

also shows is that anybody born after 1948 will get a negative rate of return on their Social Security investment.

So as we think about this debate that is soon coming to this Congress and is soon coming to the White House, we ought to think about a couple of things. We ought to think about how do we fix it, because that is the big question. Do we simply cut benefits? I live along the coast of South Carolina and the retirees that I talk to there think that is a horrible idea. That is not the way to fix Social Security.

We have many young people. Other people say, all right, if we cannot cut benefits, maybe we can raise payroll taxes. I think that is a crazy idea, because the young people that I talk to on a daily basis at home in South Carolina say that the idea of raising payroll taxes would squeeze them that much more. We can only squeeze but so much blood from a turnip and those young families that I talk to say they are squeezed. The idea of raising taxes would hurt them.

That only leaves one other option out there for saving Social Security and that is letting one earn more on their Social Security investment, more than this 1.9 percent or more than this negative number. That is, I think, the significance of at least thinking about the idea of personal savings accounts. Because when personal savings accounts have been tried around the globe, people overwhelmingly have elected that option.

In South American countries, 95 percent of the workers in Chile chose the idea of personal savings accounts. In Great Britain, whose demographics are remarkably similar to our own, 75 percent of the workers chose the option of personal savings accounts, or in our own country, a number of counties down in south Texas ran into the same problem we are running into in terms of demographics. They said, how are we going to fix Social Security, and prior to 1983 at the county government level, the State government level, one could create one's own Social Security system. Those counties in south Texas did and 80 percent of the workers, when given the option of personal savings accounts, chose that option.

So I think that as we think about this debate that is coming our way, we really need to look at how do we save Social Security, and I think at least part of the formula for saving Social Security will be the option of personal savings accounts. Not mandatory, but again, leaving people above the age of 65 alone. We do not yank the rug out from underneath seniors, but offer the young people the choice, if it makes more sense for them and for their families, this option of personal savings accounts.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.]

#### SANCHEZ WON FAIR AND SQUARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today this House took an action that I think does not speak well of the premise that if one runs fairly and wins fairly, one should be allowed to serve fairly.

Leader GEPHARDT offered to this House an opportunity to move democracy forward by ceasing and desisting from the pursuit of an investigation against Congresswoman LORETTA SANCHEZ, who won her election fair and square in California.

So I rise today, Mr. Speaker, to challenge the injustice to a person who deserves justice. I rise today concerning the continuing investigation of the Committee on House Oversight into the partisan political crusade that they have carried on in an effort to harass Congresswoman LORETTA SANCHEZ since she defeated Bob Dornan in the last congressional election. That committee, despite the lack of any shred of credible evidence, has dragged on its investigation for no other reason except partisan politics. We already know that the constituents of LORETTA SANCHEZ' district appreciates her service, has received her well, agrees with her positions, and she is serving them well.

Mr. Speaker, I would simply say in American lingo, the jig is up. An Orange County grand jury has concluded its investigation of Mr. Dornan's delusions of voter fraud and concluded there was no credible evidence to indict anyone and that there was no criminal conspiracy to commit voter fraud. This is the system that we put in place, and that system has determined that there is no criminal acts to be prosecuted.

Mr. Dornan's accusations that a Latino civil rights organization conspired to commit voter fraud in order to defeat him did not stand up under the scrutiny of an Orange County grand jury investigation. What Mr. Dornan now needs to understand and the Committee on House Oversight needs to determine once and for all is that LORETTA SANCHEZ beat Bob Dornan and LORETTA SANCHEZ has been properly representing the people of the 46th District in California. Get a grip, understand reality, be fair, and allow this particular Congressperson to have the same kind of justice that any one of us would want to have and to be able to represent her constituents.

This is a shameless vendetta carried on by Mr. Dornan against Latino voters, and it now must come to an end. The local prosecutors have concluded their investigation. It is now time for the Members of the Committee on

House Oversight to pull up its stakes and stop spending our taxpayers' dollars chasing the smoke screen being spread by former Members.

