

Mrs. CAPPS. I yield to the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. That \$6 billion, as I understand it, is in the Senate version. There is no money contemplated in terms of a cost in the House version. But in any case I do not disagree with her on this \$6 billion.

Mrs. CAPPS. We are assuming the Senate bill will have some play in the discussion that is perhaps going on in the conference committee at the moment, and that is where we would urge the attention of the conferees to be put, that there is funding that has been set aside in the Senate bill that would make quite a difference in Medicare providers being able to stay, particularly in rural areas to continue to deliver the service.

I have seen the statement of the AMA and the osteopaths on this motion to instruct, and I need to say clearly for the RECORD that these letters do not describe correctly my motion to instruct. My motion to instruct supports the AMA position on physician fees. This motion explicitly supports the provision in the House bill that provides immediate assistance to doctors. In no way does it delay or support a delay in fixing the physician fee problem. Despite what the AMA and other groups have said, this motion does not delay permanent actions on fixing the sustainable growth rate. This motion does not address a long-term fix, but neither does the House bill.

The reason the House bill does not have a long-term fix is because it is very expensive. My motion would prevent the conference from spending money on risky privatization schemes when that money should be used to help finance a long-term solution to the physician fee problem. I believe the AMA must have been reading a different motion. Their statement says we are taking money from patients to give it to physicians. It could not be further from the truth.

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Section 231 of the Senate bill has the Federal Government paying private plans, not patients. I frankly think that patients would be better served if that money went to their own doctor than to bribe some private plan to pay for their services or to play in the field.

I am disappointed that the AMA has so inaccurately described my motion, and I hope this is an inadvertent mistake. I have work very closely with the AMA and other professional groups on the problem of physician fees; and recently I brought Tom Scully, the administrator of Medicare, to a meeting of doctors in my district. The motion I am offering today is designed to respond to the concerns that they raised in that meeting with Administrator Scully. The AMA is wrong about what my motion does, and their position does not reflect the position of doctors in my district.

In addition, I wanted to address the gentleman's comments about leaving

traditional Medicare in place. This House bill, which we have dealt with in the House before, will lead to rising Medicare part B costs because it would leave the sicker patients in traditional Medicare, while healthier seniors will go to HMOs. We have seen this in the Medicare+Choice plans, and we will certainly see it in a plan such as is proposed in this underlying bill. This is going to lead to much higher premiums for those who remain in Medicare. Seniors who do not want to join an HMO will be forced to because their premiums will be too expensive.

Mr. Speaker, this is a clear and very simple choice. On the one hand, we have HMOs and the insurance industry. On the other hand, we have the doctors who administer care, who know how to do this every day under Medicare, and their patients. The House and Senate bills seek to impose an untried and unnecessary privatization scheme onto Medicare. They will overpay HMOs in a bribe to get them to cover beneficiaries. These provisions would force seniors into private plans and drive up the premiums on those who stay in traditional Medicare. It would mean that seniors in different parts of the country would be paying different amounts for the same care. Instead of jeopardizing the Medicare system in this way, we could be ensuring that Medicare beneficiaries could see their doctors by making sure that they are reimbursed appropriately.

Support this motion to instruct to be sure that conferees support doctors over HMOs and protect our constituents from ill conceived changes.

So that is the motion to instruct conferees that we have proposed and that we hope will be passed in this House of Representatives so that the conferees will take seriously these recommendations to improve the underlying Medicare bill and make it something that could receive bipartisan support in the House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEARCE). Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to instruct offered by the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS).

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

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

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### THE WAR IN IRAQ AND SUPPORTING OUR TROOPS

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, since July I have come to the floor of this House night after night sharing letters from constituents and raising concerns about our policy in Iraq, raising concerns about the administration's failure to supply and to protect the troops, raising concerns about the \$1 billion a week, now an increase to \$87 billion a year for this Iraq reconstruction effort, raising concerns about the fact that there is no plan from the administration on how to deal with the problems for our troops and how to deal with an exit strategy in Iraq, letters expressing concern about the corruption in our government in Iraq where we are spending \$1 billion a week and 30 percent of that \$1 billion is going to private contractors, most of them friends of the President, Bechtel, Halliburton, other large corporations, most of them contributors to the President to the tune of hundreds of thousands of dollars, and one of them, Halliburton, particular concerns have been raised about from my constituents. Halliburton, the company that the vice President, when he was a private citizen, was CEO of, that company still pays Vice President CHENEY \$13,000 a month.

Tonight, rather than reading letters from constituents, I thought I would read something else that I think is equally interesting. It was from a book that George Bush, Sr., the first President Bush, wrote with Brent Scowcroft in 1998. The name of the book was "A World Transformed." On Page 489, the first President Bush tells us his views about Iraq and what he thought. This is President Bush the first speaking:

"Trying to eliminate Saddam" Hussein, "extending the ground war into an occupation of Iraq, would have violated our guideline about not changing objectives in midstream, engaging in 'mission creep,' and would have incurred incalculable human and political costs." This is President Bush, Sr. writing in 1998: "Apprehending him," Saddam Hussein, "was probably impossible. We had been unable to find Noriega in Panama, which we knew intimately. We would have been forced to occupy Baghdad and, in effect, rule Iraq. The coalition," President Bush wrote in 1998, "would instantly have collapsed, the Arabs deserting it in anger and other allies pulling out as well. Under those circumstances there