

ENGLISH PLAYS GAMES WITH RX DRUG COSTS

“Yesterday, Congress passed HR 3161, a comprehensive funding bill which included, among other provisions, measures for women and children’s health, measures to stop the unnecessary slaughtering of horses, and a measure to allow the importation of prescription drugs from foreign countries,” said Dr. Steven Porter in a press release issued today. Porter, who opposes Phil English in PA-03, went on to give the actual vote. “The bill passed by a margin of 237 to 18,” he said, “but that’s not the interesting part.

“The interesting part is that 176 Republicans, including our own Phil English, decided not to vote at all. Actually 13 of them voted ‘present.’ The rest did not vote.

“Imported prescription drugs cost far less than those Americans are now required by the passage of HR 1 to purchase,” said Porter, “and representatives like English who get enormous sums of campaign money from the drug lobby simply refuse to give Americans relief from the exorbitant costs which are forced upon them.

“Not voting or voting ‘present’ is one of the games Congressmen like English play with our lives. They can’t be accused of voting against the lower costs come election time, but they continue to do the bidding of the powerful pharmaceutical lobbies which own them. It’s a neat piece of business and, of course, a disgusting display of politics at its worst.

“The way in which special interests in the military-industrial complex, in the health care industries, in the energy business, in agriculture, and in just about every other walk of life control our government is a slap in the face to every citizen who believes in democracy.

“If ever there were a time for independent statesmen to replace congressional puppets like Phil English, it is now,” said Porter, “now when the threats of nuclear and environmental catastrophe are staring us in the face.

“And the surest way to end the games played by people like English and the lobbyists who control them is to insist on the public funding of all elections. As long as our democracy remains for sale, it will cease to exist.”