

What are the Democrats worried about, Mr. Speaker? Could it be because this is the latest board game in the United States, that the American health care consumer stands on this side of 31 bureaucracies and they have to figure out how to get through 31 bureaucracies before they can get to their doctor? Or could it be, Mr. Speaker, because this will cost 5 million jobs? Or could it be, Mr. Speaker, because this will cost \$2 trillion in additional deficit?

I can understand why the Democrats wouldn't want the American people to see this, but I don't understand how you can make the claim that this is the most transparent Congress in the history of this country, if you won't even let the American people see that there are 31 bureaucracies that stand between average Americans and their doctor.

Mr. Speaker, it's time that the American people get to see the truth. This shouldn't be contraband.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE A RIGHT TO KNOW

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I can't believe it. The Democrats have 70-some more Members in this Chamber than we do, and yet they're afraid to let the American people know what's in their health plan. This thing, I call it a thing, has 31 new Federal agencies, commissions and mandates in it, and that's between the doctor and their patient. And the American people have a right to know these things, and they're saying we can't put it on our Web site. We can't mail it to our constituents. We can't tell them about it. That is censorship.

They shouldn't have to worry. With 70-some more votes than we have, they ought to be able to do anything they want to in this House. But even Democrats don't like this plan. That's why they can't get it out of the House and can't even get it out of committee right now.

The American people have a right to know. Censorship should never happen in the House of Representatives, the people's House, and I'd say to the Speaker, let's get with it. The American people should see what they're going to get if they pass your plan.

CENSORSHIP IN THIS HOUSE

(Mr. GOHMERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, during the American Revolution, often Voltaire was quoted for saying, I disagree with what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it. Man, the revolution has been turned on its head.

Now we're told that you cannot use government resources to use the term

"government-run health care" because that offends the majority, so they are censoring the mail, censoring the resources here. But now we are, until they turn off the mikes and the lights again this year, we're able to hold posters here on the floor. Here's another thing that's been censored.

Mr. Speaker, this is outrageous. Just because anybody disagrees with what we say, it's no reason to shut down our right to say it. This country can't proceed with this kind of censorship.

CENSORSHIP

(Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I serve on the Franking Commission for this body. The purpose of the Franking Commission essentially is to make sure that government resources are not used in a way that would look like it's campaign purposes; that is, we are very careful about how many times you use the personal pronoun "I," how many times you can have your picture in a newsletter. But never in the history of this House have these rules been used to censor Members from articulating a point of view on an issue that is before this House.

This chart has been introduced into the record, the official record of consideration of the health bill before the Ways and Means Committee, and yet we have been told by the majority, we've been told that it's been taken above the level of those of us on the Franking Commission. We've been told that we cannot use this. Why? Because they disagree with our opinions expressed herein.

I didn't know that one of the obligations of the minority was to accept censorship because the majority does not want our efforts to get in their way of passing a health bill that takes control of health away from people and puts it in the government.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KRATOVL). The Chair announces a correction to an earlier vote tally. On roll call vote No. 628, the ayes were 105 and the noes were 328.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, 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 Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

CENSORSHIP BY THE MAJORITY

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. Mr. Speaker, I've been in this House for a long time and I've served with a number of Presidents. I've served with a number of Democrat and Republican Speakers. I've served with colleagues that are very good friends of mine that are Democrats and Republicans, and I've never had a problem getting along with them. And even though we have strong differences with my Democrat colleagues, at least I felt they were fair most of the time. In fact, they always tried to be fair. And I've talked to the majority leader about problems. We've talked to a lot of the Members that are chairmen of committees about problems, and they've been very fair in most cases. But I have never, ever seen anything like this.

This is a chart that shows the Democrats' health care plan. We've been talking about it tonight. KEVIN BRADY worked this up, and it's very, very accurate. It shows all of the committees or agencies that are going to be created that the American people are going to have to go through to get health care. There are 31 new Federal agencies, commissions and mandates that will come between the patient and their doctor.

Now, we have had problems dealing with the post office. The post office has had their stamps going up because they're not making the profit that they should. We have problems with HHS. We have problems with the automobile industry now that's now called Obama Motors. We have all kinds of problems right now because government cannot handle the things that the private sector can.

Now, we do need to improve health care. We need to make some changes that will be positive, and the Republicans have a plan to do that, but to say that that is something that we should not show the American people is really tragic. It is censorship. The American people have a right to know. We're their elected representatives.

I represent almost 700,000 people in Indiana, and a lot of them are calling, asking what this new health care plan's going to do to them, and we wanted to send this out to those people so that they could see with their own eyes what they're going to have to go through to get health care, how much it's going to cost and how long it will take. But they're saying, the Democrats are saying we cannot send this out to our constituents. That is just wrong. It's censorship. And in all years I've been in this body, I've never seen anything like this.

There have been a lot of differences with the Speakers of the Democrats in the past, but there's never, ever been anything like this. And I'd say to the Speaker if she were here tonight, "Change this, Madam Speaker. This is