

the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRBACHER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take the time of the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRBACHER).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Minnesota?

There was no objection.

DRUG PRICES IN AMERICA

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

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to talk about an issue that is not new to this Congress and certainly is not new to the American people, and that is the price that Americans pay for prescription drugs relative to the rest of the industrialized world.

I started this pilgrimage about 5 or 6 years ago. Many Members do not know how I got involved in this, but the issue that got me involved was the price of pigs. Because about 5½ years ago, the price of live hogs in the United States collapsed. It dropped from about \$37 per hundred-weight down to about \$7 per hundred-weight. So these farmers started to call me and say, Can't you do something about this, Congressman? And I said, Well, I don't know what we can do. They said, At least can you stop all these Canadian pigs from coming across our border making our market even more difficult?

So I did what any good Congressman would do, I called the Secretary of Agriculture, I called the Secretary of Commerce, and essentially I got the same answer. And the answer was: Well, that's called NAFTA. That's called free trade. We have open borders. I said, You mean we have open borders when it comes to pork bellies but not open borders when it comes to Prilosec? And the Secretary of Commerce literally said to me, Well, I guess that's right. I said, Well, that doesn't sound right to me.

So I got some charts and started comparing what Americans pay for drugs compared to Canada and Europe, and I started bringing these charts down to the floor of the House and talking about those differences and saying essentially that if we are going to have open markets that our farmers have to compete with, then the big pharmaceutical companies ought to have to compete as well.

Last year, I had a chart from Germany, and we have some relationships now with some of the pharmacies around the world, and they give us regular prices in terms of what they are

charging for the drugs. Last year, the difference between Germany and the United States, depending on how you look at it, about a 40 percent difference.

Over the last year, the price of the American dollar has declined by over 20 percent relative to the Euro. So when we got these charts, I was afraid the differences would have all but evaporated. Lo and behold, the prices are even more exaggerated today than they were a year ago. In other words, prices here in the United States, the differential is even greater today than it was a year ago, even though the value of the dollar has declined by 20 percent.

Let me give a couple of examples of drugs people might recognize. One is the drug Nexium, the new purple pill. At the local pharmacy in Rochester, Minnesota, a 30-day supply of Nexium, 20 milligrams, is \$145. You can buy that same package of Nexium at the Metropolitan Pharmacy in Frankfurt, Germany for \$60.25.

Norvasc, 30 tablets, \$54.83 in the United States, \$19.31 over in Germany.

But here is one that really got our attention: Zocor. In the United States, \$85.39; in Germany, \$23.83. What is interesting there is we negotiate and get good deals for Federal employees. The Federal copay right now for Zocor is \$30. In other words, you can buy it walking in off the street with a prescription in Frankfurt, Germany, cheaper than you can the copay for Federal employees.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to serve notice tonight that this issue is not going to go away, I am not going to go away, and the people of not only my State but people all over the country are only demanding we get fair prices. We as Americans subsidize the pharmaceutical industry in three separate ways. First of all, we pay for a big share of the research. This year we will spend about 27 billion taxpayer dollars to fund basic research and research in drugs and chemicals and so forth to determine what might work. And many of those things are given to the pharmaceutical industry, essentially, and then they patent those drugs. So we do subsidize a big part of their research.

Second, we subsidize them through the Tax Code. Literally, they write off all the costs they have for research. In fact, in some cases they get tax credits, research and development tax credits.

Finally, we subsidize them through the prices we pay.

Now, I believe in patents, and I do not believe anybody should be stealing other people's patents. And I do not believe that we as Americans should escape paying our fair share for the cost of these drugs. I think it is fair we pay our fair share. I think we should subsidize the people in sub-Saharan Africa, for example. But I do not think Americans should be forced to continue to subsidize the starving Swiss and the starving Germans and the people in the industrialized world.

It is time Americans have access to world-class drugs at world market

prices. I hope my colleagues will go to my Web site at gil.house.gov. We have a site there with great charts and a lot of information. If people will just study this, be objective, I think they will come to the same conclusion, that it is time to open up markets for the pharmaceutical companies the way our farmers have to compete in a world marketplace.

PRESIDENT'S BUDGET

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, last week, President Bush delivered to Congress his proposed Federal budget. In the coming months, Democrats and Republicans in Congress will debate budget proposals largely based on divergent cardinal moral values. We will debate budget cuts that represent more than just program scale-backs. The President's proposed cuts to vital government programs are reflective of differences in core philosophies on the role of our government in serving our people.

