

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, the health care bill we will consider this week spent 3 months behind closed doors. It started out with 1,000 pages and came out with 2,000 pages. While you might think that nothing had been removed in those closed door sessions, you may be surprised to find out that bipartisan amendments already adopted at the committee level have been gutted or tossed out. Now Speaker PELOSI is saying that we don't need amendments on the floor since we already had that opportunity at the committee level.

In the Energy and Commerce Committee, we adopted one amendment to ensure that the Center for Comparative Effectiveness Research would not be used to ration health care. We also adopted another amendment that would have prevented the center from dictating to doctors what type of treatments they can offer. Why would these amendments be gutted or removed from the bill? The only conclusion is that the authors of the bill want to move us in the direction of government-rationed care.

In Canada and Britain, similar boards are used to ration care and dictate how doctors treat their patients. Americans do not want government bureaucrats determining their treatments. They want those decisions left to doctors that they trust.

WATER FOR SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I joined together with Congressmen CARDOZA and RADANOVICH in a bipartisan effort to introduce legislation on the part of our ongoing efforts to bring more water to the San Joaquin Valley, and today I rise in support of that bill.

As I have said before on this floor, regulatory and hydrological reductions in water supply deliveries have devastated my district and parts of the Central Valley in California, leaving our cities and communities in many areas with unemployment levels of 30 to 40 percent.

This legislation calls for the review of the Federal biological opinions that have reduced the amount of water flowing to the valley, leaving some of the hardest working people you'll ever meet in your life ironically standing in food lines, unable to provide food for their families. Our farmers are in danger of losing their farms, and in some cases they have held them for generations.

The two biological opinions in question, one issued by the Fish and Wildlife Service and the other by the National Marine Fisheries Service, focus solely on Central Valley. They need to be reconsidered because I believe they are flawed.

For the last 18 months, I have repeatedly said there is not one single cause for the decline in the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Delta system and their fisheries. This legislation will assure that all environmental factors are taken into account.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, as a physician with over 30 years' experience, I cannot state strongly enough how devastating this Pelosi bill is going to be for American families, businesses, and seniors.

This 1,990-page bill has come in at a cost of \$1.3 trillion by the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office. It will create \$700 billion in new taxes. It will cover over 6 million illegal immigrants, and as many as 5.5 million American workers can lose their jobs.

The government takeover of health care proposed in the Pelosi health care plan could cause as many as 114 million Americans to lose their current coverage.

This bill will also ring in a new level of Federal spending, creating levels of bureaucracy that will cost trillions of dollars in new Federal spending and will exacerbate the deficit and imperil the Nation's long-term fiscal solvency.

And finally, cuts to Medicare Advantage plans will result in higher premiums and dropped coverage for more than 10 million seniors.

In short, the Pelosi health care bill will raise taxes, provide less coverage for families and seniors, and cost millions of Americans their jobs.

ANNIVERSARY OF ASSASSINATION OF YITZHAK RABIN

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, today is the 14th anniversary of the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin.

Yitzhak Rabin was the Prime Minister of Israel on November 4, 1995, when he was assassinated. He was one of the great men of the world, and like November 22 in our country, that is a date that we should all remember.

Yitzhak Rabin served two terms as prime minister, from 1974 to 1977 and 1992 to 1995. He also served as Defense Minister in Israel during the Six-Day War, and was responsible for the raid in Entebbe. He was a great Israeli leader who was killed because he reached out to bring about peace with the PLO. He was given the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts.

During his time as Prime Minister in the seventies, he brought about peace with Egypt, and in the nineties with Jordan and with the PLO and with Yasser Arafat.

We had a debate on this floor yesterday about a resolution. I don't think

we would have been having that debate if the assassin's bullet had not struck Yitzhak Rabin. I think we would have peace in the Middle East. It takes strong men like him, sometimes men of war, to bring about peace and reach across the aisle to their adversaries.

A MESSAGE TO THE BLUE DOGS

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

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I have a message today for the 52 Blue Dog Democrats out there, 40 of whom are conservative Democrats in districts that President Bush carried, and my message is loud and clear for them today, and that is that your leadership is making you walk the plank on this health care bill. Don't do it. Don't fall for it. Don't take the bait, for it will be your political suicide.

Stand with us on the Republican side. Stand with us conservatives to defeat the Pelosi health care bill. You have the power to defeat this government takeover of our health care system and the takeover of one-sixth of our economy. You have the opportunity to do something right for America. Stand with us. Stand with us as conservatives. Stand up for the American people.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I have looked at the revised Democrat health care bill. It raises taxes. It raises premiums. It cuts Medicare. It costs \$1 trillion. It puts a myriad of bureaucrats in between the patient and the doctor. Call me thick, but I don't get it. Why are they doing this?

We need targeted reforms. Americans have said loudly, I don't want to give up my health care. I want you to help the people who have fallen through the cracks, but let me keep mine because my program is working. And they're not being selfish; they're using common sense. If the kitchen sink is leaking, you don't take a wrecking ball to the entire kitchen. You fix the sink.

We need targeted health care that doesn't cut Medicare and doesn't raise taxes and doesn't cause premium increases. The Republican Party has offered many of these, and some of them are signed by Democrats. We can put together a targeted, bipartisan alternative, and we need to do it.

HEALTH CARE

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, after weeks of meeting behind closed doors, last week Speaker PELOSI unveiled her latest plan for a government takeover of health care.