

trust the conferees. He has a vision of how he wants the conference to proceed, and he wants to eliminate any chance that things will not go his way. The Republicans are employing an arcane, rarely-used procedure that I do not believe I have seen in my 10 years in Congress, to stack the deck against Democrats on the conference committee and to deny any vote on a Democratic alternative on fast track trade legislation.

The Republicans are attempting to abuse the House process by adding up to a dozen new items that the House has never had an opportunity vote on, has had no hearings to discuss, nor has even considered. These changes include gutting the other body's health care assistance for workers suffering from our trade policies, creates a weaker version of the other body's trade adjustment assistance, and it completely strikes the Dayton-Craig provisions that are designed to ensure that Congress has a role in protecting U.S. trade laws.

The rule goes well beyond normal procedures, completely unnecessary to begin the fast track conference. The most offensive of the Republican leadership's provisions will gut the worker health protections added in the other body's bill.

Under TAA health provisions, workers would have access to an advanceable and a refundable tax credit valued at 70 percent of their health insurance premium; 70 percent. This tax credit could be used for group coverage, continuation of COBRA coverage, State health insurance purchasing plans, and other ways.

Group coverage offers several advantages to workers. It is cheaper, its availability is much wider, and health insurance cannot be denied due to pre-existing conditions. Republicans, however, are expected to offer a tax credit that can only be applied toward private nongroup coverage.

Under the Republican approach, there is no guarantee that workers will be able to even find health insurance, because it is in the private market, let alone to afford it. In the private individual market, there are no limits on premiums that can be charged for someone who is sick, and insurers often exclude coverage of important services and even exclude coverage sometimes of body parts. As a result, only relatively healthy workers are likely to find affordable coverage, which means other workers will be left without any coverage or will be forced to pay the entire cost of whatever group coverage might be available to them. Less healthy workers, who are unable to find affordable, meaningful individual coverage will be forced to go without coverage or pay the full COBRA premium.

Because relatively healthy workers will therefore leave the COBRA pool, and relatively less healthy workers will remain in the COBRA pool, employers' COBRA costs go up. Accord-

ingly, employers will be forced to either scale back benefits or drop coverage entirely.

The Republican approach, as it usually does, will create a windfall for insurance companies and for HMOs. It will not protect workers, again as the Republicans plan usually does not. It will not protect workers or employers from huge health care costs. Under their proposed rule, Democrats would have no chance to debate or amend any of these provisions.

Not surprisingly, the Republicans are proceeding without any consultation with Democrats on the Committee on Ways and Means. While the majority may say that their TAA health benefit is the same as what the other body passed, no one should be fooled. This will only hurt American workers who have already been hurt by unfair trade policies.

I urge my colleagues to oppose any rule that may be on the floor tomorrow and to oppose any rule that may jeopardize a bipartisan conference committee on fast track.

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#### COMMEMORATION OF THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 23, 2002, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, in the summer of 1942, we were deeply embroiled in war. Our leaders saw that it was imperative that we institute a formal intelligence service, so on June 13, 1942, we established the Office of Strategic Services, OSS, considered to be the precursor to the Central Intelligence Agency.

As we sit here in the summer of 2002, 60 years ago this week, we are again at war, and I want to commemorate the OSS on what would be its 60th anniversary. Whether we call it intelligence, reconnaissance, collection, espionage, or simply spying, as a former Air Force intelligence officer myself, I recognize the critical function of this agency in winning wars.

One of the recipes for success in the OSS was its diverse inclusion of operatives. It was modeled after England's intelligence agency. Accordingly, Lieutenant Commander Ian Fleming of British Naval Intelligence, the same Mr. Fleming who went on to create the world's most famous fictitious secret agent, James Bond, had this rather stodgy advice for OSS Director William "Wild Bill" Donovan: "Pick men in their forties and fifties, possessing absolute discretion, sobriety, devotion to duty, languages, and wide experience." However, Mr. Donovan had the insight to look more broadly. He selected younger, recklessly daring men and women; pro athletes, missionaries, reformed gangsters, professional counterfeiters, jour-

nalists, movie stars, Hollywood stuntmen, and singers.

