

\$91 million, they noted that the Canadian system is far safer than the system we have here to guarantee the safety of the products sold. The issue is safety. When somebody tells you that it is about safety, it is not about money, folks, when they tell you it ain't about money, it is usually about money. That is the case. That is what we are dealing with. We are dealing with a product about money.

The other day Eli Lilly, now that we have demystified the notion about safety, Eli Lilly's CEO said that the whole issue related to here is about having the research and development dollars. The taxpayers have been funding the research and development for the last 20 years. They have been quite generous.

I would ask my colleagues and those who are meeting now in the conference to give the taxpayers and our grandparents a break, give them the medications they can afford rather than going into hock to try to do it and become drug runners and coyotes going over the border to get the medications they need to save their lives.

GAME PLAN FOR WINNING THE WAR ON TERROR

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

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, in 1983, the United States embassy in Beirut was bombed. Sixty-three were killed; 120 were wounded. In 1983, the U.S. Marine barracks were bombed in Beirut. Three hundred troops, nearly all United States troops, were killed. In 1988, Pan Am 103 was bombed; 259 were killed. In 1993, the World Trade Center was bombed. Six killed, 1,000 injured. In 1996, the Khobar Towers was bombed. Nineteen U.S. soldiers killed, 240 injured. In 1998, the U.S. embassy in Kenya was bombed; 361 were killed, 5,000 injured. And in 2000, the USS Cole was bombed in Yemen. Seventeen sailors were killed and 39 were injured.

In those seven attacks, more than 1,000 people were killed. This was double our losses in Afghanistan and Iraq at the present time which total roughly 435. Yet during those seven attacks and after those seven attacks, there was very little response from the United States. As a result of those attacks, we withdrew from Lebanon in 1983 and from Somalia in 1993. I believe that this conveyed a very clear message to those who believe in terrorism. The message was this, that when attacked consistently over time, the United States will back down, will lose its will, and, of course, these attacks then led up to 9/11.

Following the loss of more than 3,000 Americans on September 11, 2001, we finally took a stand. The overwhelming majority of us in this body gave the President the authority to move aggressively against terrorism. We knew that this was hazardous. Sometimes we

get the impression that we did not really know what we were doing. Yet I for one, and I think many people here, assumed that there might be some biological and chemical attacks against our troops, that taking Iraq was going to cost at least thousands if not tens of thousands of lives. Yet the results were remarkable. We gained control of Afghanistan and Iraq in a few months, and we lost less than 500 troops. I would say that a military accomplishment of this kind is pretty much unprecedented in military annals.

We also knew that securing the peace is always difficult. After World War I, after World War II, Kosovo, it was not easy at all; and it took a long time, and there was loss of life. Yet statements emanating from the Congress that we should pull out, that we should bring the troops home, that this war was created to boost the President's numbers, reading letters from those who have suffered loss or are discouraged, stating there is no plan for reconstruction, all encourage terrorists to believe that if they persist that we will fold, that we will lack the will and the resolve to win the war.

To not see this through is to dishonor the memory of every soldier lost and to render meaningless their families' suffering. To not see this through will leave Iraq open to Saddam's return and a betrayal of Iraqis who have helped. I am sure this is one thing that they all fear. It happened after the Gulf War. Many Iraqis who extended themselves to help the United States and allied forces suffered retribution. I think in the back of their minds is the idea that maybe this will happen again. The only satisfactory solution is to win. To lose will invite ever-increasing terrorism, and I think most people in this Chamber understand that.

To achieve victory in the swiftest possible manner with the least loss of life, this country and this Congress needs to stand united. We did so for a period of time after 9/11. This was the most encouraging period of my short tenure here in Congress. Because what I saw was that party loyalties and personal ambitions were put aside. I think the overwhelming motivation for everyone in this body was to simply serve their country the best that we could. Unity of purpose and a collective will to win will prevail. Division and second-guessing and finger-pointing and politicization will only serve to prolong the struggle and cause further loss of life and suffering.

From my perspective, failure is not an option. I hope the Congress can pull together. The threat is as real today as it was on 9/11.