This is a former Member whose own colleagues have recognized him as an embarrassment to the principles of this House. His outrageous behavior on the floor of the House in doing various acts of swearing, insulting and threatening other Members was without precedent in this august body. When the House voted to revoke his privilege as a former Member from coming to the floor, that should serve, or should have served, as our notice about the credibility of these charges. That vote was a blight on a former Member that was unprecedented and should have moved the committee to hasten the conclusion of its proceedings. But the members of the committee have continued to follow the lead from this defeated, radical, right wing ideologue, flying in the face of that vote, and now the conclusions of a local grand jury. The committee keeps up its witch-hunt to invalidate votes in Congresswoman SANCHEZ'S 1996 election.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Dornan and his band of followers need to now admit to themselves the simple fact that the voters in California's 46th Congressional District understood in November of 1996 LORETTA SANCHEZ beat Bob Dornan fair and square. Get a life, and let us get over it. But more importantly, let us move forward. Let us allow this House to proceed, accepting every single Member that has been duly elected by their constituents. We cannot do it with the votes we have on the Democratic side of the aisle; we know the Republicans have the upper hand, but we call upon our fair-minded colleagues. This is not a partisan issue, this is a fairness issue for the Democratic and Republican constituents of the 46th District. I believe that taxpayers' money should not be spent.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that these individuals who have control over this process be allowed, of course, to cease and desist from doing this particular proceeding.

Mr. Speaker, as I conclude, let me tell my colleagues just a brief reason, or reasons, why LORETTA SANCHEZ and others of us need to get on with our business. I want to emphasize some remarks I heard earlier today on the President's vision in his State of the Union, and just simply say, we need all of the hands we possibly can get to do what the American people have asked us to do. One, to save Social Security. I applaud the process that the President has offered. And then lastly, we need all the hands to make sure that health care is the right kind of health care for all Americans, and that it is not dictated by gurus sitting up in ivory towers saying that the bottom line is about money. We need all of our voters, Mr. Speaker, all of our Members, and I hope we can get on with the business of the House and the American people.

APPRECIATION FOR FEDERAL  
DISASTER RELIEF

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maine (Mr. ALLEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, Maine people are no strangers to tough winters, but the ice storm we just endured struck a terrible blow. Damage will exceed \$100 million. When Vice President GORE toured the State, he said it looked like we had been hit by a neutron bomb. And that is a pretty accurate description. The damage from the ice storm which accumulated over several days snapped off telephone poles. We had 2,500 telephone polls in the State which needed to be replaced. It essentially dropped the forest canopy about 25 feet, the hardwoods broke off at the top, branches broke off, and they took power lines down with them all across the State. Some roads were impassable, blocked by fallen trees and downed power lines. Thousands of people were left in the dark and cold. Mr. Speaker, 600,000 people, one-half of the residents of the State of Maine, were without electricity for some time, and some of them had no power for as long as 2 weeks. As my colleagues can imagine, that can try the patience of even the toughest Yankee who has faced some very tough nor'easters. Thousands of families with no heat found themselves stoking up old wood stoves and huddling in front of fireplaces. For those who depend on well water, no electricity meant no pump, no pump meant no water. Those close to a pond or river hauled water in buckets. No running water meant no toilets, no bathing, no washing dishes or washing clothes.

I have to say that all of this produced a very brisk business in chain saws, generators and kerosene space heaters. Not only was the power out, but it was very cold. Our schools were closed for up to 2 weeks in different parts of Maine and daily life was disrupted for thousands of families.

