

Pelosi worried about angry health care rhetoric

WASHINGTON—House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said Thursday, Sept. 17, that the anti-government rhetoric over President Barack Obama's health care reform effort is concerning because it reminds her of the violent debate over gay rights that roiled San Francisco in the 1970s.

Anyone voicing hateful or violent rhetoric, she told reporters, must take responsibility for the results.

"I have concerns about some of the language that is being used because I saw this myself in the late '70s in San Francisco," Pelosi said, suddenly speaking quietly. "This kind of rhetoric was very frightening" and created a climate in which violence took place, she said.

Former San Francisco Supervisor Dan White was convicted of the 1978 murders of Mayor George Moscone and openly gay supervisor Harvey Milk. Gay rights activists and some others at the time saw a link between the assassinations and the violent debate over gay rights that had preceded them for years.

During a rambling confession, White was quoted as saying, "I saw the city as going kind of downhill." His lawyers argued that he was mentally ill at the time. White committed suicide in 1985.

Pelosi is part of a generation of California

Democrats on whom the assassinations had a searing effect. A resident of San Francisco, Pelosi had been a Democratic activist for years and knew Milk and Moscone. At the time of their murders, she was serving as chairwoman of her party in the northern part of the state.

On Thursday, Sept. 17, Pelosi was answering a question about whether the current vitriol concerned her. The questioner did not refer to the murders of Milk or Moscone, or the turmoil in San Francisco three decades ago. Pelosi referenced those events on her own and grew uncharacteristically emotional.

"I wish that we would all, again, curb our enthusiasm in some of the statements that are made," Pelosi said. Some of the people hearing the message "are not as balanced as the person making the statement might assume," she said.

"Our country is great because people can say what they think and they believe," she added. "But I also think that they have to take responsibility for any incitement that they may cause."

Pelosi's office did not immediately respond to a request for examples of contemporary statements that reminded the speaker of the rhetoric of 1970s San Francisco. ■

Lucky no. 7 for Pacquiao

PAGE A1 ◀

for this fight and Manny's camp knows what Miguel Cotto is capable of doing inside the ring.

There had been doubts about whether the 28-year-old Cotto is the same fighter he was before the brutal defeat against Antonio Margarito. Prior to being knocked out by Margarito, Cotto seemed an unflappable boxer with a mixture of strength and resilience.

"I'm here to prove my doubters my wrong," added Cotto. "I know I'm better than Manny."

The main issue Cotto has heading into this bout is whether he will be able to make the 145-pound weight limit. However, he sees no difficulty in making the weight. He said the last match against Joshua Clottey he weighed in at 146 pounds and still had a day to lose an extra pound if needed.

Pacquiao said he knows he's going to be the smaller man again in this bout with Cotto. It was the same story when he faced David Diaz, Oscar De La

Hoya and Ricky Hatton. But in all those matches, the small Filipino won.

"Yes, he is a bit bigger but I'm just focused on my training," said Pacquiao. "I'm going to use my speed to beat him."

Pacquiao left for the Philippines on September 15. For the next five weeks, he and trainer Freddie Roach will train in Baguio City before heading back to the Wildcard Boxing Club to conclude the eight-week training camp.

When asked about the upcoming bout between Juan Manuel Marquez and Floyd Mayweather Jr., Pacquiao did not want to look ahead.

With the Marquez vs. Mayweather Jr. bout happening this weekend, many boxing pundits and fans expect the winner of that match to face the winner between Pacquiao and Cotto.

Pacquiao said he expects Mayweather to beat Marquez because "he has the speed and size to do it."

Marquez vs. Mayweather

Monday, Sept. 14, was a busy day for boxing writers. Prior to the Cotto-Pacquiao press conference, Juan Manuel Marquez and Floyd Mayweather Jr. held one of their final public workouts in front of the Kodak Theatre in Hollywood before heading into their match this Saturday, Sept. 19 at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

Marquez knows that in order to get what he wants he has to beat the man standing in his way. He won't admit it for the record but Marquez wants desperately to face Manny Pacquiao. But in order to do that the Mexican Numero Uno needs to beat the former pound-4-pound king Floyd Mayweather Jr.

"My mind is only on this fight," said Marquez. "My mind is only on Mayweather. I'm not thinking of Pacquiao right now, I'm not thinking of my next fight."

