

of two Capitol police officers who were killed, Officers Chestnut and Gibson.

Gibson I knew. We were on a Senate retreat in Virginia, and my wife became ill. Gibson is the man who ran with all of the paraphernalia to make sure she was going to be OK. He was profusely perspiring. I can still remember very clearly this wonderful hard-working man. He came to save my wife.

Well, these two officers were killed. In the process of their being murdered by a madman, we do not know how many people's lives were saved in the Capitol complex. But it was the impetus that caused us to complete this great Capitol Visitor Center that we have, in the sacrifice that they certainly did not intend to make but they did make because of their training and skill.

Yesterday, an armed man fled a traffic stop, driving erratically around Capitol Hill. We do not know all of the details, but we do know that he struck a parked car, we understand now a motorcycle and a police car, a Capitol police car, and he almost ran over two police officers.

But when he got out of the car, a block from where we are right now, he came with an Uzi-type weapon, semi-automatic weapon, and started firing at the police and anyone else around them.

Fortunately, the Capitol police officers stopped him before he had a chance to do any harm. He was shot numerous times as was required under the circumstances. But the interesting part about this is what did the police officers do when the firing stopped, when they could no longer hear the bullets. They immediately ran over and administered first aid to this domestic terrorist. They tried to save the life of a man who seconds earlier tried to take theirs.

I do not know how we define heroism, but I think that is a pretty good description. An investigation is, of course, underway. We do not know all of the details, nor can we know how many lives these officers saved yesterday. And we cannot sufficiently thank them for what they did. But on behalf of the entire Senate, we appreciate each of them. I admire what you do. Wherever we go on this Capitol complex, there are people looking over us. That is not the way it always was, but now with terrorism, with there being a war that is being waged against our great country, we have had to have all of these police officers protect not only us but all of the people who come here on a daily basis.

We have people whom we can see in uniform. We have people we do not know are police officers; they are in plain clothing. We deeply value the honorable work these men and women do for us every day, putting their lives on the line to protect people they do not know.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The minority leader is recognized.

HONORING THE CAPITOL POLICE

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I join my colleague, the majority leader, in extending my appreciation this morning to our marvelous Capitol police force. We were reminded in a very vivid way yesterday that they are on constant alert and that they are in constant danger.

Fortunately, incidents such as the one that took place yesterday are rare. We are all glad for that. And we are glad we have such a professional, well-trained, and courageous group of men and women to keep us safe day in and day out. They are always ready. On behalf of the entire Senate family, I want to express my appreciation for their hard work and their courage in the line of duty.

HEALTH CARE WK VI, DAY IV

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, for the past several weeks I have come down to the Senate floor just about every day we have been in session, and I have brought a simple message: Americans want health care reform, and both parties want to deliver that reform. What Americans do not want is a government takeover masked as a reform that leaves them paying more for less. And they don't want us to rush something as important and as personal as health care reform just to have something to brag about at a parade or a press conference.

So it was perplexing to hear the President say yesterday that the "status quo . . . is not an option." I cannot think of a single person in Washington who disagrees with that statement. No one is defending the status quo, no one. What we are defending is the right of the American people to know what they are getting into: the exact details and the cost.

That leads me to another distressing aspect of the administration's approach to this debate, the artificial timeline for reform. The President has said he wants to see a health care reform bill out of the Senate in 3 weeks and on his desk in October. His rationale seems to be the same as it was during the debate over the stimulus. The economy's in bad shape, so health care reform has to happen right away.

Certainly the two are connected. But the problem is that many of the Democrat proposals we have seen would not make the situation better, they would make it even worse. And due to our current financial situation, we need to be even more careful about how we spend our money, not less. We saw the consequences of carelessness on the stimulus bill. We rushed that, and Americans got burned. We must not make that mistake again.

But we can start with a point of real agreement: Americans want reform, but they want us to be careful.

An artificial deadline virtually guarantees a defective product—virtually guarantees a defective product. Look no further than the drafts coming out of the House and Senate this very week. Both of them are shot through with weaknesses and deficiencies typical of a rush job. First, they cost way too much. According to early estimates, the House bill would cost more than \$1 trillion over the next 10 years and yet—listen to this—it still wouldn't cover all the uninsured; \$1 trillion and it wouldn't cover all the uninsured. It includes a new tax on small business that could keep companies from hiring low-wage employees. It creates a new nationwide government-run health plan that could force millions off their current insurance. One of the worst parts is that advocates of the House bill want small businesses and seniors to pay for it; small businesses and seniors they want to pay for it. Businesses would pay through new taxes, seniors through cuts to Medicare, cuts that hospitals in my home State simply cannot sustain.

I have talked to the hospitals in Kentucky that are worried about the impact these Medicare cuts would have on the services Kentucky hospitals currently provide to seniors. I encourage all of my colleagues to talk to the people who care for patients day in and day out at hospitals in their own States and see what they have to say about this proposal. It may be a lot different than what some of the interest groups here in Washington are saying.

Small businesses are worried too. At a time when the unemployment rate is already approaching 10 percent, the new tax on small business will inevitably lead to even more job losses. Business groups across the country that have seen the details of the House bill are warning that it would certainly kill jobs. Under the House bill, taxes on some small businesses could rise as high as roughly 45 percent. Let me say that again: Taxes on small business up to 45 percent, meaning their tax rate would be about 30 percent higher than the rate for big corporations. So small businesses, which have created approximately two out of three new jobs over the past decade, get a bigger tax increase than big corporations. It is worth asking why small businesses, which created about two-thirds of the new jobs in this country over the last 10 years, get hit so hard under the House bill. Is it because they can't fight back as hard as big businesses? Either way, the House bill would lead to some small businesses paying higher taxes than big businesses, even though the U.S. corporate rate for all of our corporations is already one of the highest in the world.

The Senate bill is as bad. As currently written, the HELP Committee bill would increase the Federal deficit by at least \$645 billion, at least that