During those 2 weeks, I went to a number of shelters in Maine and I want to tell my colleagues, there are some wonderful stories, hundreds of stories of people pulling together to help each other and make a community humanitarian effort. I will never forget certain aspects of my experience going into those shelters. There would be some older people, some on oxygen, on cots on one side of the room, a gym or some other facility, there would be younger kids being taken care of by their parents, there would be a soccer game in the middle of the gymnasium or the shelter, but I will also remember most, what I will carry with me as long as I live, is the look on the faces of the teenagers, many of whom had not volunteered I suspect for anything like this for a long period of time, but there they were, cutting up carrots, moving cots, bringing blankets, helping to move equipment, and making sure that other people were well cared for. It was

for them an experience that may help them understand their connection to others and the importance of community.

Fire and rescue crews went door to door in some places checking on townspeople, seeing who was okay; others took generators and portable generators and moved around from home to home warming up one home, unplugging the generator, going to another home, trying to keep as many people as possible warm, and as many pipes as possible from freezing. Our radio stations canceled normal programming and took calls around the clock; that was real helpful for building a sense of community, and television stations had special programs and hotlines.

We could not have done this without outside help, and I am here today to say thank you to the rest of the country.

Let me give some examples of how we were helped. Central Maine Power Company, our major utility, usually has 92 crews, and during the height of our resistance to this storm, we had 1,000 utility crews working. They came from Maryland and Delaware and North Carolina and South Carolina; they came from Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Rhode Island and New York, they came from all over the East Coast and they provided an invaluable service. One truck had on it a sign on the side: Maine or bust. And they showed up. Some of those folks arrived from North Carolina at the Brunswick Naval Air Station and they were given jackets from L. L. Bean, donated by L. L. Bean. They had worked on utility lines all their lives, some of those people, never in such cold, and I just want to say that we could not have done it without the assistance of people from other States.

I would also say that the response of FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, was outstanding. James Lee Witt came to the State, he and his people did an extraordinary job. The Federal Government stepped forward when it was needed and helped Maine people when they needed it most.

I just will say in conclusion, I will never see scenes on television of a flood or hurricane and not remember how the people of this country stood up for people in Maine when we needed help.

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MANAGED HEALTH CARE REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SNOWBARGER). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to start out this afternoon by saying how happy I was with the President's State of the Union address last evening and the reaction of Congress on both sides of the aisle.

The President stressed his pro-family, pro-child message. It is an agenda that I think that everyone can get behind. It will have the strong support of the American people. And it is very important, I think, that in order for us to enact this agenda, that we get the Republicans, both the leadership and the rank and file, together with my Democratic colleagues so that we can enact what are essentially common sense proposals in 1998.

I, along with several of my colleagues who will join me this afternoon, just wanted to call attention to two points that the President raised with regard to health care reform which I think are particularly important.

One is managed care reform. The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KLINK), who is going to be joining us soon here, stressed that during the break, during the congressional district work period. Congressman KLINK, myself, and others had a number of forums in our districts where we heard from our constituents about the problems with managed care, with HMOs and managed care organizations.

I thought it was particularly interesting last evening that when the President mentioned the need for consumer protections and a consumer Bill of Rights to deal with managed care organizations, that the response was overwhelming. I think it had a better response from the Congress, again on a bipartisan basis, than almost anything else that he talked about. I think that is because we are hearing from our constituents and they are telling us the problems and the horror stories that exist with regard to existing managed care organizations.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to at this point yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania who I was listening to his comments before and they are really appropriate in terms of some of the problems that we hear from our constituents.

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, I thank my distinguished friend from New Jersey.

The gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) and the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO) and I and others have had these discussions for years. We have watched as this situation with insurance and availability of insurance, choice of doctors, all of this has deteriorated greatly.

But it was 1995 when probably the most horrendous story that I had ever come into contact with occurred. I became aware of a 4-year-old boy named Sean Brake from a place outside of my district called Plum Borough. The local TV station was doing a story about the fact that Sean's father worked for the insurance company and Sean at the age of 4 had gotten a rare form of cancer, but it was a highly treatable form. With a bone marrow transplant which would cost somewhere around \$200,000 or more, there was a 90 percent chance that Sean would survive, according to the people at Children's Hospital in Pittsburgh,