

four artists whose lives were personally touched by breast cancer. One of these dancers is Jane Weiner, the sister of Susan Raffte, a Houstonian who is a survivor of metastatic breast cancer.

I believe that Susan's story is important for all women to understand. In 1992, at age 30, Susan discovered a lump during self-examination, but her doctor did not believe it could be cancer for such a young, healthy patient. In 1994, Susan was diagnosed with metastatic breast cancer. She opted for a bilateral mastectomy and reconstructive surgery. Regrettably, her battle was not over. In 1996, she discovered that her cancer had spread to her spine and she opted to undergo a new bone marrow transplant procedure. Under this procedure, patients undergo extensive chemotherapy and radiation treatment to kill the cancer cells. As a result of these treatments, many patients lose their bone marrow and are susceptible to infections. In order to protect against infections, patients donate healthy bone marrow prior to their radiation and chemotherapy treatments and then transplant their analogous bone marrow after undergoing treatments. Susan's treatment has been a success and today she is fighting to ensure healthier futures for all women with her family, husband Alan Raffte, also a cancer survivor, and her 4-year-old daughter Marika as a special inspiration. In particular, Susan wants to encourage other women to be aggressive about their health and get second opinions when they are not satisfied with diagnoses and treatments.

The Pink Ribbons Project is the first dance initiative to join the fight against breast cancer. In 1996, the dance was introduced in Los Angeles. This year, these Pink Ribbons dancers will create a dance benefit called Hot Pink Houston to be performed at the Cullen Theater on November 12, 1998 in Houston. These dancers donate their time, service and talents to help raise funds for breast cancer advocacy, education and research.

With their first performance, the Pink Ribbons Project raised more than \$10,000 that was donated to the National Alliance for Breast Cancer Organizations (NABCO). NABCO used these funds to send 10 women with metastatic breast cancer to Washington, D.C., where they testified before the Federal Drug Administration, the Federal agency responsible for reviewing drug treatments and therapies. Their testimonies helped three new drugs win approval for treatment use.

I congratulate all involved in this vital project, including the Houston Ballet, Chrysalis, the Weave Dance Company, Sarah Irwin, Fly, Robin Staff, Hope Stone, Shake Russell, and Dana Cooper, who are all donating their talents for the Houston show. It is my hope that the Hot Pink Houston event will encourage more in our community to join the fight against breast cancer.

The value of the Hot Pink Houston program cannot be overstated. One in eight women can expect to develop breast cancer during her lifetime, and one in 28 women will die from it. Every 15 minutes, a woman dies from breast cancer. During this decade, it is estimated that more than 1.8 million women, and 12,000 men, will be diagnosed with breast cancer. Nearly half a million will die of this disease. Such statistics can be numbing, but they are all too real to those of us whose families have been affected by breast cancer.

But the saddest fact of all is that so many of these deaths are preventable. With the exception of skin cancer, breast cancer is the most survivable of cancers and when detected in its earlier stages, it has a 95 percent survival rate. So it is vital that women conduct regular breast self-examinations and obtain regular mammograms.

Because of the tremendous generosity of Pink Ribbon dancers, more women will learn about breast cancer and how we can work together to save lives.

EDUCATION

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 1998

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to voice my outrage for President Clinton's veto record with regards to the education of our nation's children.

Over the past Congress, President Clinton has vetoed 7 major Republican education initiatives. That's seven times the President chose politics over our children. I truly believe the key to our children's future is the education they receive. Nothing can be of more importance to our families, our communities and our country than the quality of education in America. Apparently President Clinton does not see it this way.

Despite the President's heavy veto pen, the Republican's have been able to enact legislation which will benefit this nation's education system. We now have the lowest student loan interest rate in 17 years and have enacted a tax deduction for student loans. We also passed a Head Start reauthorization, providing for more funding to help states meet the needs of students with disabilities.

Mr. Speaker, the President's decision to play politics with our children's education and future is a bad choice. The fact is, it doesn't take a bureaucrat from Washington to tell us how to teach our children when parents have always and will always know best. We need to keep Washington out of our schools and ensure that parents and teachers are able to make their own decisions about how they want their children taught. I would like to commend my Republican colleagues for the hard work this Congress has done for our children's future.

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH P. KENNEDY, II, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

SPEECH OF

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 12, 1998

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a few moments today to pay a special tribute to a colleague of mine who at the end of this legislative session will be retiring after a long and distinguished career from the United States House of Representatives.

Congressman JOSEPH P. KENNEDY, II, a native son of Massachusetts and the eldest son of Ethel and the late Robert F. Kennedy, will soon be returning to our great State to, along

with other pursuits, run Citizens' Energy Corporation, the low-income assistance program he founded in the early 1980's. Before he departs, I would like to take a few moments today to honor his accomplishments here in the House and to tell you more about the man I regard as my friend.