Budgets are moral documents that reveal the fundamental priorities of a person, of a household, of a government. The President's "every man for himself" budget disregards millions of Americans and undercuts our Nation's values. There is no better example of where Democratic and Republican values diverge than Medicaid. The President claims he only wants to cut programs that are not getting results or that duplicate current efforts or that do not fulfill essential priorities.

So which of these is Medicaid? There is no question it is getting results. It operates at a lower cost than private health insurance, in spite of what my friends on the other side of the aisle like to say about Medicaid. In fact, private health insurance has grown historically at 12.6 percent a year; Medicare costs have grown at 7.1 percent a year; and Medicaid has grown at 4.5 percent a year. So government-delivered health care through Medicare and through Medicaid has been significantly more efficient than wasteful, profitable private insurance.

There is no duplication here, because Medicaid is the only program of its kind. It fulfills an essential priority. It is the sole source of nursing home care for five million seniors living in poverty.

The President knows that Medicaid is already running on fumes, but he made a choice. He chose more tax cuts for the wealthiest 1 percent of Americans instead of providing for subsistence care for America's seniors. He chose tax cuts for the most privileged Americans instead of subsistence care for America's seniors through Medicaid. Different priorities reflecting a different set of moral values.

Medicaid provides health coverage to 52 million Americans, including roughly 1.7 million in the home State of myself and the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR). It is the only source of coverage for one in four of Ohio's children. It provides 70 percent of the nursing home funding in Ohio, as it does in most States.

The Bush plan cuts \$60 billion out of Medicaid over the next 10 years. Different priorities reflecting a different set of moral values.

These cuts mean kicking seniors out of nursing homes. And the President's plan, in addition to doing that, shifts tens of billions of dollars in costs to States like Ohio. He gives a tax break to the wealthiest people in the country, then he shifts costs by cutting spending in Ohio and the other 49 States, all of which have to make up for that to take care of Medicaid.

The President cannot eliminate basic needs by ignoring them. He cannot eliminate the need for nursing home care by ignoring it or by shifting responsibility to the States. In the short run, his budget cuts will create victims; in the long run, they will force the States to spend more.

And who will have to cover these costs? Students will pay as a result of the Bush tax cuts for the wealthy and Medicaid cuts. Students in my State, and every State, will pay through higher tuition; homeowners will pay through higher property taxes; consumers will pay through higher sales taxes; workers will pay through higher income taxes, all to make up for the President's tax cuts for the wealthy in Washington and cuts in Medicaid to the States.

Medicaid has always been a partnership between Federal and State governments. Cutting the Federal share hurts our families and our communities and our States and our country. We can give up many things, Mr. Speaker, in the name of shared sacrifice, but common sense should not be one of them. The President's "every man for himself" budget neglects our communities and betrays our values as a Nation.

PUBLICATION OF THE RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE, 109TH CONGRESS

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

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 2(a)2 of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, I hereby submit the Rules of the Committee on Energy and Commerce for the 109th Congress for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. The Committee adopted Rules on February 2, 2005, and amended the Rules on February 9, 2005, both in meetings that were open to the public.

RULES FOR THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

Rule 1. General Provisions. (a) Rules of the Committee. The Rules of the House are the

rules of the Committee on Energy and Commerce (hereinafter the "Committee") and its subcommittees so far as is applicable, except that a motion to recess from day to day, and a motion to dispense with the first reading (in full) of a bill or resolution, if printed copies are available, is nondebatable and privileged in the Committee and its subcommittees.

(b) Rules of the Subcommittees. Each subcommittee of the Committee is part of the Committee and is subject to the authority and direction of the Committee and to its rules so far as applicable. Written rules adopted by the Committee, not inconsistent with the Rules of the House, shall be binding on each subcommittee of the Committee.

Rule 2. Time and Place of Meetings. (a) Regular Meeting Days. The Committee shall meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m., for the consideration of bills, resolutions, and other business, if the House is in session on that day. If the House is not in session on that day and the Committee has not met during such month, the Committee shall meet at the earliest practicable opportunity when the House is again in session. The chairman of the Committee may, at his discretion, cancel, delay, or defer any meeting required under this section, after consultation with the ranking minority member.

(b) Additional Meetings. The chairman may call and convene, as he considers necessary, additional meetings of the Committee for the consideration of any bill or resolution pending before the Committee or for the conduct of other Committee business. The Committee shall meet for such purposes pursuant to that call of the chairman.