I would like today to commend some outstanding contributions from women in the OSS. Arlington National Cemetery has an excellent exhibit, now until December 2002, called *Clandestine Women: The Untold Story of Women in Espionage*. From this, we learn that 4,500 women served in the OSS during World War II. Besides spies, they worked as saboteurs, cryptographers, propaganda experts, and guerilla warriors. They also contributed as secretaries, as clerks, and as drivers.

But let me begin with just one employee I thought would be of great interest to my colleagues, Julia McWilliams. She was a patriotic woman who wished to serve the United States Navy, but was rejected because of her height. She was 6-2. Instead, she got a job in East Asia with the OSS and was eventually awarded the Emblem of Meritorious Civilian Service. Ms. McWilliams was instrumental in creating a shark repellent. Sharks proved problematic for Navy and OSS divers trying to bomb German U-boats. Years later, NASA used her shark repellent recipe to protect astronauts whose capsules landed in shark-infested waters.

Ms. McWilliams married a diplomat, Paul Child. The couple moved to France, where Julia took cooking classes that would change the face of American dining. Today we can all be grateful for Julia Child's gift to America both in intelligence and as a French chef.

Another brave and resourceful American woman was Virginia Hall, the "Limping Lady of the OSS." Her nickname came from a wooden leg due to a prewar hunting accident. This Baltimore native worked tirelessly for the French resistance. Hall was highly educated and multilingual. She learned Morse code and how to work a wireless radio, which made her indispensable to the OSS because communication lines were destroyed after D-Day. She engaged in guerilla and subversive activities, placing her own life in danger for the salvation of France.

Hall is the only civilian female to receive the Distinguished Service Cross, and after World War II became one of the CIA's first female operations officers. When President Truman himself offered to present the award to her, she declined to return to the States on the grounds that she was just too busy, too busy in intelligence work to leave France at that critical time.

Finally, also working behind the lines of occupied France not for the OSS, but for the French resistance, and therefore for the benefit of all Allied forces, was the American expatriate Josephine Baker. A talented and beautiful African American singer, this Missouri native became a French citizen. Still permitted to perform her shows around Europe by the occupying Nazis, Josephine craftily used this freedom to travel as a tool of transferring secret documents. Most courageously, she even smuggled classified material in her sheet music to Allied collaborators in Portugal.

French President Charles de Gaulle presented her the Legion of Honor, which was France's highest decoration. She was also awarded the Medal of the Resistance with Rosette, and named a Chevalier of the Legion of Honor by the French government for hard work and dedication. At her death, the French government honored her with a 21-gun salute, making Josephine Baker the first American woman buried in France with military honors.

So I commend, Mr. Speaker, these and all the dedicated valiant women of the OSS, without whom Europe and the world may not exist in its present state. I also call my colleagues' attention to the book "The Secret War" by Francis Russell, if they are interested in learning more about the details of this great agency as well as the women who participated.

#### SALUTE TO THE DETROIT RED WINGS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEARNS). Pursuant to the order of the House of January 23, 2002, the gentleman from Michigan (Ms. KILPATRICK) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today to congratulate the Detroit Red Wings for winning the Stanley Cup 2002 award for the year. We congratulate the Red Wings, Mike Ilitch and the entire Ilitch family; Scotty Bowman, Steve Yzerman, and the entire team for giving our fans across Michigan and across this country a whirlwind tour as we won another Stanley Cup playoff.

I want to say to the Ilitch family, "We thank you for your dedication to the Red Wings, to the city, and to the region from which we come. Continue that Ilitch spirit as we rebuild our region together and our city."

To Scotty Bowman, the winningest coach in American hockey, "We congratulate you and wish you well in your retirement as you move on; and to Mrs. Bowman, who has been a stalwart fan of yours and our Detroit Red Wings."

And to Steve Yzerman and the team for all the hard work, the gut playing, the tenacity, "You really made us all feel proud."

On behalf of Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick, mayor of the City of Detroit, and all the residents of the city, as well as all the residents of the region and Michigan, we say, "Go Detroit Red Wings. We are so very proud of you."