HONORING NOVATO FIREFIGHTERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to honor the memory of

firefighter Steve Rucker, a resident of Novato, California, and to wish the speedy recovery of three other Novato firefighters: Captain Doug McDonald, Shawn Kreps, and Barrett Smith.

These four men were among the dozens of firefighters from my district who sped to Southern California to fight the recent fires that burned hundreds of thousands of acres. Yesterday I stood alongside Officer Rucker's colleagues, firefighters and police officers, and watched the mile-long procession that carried his casket down Highway 101 from the airport in Santa Rosa to his beloved city of Novato. My heart was filled with emotion as I watched the great sadness this community felt, the sadness and grief that comes with the death of a family member. But lingering in this grief, there was also pride, pride in recalling the life and heroism of one of their own.

□ 2000

These four firefighters served the Novato fire protection district. Novato is a prosperous place, a family town that touches San Francisco and reaches into the golden coastal hills. But the warm sun of Indian summer never lulls Novato firefighters. They know that the days before the rains come are the most dangerous time of the year throughout all of California. They also know that firefighters throughout the State are members of one large community, and when help is needed anywhere, they respond. So it was that without any contractual obligation, but out of compassion and comradeship that Shawn Kreps drove Novato fire engine 6162 all night a week ago Monday to join the fire lines at the Cedar fire more than 400 miles away. And so it was that Steve Rucker, Doug McDonald, Shawn Kreps, and Barrett Smith found themselves Wednesday on a back road 5 miles from the rural village of Julian, fighting to protect a scattering of homes.

Fire can be a fierce and swift enemy, and when flames suddenly threatened to engulf the men, all they could do was run for their lives. Steve Rucker did not make it. Apparently the intense heat of the fire seared his lungs, and when Captain McDonald went out to look for his friend, he too was critically burned.

Fortunately, Kreps and Smith suffered minor injuries, and I expect they will have many fires to fight in the future. Captain McDonald, however, remains hospitalized with serious burns, the wounds of a hero. My prayers go out to him and to his family.

It was too soon for 38-year-old Steve Rucker to leave this earth. He left behind a loving wife, Cathy; a 7-year-old daughter, Kirsten, a 3-year-old son, Wesley, and a home he had just built. His friends in the department knew Steve as "the Ruckster," a cheerful, enthusiastic man ready to joke and laugh, a man they could count on to be a calm and competent firefighter and paramedic, a man who loved his job. He

was, according to his friend and colleague Tom Gaulke, "a firefighter's firefighter." And yesterday when I stood with Steve's firefighting companions, they told me that Steve was the go-to person when they needed somebody in times like this. They needed his counsel yesterday and his support during their sorrow, but he was gone, and that is why they have such sorrow.

Twelve thousand firefighters battled the armies of flames that once threatened to burn from Southern California's mountains to the Pacific ocean. Steve Rucker was the only firefighter to die in this historical battle. In this he receives a measure of immortality. He stands for all of the brave men and women who unselfishly risk their lives to save others, whether facing a wall of flames on a rural back road or the billowing smoke of the World Trade Center.

Mr. Speaker, Steve Rucker was an irreplaceable man, but his family must go on with life without him. I wish them consolation in knowing that this man, son, husband, and father, died giving the gift of himself.

WASHINGTON WASTE WATCHERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KING of Iowa). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Washington Waste Watchers and of this body, I feel it is my duty to bring to the public's attention instances of fraud, waste, and abuse. Such actions of fraud, waste, and abuse not only steal from the taxpayers, but also from the beneficiaries very much in need of the benefits. A perfect example of fraud, waste, and abuse is actually occurring right now in my district. In July, after 10 years of service, the Department of Labor decided not to award the contract for senior employment to the group called Experience Works. It is a not-for-profit organization that has been working extremely well with seniors. The Department instead decided to award the contract to the American Association of Retired Persons or AARP. One might think this might be okay.

The transition that I have seen for my seniors going from Experience Works to AARP has been deplorable. At least ten of my constituents call my offices every day with complaints of verbal abuse. Imagine that. AARP abusing seniors. Some have left meetings with AARP in tears. I can only imagine how any Member in here would feel if they received calls from senior constituents claiming that AARP is abusing them. What happened is AARP has instituted new policies that seniors in my area are simply not used to. They have decided that they are going to shuffle these senior employees, who, by the way, are earning \$5.15 an hour, from job to job every 6

months, without exception, and many times without any warning. Today they are working for agency X; Monday they may be working for agency Y. It seems to me as if we did not learn from the shuffle game that we played with foster children. Nobody is nourished and nobody grows when we have a shuffling process where there is no continuity.