(c) Vice Chairmen; Presiding Member. The chairman shall designate a member of the majority party to serve as vice chairman of the Committee, and shall designate a majority member of each subcommittee to serve as vice chairman of each subcommittee. The vice chairman of the Committee or subcommittee, as the case may be, shall preside at any meeting or hearing during the temporary absence of the chairman. If the chairman and vice chairman of the Committee or subcommittee are not present at any meeting or hearing, the ranking member of the majority party who is present shall preside at the meeting or hearing.

(d) Open Meetings and Hearings. Except as provided by the Rules of the House, each meeting of the Committee or any of its subcommittees for the transaction of business, including the markup of legislation, and each hearing, shall be open to the public including to radio, television and still photography coverage, consistent with the provisions of Rule XI of the Rules of the House.

Rule 3. Agenda. The agenda for each Committee or subcommittee meeting (other than a hearing), setting out the date, time, place, and all items of business to be considered, shall be provided to each member of the Committee at least 36 hours in advance of such meeting.

Rule 4. Procedure. (a)(1) Hearings. The date, time, place, and subject matter of any hearing of the Committee or any of its subcommittees shall be announced at least one week in advance of the commencement of such hearing, unless the Committee or subcommittee determines in accordance with clause 2(g)(3) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House that there is good cause to begin the hearing sooner.

(2)(A) Meetings. The date, time, place, and subject matter of any meeting (other than a hearing) scheduled on a Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday when the House will be in session, shall be announced at least 36 hours (exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays except when the House is in session

on such days) in advance of the commencement of such meeting.

(3) Motions. Pursuant to clause 1(a)(2) of rule XI of the Rules of the House, privileged motions to recess from day to day, or recess subject to the call of the Chair (within 24 hours), and to dispense with the first reading (in full) of a bill or resolution if printed copies are available shall be decided without debate.

(B) Other Meetings. The date, time, place, and subject matter of a meeting (other than a hearing or a meeting to which subparagraph (A) applies) shall be announced at least 72 hours in advance of the commencement of such meeting.

(b)(1) Requirements for Testimony. Each witness who is to appear before the Committee or a subcommittee shall file with the clerk of the Committee, at least two working days in advance of his or her appearance, sufficient copies, as determined by the chairman of the Committee or a subcommittee, of a written statement of his or her proposed testimony to provide to members and staff of the Committee or subcommittee, the news media, and the general public. Each witness shall, to the greatest extent practicable, also provide a copy of such written testimony in an electronic format prescribed by the chairman. Each witness shall limit his or her oral presentation to a brief summary of the argument. The chairman of the Committee or of a subcommittee, or the presiding member, may waive the requirements of this paragraph or any part thereof.

(2) Additional Requirements for Testimony. To the greatest extent practicable, the written testimony of each witness appearing in a non-governmental capacity shall include a curriculum vitae and a disclosure of the amount and source (by agency and program) of any federal grant (or sub grant thereof) or contract (or subcontract thereof) received during the current fiscal year or either of the two preceding fiscal years by the witness or by an entity represented by the witness.

(c)(1) Questioning Witnesses. The right to interrogate the witnesses before the Committee or any of its subcommittees shall alternate between majority and minority members. Each member shall be limited to 5 minutes in the interrogation of witnesses until such time as each member who so desires has had an opportunity to question witnesses. No member shall be recognized for a second period of 5 minutes to interrogate a witness until each member of the Committee present has been recognized once for that purpose. While the Committee or subcommittee is operating under the 5-minute rule for the interrogation of witnesses, the chairman shall recognize in order of appearance members who were not present when the meeting was called to order after all members who were present when the meeting was called to order have been recognized in the order of seniority on the Committee or subcommittee, as the case may be.

(2) Questions for the Record. Each member may submit to the Chairman of the Committee or the subcommittee additional questions for the record, to be answered by the witnesses who have appeared. Each member shall provide a copy of the questions in an electronic format to the clerk of the Committee no later than ten business days following a hearing. The Chairman shall transmit all questions received from members of the Committee or the subcommittee to the appropriate witness, and include the transmittal letter and the responses from the witnesses in the hearing record.

(d) Explanation of Subcommittee Action. No bill, recommendation, or other matter reported by a subcommittee shall be considered by the full Committee unless the text of