Marquez said that this is the biggest fight of his career. ■

Health negotiators focus on illegal immigrants

WASHINGTON—Health care negotiators in the Senate pressed for a way to ensure that illegal immigrants can't get access to government-funded insurance, a contentious issue now front and center after a Republican congressman's outburst during President Barack Obama's speech.

The issue is one of several thorny problems that came up as a small group of negotiators on the Senate Finance Committee met Friday, Sept. 18, Finance Chairman Max Baucus, D-Mont., is aiming to finalize legislation on Obama's health overhaul by next week—though whether it's bipartisan or not remains to be seen.

Members of the group said they thought they'd settled the question of illegal immigration, but it came to the fore this week when Republican Rep. Joe Wilson shouted "You lie" at Obama during his speech Wednesday, Sept. 16. Obama had said illegal immigrants wouldn't be covered under his health plan.

Senators said that's forced the committee to work on provisions verifying legal status before an individual can get coverage.

"We've always been there, but we have to make sure to get the right process and language," said Sen. Olympia Snowe, R-Maine, one member of the so-called Gang of Six of three Republicans and three Democrats whom Baucus is leading.

Such verification can be tricky. Many Democrats fear that verification procedures keep legal residents from getting insurance, and in the House, they rejected Republican attempts to add verification requirements to the House health care bill.

The negotiators put off ex-

tensive discussion of the illegal immigration issue until Monday and said aides would be working on language on that and abortion over the weekend.

Friday's session focused largely on how an expansion of Medicaid would affect states, and on possible provisions to keep down medical malpractice costs.

The prognosis for bipartisan resolution remained cloudy, with Baucus prepared to go it alone even without Snowe and her fellow Republican Sens. Chuck Grassley of Iowa and Mike Enzi of Wyoming.

Snowe said she still couldn't predict whether they'd reach consensus—or whether Baucus would be able to count on her vote.

"I can't answer that at this point. We're working through all these issues and we'll see where it goes from there when we finalize everything," Snowe said.

The question could be answered as early as Monday, Sept. 14, when the group meets again.

"Obviously we'll find out who wants to support the (bill) and who doesn't," Baucus said. "I'm hopeful that there will be bipartisan support. And I'll keep working on it frankly over the weekend, on the telephone talking to people, so on and so forth."

Enzi declined to comment and Grassley participated in the meeting by phone from Iowa.

Meanwhile, House leaders predict passage of a sweeping overhaul within a few months, even while acknowledging they are still facing a host of other thorny issues, including medical malpractice and abortion.

"That's the legislative pro-

cess," House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said as she and other Democrats shifted from praising the president's speech to the less glamorous task of trying to negotiate a bill that will pass muster with a host of opposing factions.

"As issues emerge, let's drill down on the public option, let's drill down on what this means to small business, let's drill down on what this means to seniors," Pelosi, D-Calif., said Thursday.

Presuming both chambers pass legislation, then would come the daunting task of melding the two bills and bringing the finished product back for final votes in both chambers.

The initial House bill is likely to include a new government-run insurance plan to compete with the private market, but Baucus long ago embraced establishing nonprofit cooperatives instead, and it appears unlikely liberals have the votes in his committee to overrule him.

Baucus and many other senators believe a so-called public plan would be unlikely to get the 60 votes needed to advance in the 100-member Senate.

Obama has spoken repeatedly in support of a public plan and did so again in his speech, but he also left room for alternatives like the co-op or a fall-back option that would trigger the public plan only if private companies weren't offering enough choices.

The trigger alternative was getting attention from a number of moderate Senate Democrats who met with Obama at the White House, according to several who attended. Some moderates oppose a straight-up public plan. ■

House votes to prevent Postal Service shortfall

Measure would cut annual payment to health care fund

WASHINGTON—The House passed a bill Tuesday, Sept. 15, to let the struggling US Postal Service cover a budget shortfall by reducing its annual payment to a health care fund for retirees by \$4 billion.

Under current law the Postal Service is required to transfer \$5.4 billion to the Retiree Health Benefits Fund by Sept. 30, the end of the budget year. Postal officials have said they don't have enough money to make the payment.

The House voted 388 to 32 to reduce the transfer to \$1.4 billion, which would keep the Postal Service from defaulting on the payment. Officials said the money is available because the fund is on track to have a surplus.