JOE KENNEDY roots for the underdog and leaves behind in Washington a long track record of standing on the side of people who don't view government as an intrusion, but instead, as a means for achieving justice and dignity in life.

Whether working to assist the homeless, children, the poor, the elderly or the disabled, JOE KENNEDY has always brought a special earnestness and passion to his work. As a result, his legislative achievements on the Banking Committee and in the House have been many, and the impact of his charitable and meaningful work will continue to be felt for years to come.

Since 1986, his constituents in the 8th District of Massachusetts have known of Congressman JOE KENNEDY's dedication. They, like those of us who work with him regularly, also know of the many endearing qualities he brings to the table.

JOE KENNEDY is a remarkably kind man, and it is his heart, not political polls or newspaper headlines, that is the compass that guides him in here in Washington. Congressman JOSEPH P. KENNEDY, II has continued the great legacy of his father and his uncle, and it is his heart and his commitment to what is right and just that people from Massachusetts and across the Nation will miss most.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank JOE KENNEDY, my friend, for his many years of hard work in the United States Congress. I wish JOE and his wife Beth all the best on the road that rises to meet them in the years that lie ahead.

CLARITIN AND SPECIAL INTEREST LOBBYING

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 1998

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, as all of my colleagues know, this is the time of year when special interests come out in force to take advantage of our busy schedule. They try to slip last-minute riders into conference reports and sneak lucrative patent extensions into crucial appropriations bills. If history is any guide, a number of pharmaceutical companies are at the very head of this unsavory pack.

You may recall that, in the dead of night, someone smuggled a drug patent extension into the conference report of the 1997 Kennedy-Kassebaum Health Care Reform Act. Neither Senator KENNEDY nor Senator Kassebaum were informed of this corporate giveaway. Only public protest prevented the drug company from scoring a multimillion dollar coup at the expense of consumers.

It is the widespread rumors about a similar effort that have brought me here. I want to alert my colleagues to the efforts of Schering-Plough to sneak a backdoor patent extension onto the continuing resolution.

For many years, Schering has sought to extend its patent protections for Claritin, a prescription antihistamine with over \$900 million

in annual U.S. sales. Last year, Schering lobbied the Senate for an amendment to omnibus patent reform legislation granting outright five-year patent term extensions for a number of drugs, including Claritin. In 1996, Schering tried unsuccessfully to attach Claritin patent extensions to the omnibus appropriations bill, the continuing resolution and the agriculture appropriations bill. In the first half of that year alone, Schering spent over \$1 million in lobbying the Congress.

Schering's proposal is a terrible deal for consumers. It would require the Patent Office to adjudicate patent extensions for drug companies who have experienced regulatory delays at FDA. In reality, it is a backdoor opportunity for companies to undercut the scientific judgment of the FDA and its expert advisory committees.

What Schering calls "regulatory delay" is the time needed by our public health agencies to ensure drug safety and efficacy. Often, a company will cause its own delays through miscalculations, complications in its research and new questions about its products. Schering claims that the approval of Claritin was subject to regulatory delay. The company never mentions that its delay resulted from the unexpected discovery that Claritin might cause cancer.

Mr. Speaker, putting the Patent Office in the position of trying to second guess the FDA and its expert advisors on Claritin's possible carcinogenicity would be like having the IRS deciding which research proposals should be funded by NIH.

This proposal would also burden the Patent Office with meritless cases like Claritin. The Patent Office has limited resources and crucial responsibilities. It does not have time to coddle companies like Schering when patents for breakthrough technology are awaiting approval.

Even worse, this proposal would cost taxpayers millions of dollars in additional health care spending for Medicaid, Veterans health programs, the Defense Department and Public and Indian Health Services. Private insurers and HMOs will have to pay higher prices for drugs like Claritin. And ordinary consumers, especially older Americans, will have to pay much more out of pocket for their medicines.

Let me make a final point about this proposal. I am the coauthor of the 1984 Waxman-Hatch Act. The Act grants patent extensions to drug companies for the patent time expended obtaining FDA approval. One of the points of the 1984 Act was to stop companies like Schering from lobbying Congress for patent extensions. It has been very successful, with the exception of rogue companies like Schering.

In fact, I seriously doubt that Schering has told anyone that it already received a 2-year patent extension under this law. The company just wants another pass at the trough.

Lobbying efforts like Schering's are bad for the consumer. They also do harm to the 1984 Act, which strikes a balance between promoting innovation and ensuring that consumers have timely access to affordable medicines. Senator HATCH and I have publicly emphasized that revisions to the 1984 Act be made in a careful, deliberative process to preserve that balance. Dropping the Schering proposal onto the CR without notice, without committee proceedings, and without publicity is the exact opposite of what we meant.