And, by the way, it is not just the seniors that I am hearing from. Many host agencies in the district are having problems as well. One of the agencies recently said that they have "had it with AARP." A gerontologist contacted me who has been working with seniors, and he said that he actually witnessed this verbal abuse of seniors by an AARP staff member. AARP is "looking into it." I am sorry, but that is not enough. There is not any reason why anyone should tolerate any employee who verbally abuses seniors.

I have also been working with the Department of Labor. AARP is not doing this out of the kindness of their heart. They receive \$75 million for operation of the SCSEP employment program in 27 States and in Puerto Rico. By the way, that is up from the \$52 million they received last year.

In the 10 years that I served as a Florida Senator and worked with Experience Works seniors, I never had one single complaint from my constituents, nor did I ever hear of any complaints from the time that I was elected. If AARP cannot spend taxpayer dollars that they receive helping seniors and working with the host agencies, I can think of a number of groups that certainly can accomplish this goal.

In addition to this case I cited in my district, I was also dismayed to learn that there was another Medicaid scandal happening in South Florida. Between 1999 and 2000, Medicaid actually paid roughly \$2 million to dead beneficiaries. Most of these funds were distributed despite the fact that the department's database had the dates of the deaths already logged in. Simple fact, we have some fraudulent providers out there who are trying to bilk the system.

Another example of the waste, obviously, is the \$600,000 that we are spending this year to have a blimp fly at sporting events to promote Medicare. I do not know of one senior out there who is not very familiar with Medicare.

When we look at all these expenditures, I know of lots of veterans back home who could suggest a lot better way to spend that taxpayer money.

Waste, fraud, and abuse throughout the Federal agencies is, obviously, decades old, and Republicans led by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. NUSSLE), chairman of the Committee on the Budget, and President Bush are working to eliminate the culture of waste that exists at the Federal Government. As a Republican, I will work to reduce wasteful spending in the government and to protect everyone's tax dollars.

IN SUPPORT OF A HEALTH-MONITORING PROGRAM FOR FIREFIGHTERS

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

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I would first like to thank all the firefighters and public servants who worked so hard this past week to help combat the devastating wildfires that occurred all over southern California and the Inland Empire. On behalf of myself and the people of the 43rd California Congressional District, I say "thank you."

In southern California and the Inland Empire, we have witnessed devastation like we have never seen before. Homes were destroyed, properties were damaged, lives were lost. More than 740,000 acres were burned. Nearly 3,600 homes were lost and 20 people lost their lives. At one point, nearly 16,000 firefighters were battling the blazes at the peak of devastation.

When the highway patrol and I toured the fires in my district 1½ weeks ago, we went into the ruins where residents had been evacuated. We saw the devastation of the homes and felt an overwhelming heat and breathed in the thick smoke of the fire. It was hard for us to be there simply for a few hours, but our firefighters did this for weeks, round the clock, with very little rest. They battled the blazes, inhaled the fumes, while the entire time reaching out to the communities. When I was there with the firefighters, we would come out of the fires and people would instantly stop us. They would beg us to check if their homes were still standing. And do my colleagues know what the highway patrol and I did? We charged back to where the flames were to see if the homes were still there. Often, as many know, we simply found an address on a curb and no home.

But who was still there, fighting the fires and trying to save the homes? The firefighters. We owe a great deal of gratitude to the brave men and women who fought these devastating fires, our American heroes.

That is why I believe that we should make sure that they have access to health care that they need so they can go home to their families safe and healthy. We do not know what the long-term effects of exposure to the smoke and fumes will be to the firefighters who fought the blazes in California. But with early evaluation, monitoring, and analyzing, we can offer them better treatment, the treatment they deserve for putting their lives on the line.

That is why I have introduced a bill that will require the Department of Health and Human Services to work with local health experts to conduct long-term health monitoring on firefighters who have responded to the California wildfires. This bill will create a health-monitoring program for