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PRESIDENT JOHNSON IMPROVES HEALTH CARE OF ALL AMERICANS

Mr. MONDALE. Mr. President, President Johnson has signed into law the important Partnership for Health Act, marking the 31st health bill passed under his leadership in 4 years.

The Partnership for Health Act mobilizes the energies of all levels of government in an all-out war against disease by providing Federal funds for health services which States and communities deem vital; by enlisting the resources of the Nation in a total effort to control and eliminate rat infestation; and by setting strict standards of practice for clinical laboratories, to insure careful, correct examinations.

During the Johnson years, more health bills have been enacted than during any period in our history.

President Johnson and two Democratic-led Congresses have established comprehensive health services for over 900,000 members of poor families, and special health care for an additional 1,000,000 low-income children and youth, provided health care for the aged through medicare, expanded mental retardation and community mental health centers for the mentally retarded and disturbed, and strengthened immunization programs for our children.

A nation can be only as strong as the health of her people. While much remains to be done before we can be satisfied with the quality of American health care, great progress has been made.

I am proud of the health record written under the Johnson administration, and so is a healthier Nation.

I ask unanimous consent that the President's remarks upon signing the partnership for health bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the remarks were ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT AT SIGNING CEREMONIES OF THE PARTNERSHIP FOR HEALTH LEGISLATION, DECEMBER 5, 1967

Mr. Vice President, Secretary Gardner, Chairman Staggers, members of Congress, ladies and gentlemen:

As President there is nothing that I enjoy more than coming here to the East Room and signing health bills.

First, I think it is somewhat of a recommendation and a compliment to the Congress for having passed them. Having spent so many years in Congress, I look for every opportunity I can, in good conscience, to compliment them.

This is the second health bill that I have signed this week. That makes me very proud and I think this is something that will make the American people very happy.

This is the 31st health bill that I have signed in the last four years. I think that is of some significance because it shows what we are thinking about in this country and it shows what we are doing about it.

The bill that we will sign shortly is a little different than some of the others that we have had. Its purpose is not to create a new program, but to try to consolidate some old ones. It gives our States and it gives our communities new power to mount a total war against sickness and against disease—and they need that power.

Some two years ago a noted medical researcher said: "The human body comes in only two shapes and three colors. I don't expect there will be any changes . . ."

But even if the human body is quite

limited in both shape and color, the human body has also unlimited capacity for affliction. As medical science has discovered more and more of the new ways to cure the body's ills, the Federal Government has responded with more and more health programs, as the number of these measures has indicated—each with a pinpointed target, each valid and each valuable for its own purpose. But the result, after dozens and dozens of health bills enacted in a relatively short period—more health bills have been enacted in the last four years than all the preceding years of our Government put together—the result has been a programmatic and bureaucratic nightmare that we frankly must face up to.

In this Partnership for Health measure, we begin to try to cure some of this red tape. We begin to try to free the Public Health Service from the burden of paperwork so it can fight a more important battle, the battle against disease.

This bill contains a three-part strategy to help them fight that battle against diseases:

First, it offers assistance to States and communities to develop broad-based plans for health. We give them that obligation and responsibility and call upon them to do their planning.

Second, as quickly as these plans are ready it provides Federal funds to help carry out these local plans.

Third, it establishes a national program for research and development in health services. Even as we discover new ways to cure disease, we are testing better ways to bring these cures to the people.

So the bill contains two proposals:

It opens the way to strict Federal and State standards for clinical laboratories. It will help to eliminate the patient of the needless anguish of tests he has had to undergo that might be faulty. We do know from recent studies that as many as one out of four tests performed by some laboratories have been wrong tests.

This bill also deals with a subject that you have heard about and read about and some people have laughed about—the subject of rats.

Throughout history rats have been the prime delivery system for our filth and the worst diseases that human beings have. To little children in the slums rats have really been the Public Enemy No. 1.

Some important people—I am told—thought it was a joke when we sent up the Rat Control Bill a few months earlier. Some joked about it.

The bill we sign today shows that American people are not laughing about it. And it shows that the Congress and the country were listening.

Now it is the turn of State and community leaders to listen. Now it is time for the health officers to show that by this partnership we mean business.

This is the second consumer bill that I have signed this year. We still have ten to go, Truth-in-lending, Pipeline Safety, Flammable Fabrics and Wholesome Meat.

I had some encouraging words a few moments ago about that.

This Wholesome Meat Bill can relieve every American family from the fear that every frankfurter and hamburger they give their children could be rancid or have something wrong with it.

So, I thank the Congress for what you have brought me to sign and I invite you to give me other work to do.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BYRD of West Virginia. Mr. President, is there further morning business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further morning business? If not, morning business is concluded.

ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION AMENDMENTS OF 1967

Mr. BYRD of West Virginia. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 7819.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill will be stated by title.

The BILL CLERK. A bill (H.R. 7819) to strengthen and improve programs of assistance for elementary and secondary education by extending authority for allocation of funds to be used for education of Indian children and children in overseas dependents schools of the Department of Defense, by extending and amending the National Teacher Corps program, by providing assistance for comprehensive educational planning, and by improving programs of education for the handicapped; to improve authority for assistance in schools in federally impacted areas and areas suffering a major disaster; and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the Senate will proceed to its consideration.

The Senate resumed the consideration of the bill.

Mr. BYRD of West Virginia. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BYRD of West Virginia. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMENDATION OF CYRUS R. VANCE

Mr. BYRD of West Virginia. Mr. President, this morning's Washington Post contains an editorial entitled "Well Done." The editorial remarks on the highly commendable work that has been performed by Cyrus R. Vance in his efforts to secure some peaceful resolution of the problem that has confronted the Middle East in recent days; namely, the controversy between Turkey and Greece over Cyprus. The editorial states that many persons played important roles in this situation. I quote from the editorial:

But it was Mr. Vance, who left his job as Deputy Secretary of Defense earlier this year to rest an ailing back, who carried the big burden. It was his readings of the temper and intentions of the conflicting parties that were crucial to the shaky understanding that was reached. He was thrown into the crisis with no particular expertise to help him and little time to do his homework. Yet he came quickly to the heart of it: Turkey was in no mood for half-baked solutions; if no major concessions were forthcoming from Greece, the Turks were ready for war. The necessary concessions were worked out, all around, though it remains to be seen just how reasonable President Makarios of Cyprus is going to be.

I take great pride in calling the editorial to the attention of the Senate. I take pride in the work of Mr. Vance. He is an able public servant. He has rendered a notable service not only to his country but also to the world by acting to preserve peace in the Middle East.