,000-plus slapped at them, remind them who the real poster children are and what is really going on, and I hope Americans rise up and get very suspicious of this in the future.

WHY MEDICINE COSTS SO MUCH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee [Mr. DUNCAN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, one of the worst agencies in the entire Federal Government is the Food and Drug Administration. It is arrogant. It is abusive. It is bureaucratic. If people in this country wonder why medicine costs them so much, they need look no further than the FDA.

The bureaucratic rules and regulations and red-tape of the Food and Drug Administration sometimes cause needed safe drugs to be held off the market in this country for years, and sometimes it takes companies many, many millions of dollars to get approval and, as I say, only after years of paperwork and red-tape.

There are many safe lifesaving drugs and medical devices kept off the market in this country for years while they are being safely used, saving lives in countries around the world. I remember a couple of years ago reading a front page article in the Wall Street Journal about a device, a medical device used to detect breast cancer, that had been held off the market for years because this small company in Illinois did not bow down to the FDA sufficiently and they had gotten approval in every other country in the world in which they had sought approval, most of the time within just a few weeks.

One doctor was quoted saying that this had caused thousands and thousands of women to die from breast cancer because of the bureaucratic delays and dilatory and unfair tactics of the Food and Drug Administration.

So that is one reason why I read with such great interest a half page ad that was run yesterday in the Washington Times by a man named Jeffrey N. South of Arnold, MD. He had written a letter, an open letter to his Congressman, and he said this. This letter speaks adequately for itself, and I would like to read as much of it as time permits.

It says:

MARCH 4, 1996.

HON. WAYNE T. GILCREST,
U.S. Congressman,
Annapolis, MD.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN GILCREST: I have been a citizen of Maryland for most of my life and, until now, have never been moved to address any concern to my Congressman. I have witnessed something recently that deserves your attention.

On Monday, February 26, 1996, I attended a Food and Drug Administration Advisory Panel hearing in Gaithersburg, MD. A company called Biocontrol Technology, Inc. of Pittsburgh was presenting a medical device for the Panel's recommendation to the FDA for approval to market. This medical device reads blood glucose levels non-intrusively via light energy.

I am not a diabetic but I was exposed to the horrors of what it must be like to be diabetic for the first time in my life. I observed for the entire day a parade of dozens of those diabetics who cared enough to come to the Washington area to testify on behalf of being able to use this new technology towards improving the quality of their lives. Evidently insulin dependent diabetics must perform painful finger prick blood extraction tests numerous times a day in order to determine when they may need insulin. I was amazed to

learn that this is such an unpleasant process that over 40% (American Diabetes Association Estimates) of diabetics choose to avoid this painful testing procedure at great risk to their lives. I noticed that their fingers looked like raw hamburger from years of sticking their fingers and extracting blood. This medical device would end all of this.

I was amused by a diabetic woman who passed finger sticks to all the FDA Panel members as she gave her testimony challenging each member to experience the pain of just one prick and to imagine doing it many times a day for their entire life. And to imagine being a very young diabetic child that must do this.

After ten minutes or so into her testimony she had noticed that not one Panel member had mustered the nerve to perform the stick on their own finger. The entire room of some three hundred plus broke into a laughter of disgust.

Most of the day was composed of various questions and discussion between the panel members and the scientists and technicians of Biocontrol Technology. I was absolutely shocked and dismayed that the FDA had delegated decision making authority to this body which openly displayed and admitted to very limited, if any, knowledge of the science behind this new technology. Several of the panelists never even received, much less reviewed, any of the vital supporting material that Biocontrol Technology had provided the FDA over two years ago! It wasn't any wonder that, guess what?!—they could not reach a decision to make this technology available to the diabetic public.

As all of this day unfolded I watched the faces of the public and the technology developers to observe that they too were extremely disillusioned and frustrated as they witnessed this government body embarrass itself with its' incompetence and aloofness. What a pathetic display it was of a bureaucratic process meandering in utter confusion.

On top of all this, a panel spokesperson disclosed that the FDA can and does exercise wavers for panel members that may have financial or other conflicts with companies whose products are under review. There were several on this panel that did disclose such conflicts and were still permitted to participate. Can you imagine!!!

I know now why health care costs have soared over the past several decades. Most medical technology developers have to spend millions upon millions of dollars over years waiting for this meandering, incompetent, and perhaps corrupt government process to wave its' magic wand.

I have enjoyed a healthy and carefree life and can only be thankful that I do not have to depend on such a system. I can only feel extreme sorrow for those who are not healthy and must fight a dreaded disease and wait for the workings of a federal agency the likes of which I witnessed. So very sad for those that forge on knowing that technology exists that could be of great value to them but they must gamble years of their life away waiting for some inept government agency.

I often hear some say that government is an evil entity and think of those that say it to be extreme. Now I think that they are far more insightful than most of us care to admit.

JEFFREY N. SOUTH.

□ 1545

Mr. Speaker, in this country today, if some individual came up with a cure for cancer, he probably could not get it to market unless he sold out to one of the big drug giants. This agency is very

harmful to small business, and very harmful to the health of the American citizens.

UPDATE ON BOSNIAN DEPLOYMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HOBSON). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. SKELTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, the debate over the American deployment to Bosnia has ceased and in this, my third floor speech regarding that troubled part of the world, I wish to say a good word about the Americans in uniform stationed there.

From briefings that I have received and hearings before the National Security Committee, it is evident that the uniformed Americans are performing exceptionally well in this challenge called Bosnia. The Air Force is doing its duty flying above and flying into that country, delivering needed materiel. The Navy and Marine Corps stand guard in the Adriatic, ever ready to help if called upon.

But it is the foot soldier, stationed in the American sector—the northeast corner—of Bosnia, on which I center my remarks.

The Army is fully deployed, consisting of the 1st Armored Division and supporting units. To begin with, twin float bridges were built across the swollen Sava River. No other army has ever even attempted to bridge such a river, especially with the high water level. The first float bridge is the longest one in military history.

Junior soldiers and officers are performing at "levels far above any reasonable expectation, cheerful and willing under the most trying of circumstances, innovative, and hard-working to the extreme," according to the Army Chief of Staff, Gen. Dennis Reimer, who recently returned from Bosnia.

The conditions under which our soldiers live are difficult. The winter snows are up to 10 inches. When the snow melts, the mud is deep. And yet, morale is high and military professionalism is the order of the day.

The thousands of land mines in Bosnia continue to be a major problem for our troops. Since the peacekeeping mission began, NATO troops have reported 14 accidents involving mines. Five of these incidents resulted in injuries, including the death of one American soldier. At my urging, the Army has accelerated its program of mine detection under the leadership of the Army Vice Chief of Staff.

The flag officers have been interviewed and quoted at length in the news media, but it is the enlisted ranks and junior officers that are making this peacekeeping deployment a success. The late Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman once said: "We have good corporals and Sergeants, and some good lieutenants and Captains, and those are