For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to oppose Schering-Plough's proposal, wherever it should appear in these final days of the session. It would cost taxpayers millions, hurt consumer choice, distract the Patent Office, undercut the FDA and do violence to the need for committees of jurisdiction to deliberate carefully over these important issues.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF JAMES
FLETCHER

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 1998

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it is with exceeding regret that I advise my colleagues of the death of a great American and one of the most socially conscious bankers in Chicago.

A former Chicago public schools teacher and a 1960's city planner with a focus on urban renewal, James Fletcher with three other extraordinary individuals established America's first community development bank—in 1973. Soon after, Mr. Fletcher became president and chief executive officer of South Shore Bank in 1983. He served on that post until 1994 and was elected chairman of the bank in 1996.

With the logic of a philosopher, the passion of a preacher, and the precision of a banker he helped redevelop communities who have long been forgotten by all of the major banks in Chicago. Indeed, in the hands of James Fletcher, community development was a creative act. With his foresight, community development is an encounter between socially conscious bankers and private investment. Slowly, step by step, they proved that a strong, independent banking presence in the neighborhood could help get a community back on its feet again.

Beyond his many professional accomplishments, James Fletcher was one of those rare and wonderful individuals who relished being a mentor, role model and always a generous father. We cherish his memory as his work touched the lives of whole communities: men, women and youth alike. Mr. Speaker, I commend to the United States House of Representatives and to the American people the life and service of James Fletcher.

CHINA: A POTEMKIN ECONOMY

HON. GERALD B. H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 1998

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, in 1787, Prince Grigory Potemkin, Catherine the Great's longtime prime minister and occasional lover, decided that the recently-annexed Crimea needed a little fixing up in preparation for an official visit by the empress. He is said to have erected a number of false-front buildings along Catherine's travel route so as to create the appearance of a happy and thriving peasant society. Thus was born the legend of the "Potemkin village."

Today, autocratic regimes have more resources at their disposal than Potemkin ever

dreamed of. In fact, it can fairly be said that the Chinese communists have managed to build a "Potemkin economy"—an entire national economy that has the surface appearance of being dynamic and prosperous when, in truth, the real situation is something very different. The present-day equivalent of Potemkin's false-front villages are the empty skyscrapers that loom over every large Chinese city.

The September 30 edition of the Washington Post contains a compelling article by Michael Kelly that looks behind China's imposing economic facade and finds an altogether different story than is usually reported. "The central question of the most consequential of all American foreign policy issues is whether the People's Republic of China is evolving, under the munificent influence of capitalism, away from communist totalitarianism and toward democracy." If the answer given to that question is yes, then that "answer, it is now authoritatively revealed, is dead wrong—and so is America's China policy."

Mr. Kelly based his article on a new book China's Pitfall, that was published in Hong Kong last year. This book, which has not yet been translated into English, is the subject of an extensive review by two China scholars in the current edition of The New York Review of Books. That review concludes with these words: "What happened in China in the 1990's is thus becoming clear. Reform was aborted when Deng Xiaoping strangled China's democratic forces in 1989 and when . . . he decided in 1992 to buy stability for his regime by pursuing rapid economic growth whose price was sharply increased corruption, financial deception, and the erosion of the moral basis of society."

Corruption. Deception. Erosion. Hardly the foundation on which a stable economy, to say nothing of a decent society, can be built. Indeed, the author of China's Pitfall, He Qinglian, identifies five negative trends that are tearing at the fabric of Chinese life: "population size, agricultural stagnation, inequality, corruption, and low standards in education." Ironically, the author reports, each of these problems is as bad or worse today as it was a century ago, when the Qing Dynasty was disintegrating and the entire country was plunging headlong toward revolution.

How then to explain China's "rapid economic growth" in recent years? This is, after all, an economy that expanded at an annual rate of 10 to 12% in the years from 1981 through 1996.

According to He Qinglian, economic growth in the 1980's was largely based in rural China. As the communist command system in the agricultural sector was dismantled and rural communes were abandoned, the productivity of farms shot up and many farmers and villagers also established light industries and other entrepreneurial ventures. Agriculture and rural industry account for about three-fifths of China's gross domestic product, and so progress in these areas was bound to be reflected in the country's overall performance.

By the end of the 1980's, however, the rural economy was stumbling: "the immediate gains from freeing agriculture could not be continued" and "extortion, overtaxation, and embezzlement by local officials" were taking their toll. Moreover, the effects of "decades of environmental devastation and neglect" began to be felt. China has lost one-third of its topsoil