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EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

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REMARKS: REMARKS BY MR. FEIGHAN

PATENT RESTORATION BILL

HON. EDWARD F. FEIGHAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 10, 1984

● Mr. FEIGHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the patent restoratio bill, H.R. 3605, that was reported out of the Judiciary Committee last week. The rising cost of drugs is one of the most serious problems facing our Nation's elderly. This legislation will save consumers over $1 billion during the next 12 years.

Currently there are no procedures for approving generic copies of post-1962 drugs. This has greatly inhibited the development of generic equivalents for many of the most popular drugs on the market. In fact there are presently 150 unpatented drugs for which there are no generic equivalents due to the lack of FDA procedures.

Studies have shown that the cost of this inefficiency is tremendous. For example, when the generic brand of metronidazole was purchased by the Department of Defense, instead of its brand name equivalent, the Government was able to save approximately $1.2 million in 1 year. Similar savings can be expected for all who must purchased drugs for which there is currently no generic equivalent. Indeed, one study shows that the generic equivalents of 10 popular drugs are sold for an average of 50-percent less than the brand name product.

This bill will set up a procedure for quickly and efficiently approving the use of new generic drugs. In addition, it will permit a generic drug to be marketed immediately after the patent has expired.

The patent extension act represents a carefully crafted compromise intended to provide consumers with needed relief from the current bureaucratic tangle. It has the support of the majority of the pharmaceutical industry both brand name and generic, as well as consumer and aging organizations. Therefore, I urge the passage of this legislation without amendments.●