

use the market system to give people a choice and let them decide what is best for them. We can aggressively fight waste and abuse, which cost billions of dollars to the Medicare fund every year.

Mr. Speaker, such a plan was successfully passed in the last Congress. Unfortunately, the President chose to veto it. We have a unique opportunity in this Congress to produce such a solution again. Let us work together on a bipartisan basis, let us seize the day, let us save Medicare.

TRIBUTE TO BRANDON K. SEARCY

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

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of the citizens of Atlanta to mourn the loss and celebrate the life of Brandon Searcy. Brandon Searcy was just 8 years old. He was the victim of a senseless and hideous crime.

Mr. Speaker, what kind of world do we live in when an 8-year-old child is stalked and preyed upon, when it is no longer safe for a child to walk a block to a school bus stop?

Brandon Searcy was a special child, a gifted child. He was the light and the joy of his mother Kimala Searcy. He loved school and he loved the Lord, and he was dedicated to both.

Brandon was a member of the First Norman Grove Baptist Church in Scottsdale, GA. He often took notes during the pastor's sermons, and he and sister, Algerica, would sing with joy their favorite song, "Shake the Devil Off."

Brandon was a second grade student at Cleveland Avenue Elementary School where he excelled as an honor student on the principal's list. He loved to play baseball and his ambition was to go to college and then become a professional baseball player.

Mr. Speaker, Brandon Searcy's favorite passage from the Bible was the 23d Psalm. It reads in part, "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

Brandon Searcy, Mr. Speaker, will surely dwell in the house of the Lord forever. He will be remembered and he will be missed by all who knew him and many who never had the good fortune. God bless Brandon Searcy.

WE NEED TRUTH IN LENDING AND TRUTH IN LEGISLATING

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

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I am very disappointed that so far in this Congress we have not yet seen any sincere effort to cut any spending. The latest ploy has been the Treasury report that claims the deficit is shrinking up to

nothing. In the first 6 months of this year we are in deficit of \$101 billion and this is claimed to be a victory, thus taking off the pressure to work harder to cut spending. How did they do this?

The first thing we did was we sent the IRS agents out and hounded the American people and collected \$28 billion more than they did in the first 6 months of the last fiscal year. But they did something else. They keep borrowing from the trust funds. They borrow from the Social Security fund, further jeopardizing that whole program. Looking at the statistics more carefully, they claim the deficit is \$111, but during the past 12 months our national debt went up \$241 billion. There is no way to predict what the next 6 months will bring. Interest rates may rise, revenues may dwindle if the markets and the economy slumps.

I think that we ought to have some truth in lending and truth in legislating here by honestly telling the American people that there is something wrong here that could and should be adjusted with decreased spending, not raising taxes and not further robbing the Social Security trust fund.

MEDICARE TRUSTEES REPORT DUE TODAY

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

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Today, the Medicare trustees are due to report on the projected solvency of the Medicare part A trust fund. As we all recall, last year's report predicted the part A trust fund would be insolvent by the year 2001 without reform. We also know that in 1996 the trust fund lost \$25 million a day and is now losing over \$30 million a day.

Ladies and gentlemen of this House, this is unacceptable. The state of the Medicare Program warrants serious discussion proposing genuine solutions. A recent proposal introduced in the House would add provider-sponsored organizations to the managed care options available to Medicare beneficiaries. By allowing groups of affiliated providers to organize and deliver a broad base of health care services, we can offer new choices for quality care that is community based. For a rural district like mine, increased choice is a welcome opportunity. Whether your district is rural, urban, or suburban, we all know that localized solutions work best.

I ask Members to support that measure.

DEFENSE DIVERSIFICATION ON DISPLAY IN NEW FILM

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

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, this last Friday we celebrated Steven

Spielberg's filming at a former defense facility, not a war movie but a movie about slaves who revolted and freed themselves. As exciting as the topic of the story is, it was exciting to see defense diversification at work. Sonalyst Studios has the best sound stage in America. It used the sound technology it developed during the cold war with submarines and submarine quieting to build a sound stage.

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Now a company is diversified, helping the economy of eastern Connecticut, providing jobs and then entertainment for the country. While we are still suffering some of the effects of the defense downsizing and the bad economy of the early nineties, small companies like Sonalyst Studios Ship Analysis and Technologies are taking their defense technologies and diversifying, expanding our economy and building the economy of the entire country. This event Friday night was spectacular to see some of the best in the entertainment industry coming to eastern Connecticut. Using our facilities at Sonalyst Studios is hopefully going to set a pattern for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, we have still got pains in defense downsizing but it is exciting to see these companies using their own resources and investment to broaden their economic activity, benefiting the entire community.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield for one moment?

Mr. GEJDENSON. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I would just like to say to my friend that we are happy to see the entertainment industry moving to Connecticut partially, but we want them to know that their home continues to be in southern California, and we hope very much they will continue to make base there.

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I would say that we are happy at this stage to just have a small piece of what is happening in southern California, and we will fight over the larger share later.

DEPUTY TREASURY SECRETARY COMPLETELY MISSES THE POINT ON DEATH TAXES

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

Mr. PAXON. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week the Deputy Treasury Secretary, Lawrence Summers, condemned efforts to ease Federal death taxes saying these were motivated by, and I am quoting him here, selfishness. I believe it is nothing short of an outrage for an administrative official who has such important influence over tax policy to make a statement like this.

Secretary Summers completely misses the point on death taxes. The fact is whether it is small business or family farmers or others, they spend