Let us use that same spirit to bring our city, our region, and our State together. We have awesome responsibilities ahead of us, and we believe with that Red Wing spirit, with Mayor Kilpatrick's leadership, we can pull our city together, build new economic development, a wonderful regional transportation system, offer hope for our children and security for our seniors.

Go Red Wings. We are so very proud of you, and may you continue to be the spirit of our city.

#### MEDICARE MODERNIZATION AND PRESCRIPTION DRUG ACT OF 2002

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 23, 2002, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KENNEDY) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of the Medicare Modernization and Prescription Drug Act of 2002. As I go around my district and talk with seniors, this is one of the top issues that they have for us in Congress, to get a prescription drug coverage within Medicare. This bill is long overdue, and it is very important for our seniors. We need a comprehensive prescription drug benefit under Medicare, and this bill delivers exactly that.

No senior should have to choose between groceries and medical care. This plan gives our seniors immediate relief from the rising costs of prescription drug medications by providing a 30 percent discount off the top of their overall prescription drug bill. We guarantee coverage for all seniors who want it in Medicare.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office predicts that 95 percent of seniors will voluntarily sign up for this benefit. So this is a program that will work that we are putting forth for seniors and that we expect to be beneficial to them.

In addition to the immediate discount and basic insurance coverage, which combined should save the average senior about half of their costs for prescription drugs, we are also providing a 100 percent prescription drug coverage for low-income seniors to make sure that those most in need can have the medicines they need to stay healthy.

We also have catastrophic protection, at a \$5,000 level or so, that will ensure that individuals do not have to deplete their lifetime savings and do not have to choose between other basic necessities in life and pharmaceuticals.

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We also offer more Medicare choices and savings. Many Americans already have coverage. Most seniors have prescription drug coverage, but this bill is put forth to be a base upon which other plans can build upon to provide stronger coverage for seniors.

We are very hopeful that we can get this passed in the House and enacted into law. Continuing the tradition of making important legislation temporary, the majority in the other body recently introduced a bill that expires after 10 years. That is unfair to our seniors, Mr. Speaker. Our approach helps seniors now and permanently into the future. Our plan is affordable and is intended to cover all seniors. The choice is clear. I strongly support passage of this bill, and I urge Members to do the same.

#### SUPPORT MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEARNS). Pursuant to the order of the House of January 23, 2002, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join with all of my colleagues and all of the people across America who support a real prescription drug program for seniors. I understand the concerns that some express for the need to reform Medicare, and I agree. But I believe that prescription drug coverage for seniors should be an integral part of the Medicare program.

We are aware that since its creation Medicare has remained stagnant, while advances in medicine have grown rapidly. We are aware that even our fundamental vision of medicine has dramatically changed from diagnosis and treatment to preventive care. Today, due to our realization of the need for modification and reform of Medicare, to our seniors, which has been an overwhelming process of paperwork with worries about reimbursement and regulations, it is not a form of security as it was once thought to be. Medicare reform is necessary, but the time is now to listen to our seniors and to give them what they have been requesting, that we give them financial relief and provide them with a prescription drug plan that will actually cut their monthly prescription drug expenses. It has been stated on the floor of this House a number of times that we have seniors choosing between food and drugs, splitting their prescription in half and denying themselves other medical care due to the cost of their monthly prescription drug costs.

In fact, seniors are declaring bankruptcy at a record pace due in large part to the rising cost of health care. We need a prescription drug coverage that covers all seniors. It is not just our poorest seniors who are having problems paying for their prescription drugs. It is also middle-class seniors who are struggling with the burden of outrageous drug costs.

As Members of Congress, we need to ensure that we provide a Medicare prescription drug benefit that is voluntary, universal and accessible. No senior should be denied a benefit based on where he or she lives or what his or her income is. We see our European neighbors offering their seniors drugs at half the cost of what American companies are charging. American seniors are being encouraged to travel overseas or across our borders to Canada and Mexico just to save money on the same prescription drug they can get in the United States. This is outrageous and absurd and should shed more light on the importance of why this great Nation needs a serious drug plan for seniors.

Once again we need to let our seniors know that we hear them loud and clearly. We need to let our seniors