The bill "is intended to provide the Postal Service with some relief," said Rep. Edolphus Towns, D-N.Y., chairman of the House committee that oversees the Postal Service.

The bill now goes to the Senate, which is considering similar legislation.

The Postal Service is struggling from a sharp decline in mail volume caused by the recession and the movement from traditional mail to the Internet.

Postal officials are considering closing 413 post offices to save money. The post office has also suggested reducing mail delivery from six to five days a week. Salaries of Postal Service officers and executives are frozen.

Lawmakers acknowledged that more legislation could be needed to shore up the Postal Service's finances.

"We still have some more work to do," Towns said on the floor of the House. "The problem has not been solved."

Congress established the health care fund in 2006. The Postal Service is required to add to it each year and start using the money in 2017 to pay for retirees' health benefits. The benefits are currently covered by the Postal Service's general budget.

The fund currently has about \$32 billion, putting it on track to have a surplus by 2017, according to a recent report by the Postal Service's inspector general. (AP)

California gets strongest renewable energy rules

Those who wanted state law fear Schwarzenegger's order won't hold up

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA—Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed an executive order last Sept. 15, giving California the nation's most aggressive alternative energy standards, requiring utilities to get a third of their power from renewable sources by 2020.

Schwarzenegger said the order signed at a solar field in a Sacramento suburb will reduce California's dependence on fossil fuels and help clean its air while creating a reliable power supply for a state with 38 million people.

It also will ensure that Califor-

nia remains a pioneer in clean energy, he said.

"With this investment in renewable energy projects, California has a bright energy future ahead that will help us fight climate change while driving our state's green economy," he said in a statement. (AP)

RP 9th in list of 12 emerging . . .

PAGE A1 ◀

emerging economies are varied and not universal. China and India have continued to grow rapidly, although at less than the trend rate of the last decade. Other parts of the emerging world are also performing well relative to the rich world, but well below recent trends," Mandelson said.

"On a more positive point, most of the 500-plus companies surveyed by the report are cautious about quick recovery but they were very positive about the long term potential of the emerging economies," he added.

The survey found that 77 percent of companies expect the prospects for the global economy to improve in 2010-2011. 60 percent of companies surveyed expected to derive more than 20 percent of their total revenues from emerging markets in five years' time—almost double the current figure of 31 percent.

However, political risk, including the risk of nationalization and expropriation, was cited by 50 percent of survey respondents as the greatest government-related obstacle to doing business in emerging markets.

In the Philippines, local and foreign chambers highlighted the need for continued reforms despite significant progress.

Despite the economic downturn, emerging markets support global profitability. Emerging market economies, on the back of the continued high growth and market size of China and India, have outperformed those of developed countries in 2009.

"It's clear that many British businesses have been able to hedge their recession performance thanks to a strong presence in the emerging economies. And they do see a long game in

which WTO-membership and improving legal and commercial environments will make it easier to do business there," he said.

British Ambassador Stephen Lillie said he was very upbeat about the Philippines as an exciting investor haven in Asia.

"The global recession was a wake-up call for companies to diversify their export base and seek out new opportunities in the emerging world. We are encouraging UK business to look to the Philippines and find new business in this exciting new market."

The United Kingdom is the top net Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) investor in the Philippines, investing \$298.17 million last year. There are currently around 200 British companies active in the Philippines, ranging from big multi-nationals to small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

President Arroyo delivered a keynote message during the Emerging Markets Summit in London. Over 300 business leaders and investors from all over the world participated in the forum, giving President Arroyo the opportunity to share the Philippines' view on Asia's leadership in the global economic recovery and to promote the Philippines as an investment destination.

Mrs. Arroyo highlighted the resiliency and continued growth of the Philippine economy, which posted 1.5 percent economic growth in the second quarter of 2009.

The President also said the UK has generously offered its assistance and support to the ongoing peace efforts in Mindanao, including sharing its own experience in securing peace in Northern Ireland. ■



Bring your love home through

balikbayanggifts
www.balikbayanggifts.com

Send them a gift...make them feel loved, make their day special by sending a gift to your relatives. We deliver anytime, anywhere in the Philippines!

With balikbayanggifts.com, you are a step closer to home...

Call our customer service hotline at

888-530-8934

www.balikbayanggifts.com