

Further, let it be clear that while the impending trust fund insolvency is an extremely serious and real concern, it is not a new finding. For many years, the trustees' report has indicated the insolvency problem in the Medicare HI trust fund. In fact, recent estimates had actually extended the insolvency date, and the trustees report itself stated that the long-range status of the HI Program had improved.

What is new is that Congress has decided to balance the budget and must address this insolvency in doing so. In addition, it is new to enact a \$245 billion tax cut at the same time that the budget is being balanced—this means Congress must cut more spending in order to compensate for reduced tax revenue.

The coalition Medicare proposal represents the most sensible approach to achieving Medicare solvency because it does not lose sight of the larger health care picture in a rush to balance the budget. It extends solvency over a 10-year period, creates a bipartisan Commission to address long-term solvency, protects beneficiaries, and eases the burden on rural hospitals which provide critical services to rural communities but often rely on Medicare and Medicaid for a majority of their funds.

Therefore, the coalition Medicare proposal achieves and exceeds the goals of the Republican proposal while containing spending reductions to a level that can be absorbed by the health care market without reducing seniors' access to health care—particularly those seniors with low incomes—or quality of health care.

I know that the Utah Association of Healthcare Providers and others share my concern about the magnitude of spending reductions contained in the House Republican proposal. They estimate that some hospitals in Utah will close as a result of these cuts, particularly hospitals in rural areas where over 60 percent of funding can be received from Medicare and Medicaid.

The \$170 billion reduction contained in the coalition budget is almost identical to the amount that organizations like the American Hospital Association have said they can achieve without severely reducing the quality of, or access to, health care received by beneficiaries.

Let me make clear that I consider the need to balance the Federal budget the highest priority we face in Congress, and have worked hard for policies and specific spending cuts to reverse the spiraling deficit. But having agreed to balance the budget in a 7-year period, it is now crucial to have a thorough debate regarding the Nation's fiscal priorities. Tough spending cuts are necessary to achieve such a balance and seniors will have to share in these cuts. However, since the spending cuts contained in any balanced budget will be difficult, it is even more imperative that we cut spending first before cutting taxes.

Recent polls show that insistence on tax cuts in light of the tough decisions necessary to achieve a balanced budget does not reflect the priorities of the American people. Over 80 percent of Americans oppose cutting future costs of Medicare to pay for a tax cut. Higher income Americans are even less supportive of making Medicare cuts in order to finance tax cuts than other Americans.

In conclusion, containing health care costs is an essential part of the balanced budget equation. Health care is the fastest growing portion of the Federal budget, and if we do

nothing, by the year 2030, all that our Federal tax dollar will pay for is health and retirement programs.

However, there is also more than one way to achieve a balanced budget and contain health care spending. There are important questions to discuss regarding how we can contain health care costs without decreasing quality or denying beneficiaries access to health care.

The Medicare reforms we are considering raise issues beyond simply balancing the budget and restoring solvency to the Medicare trust fund—reforms must include the impact of the costs of health care being shifted as the Federal Government pays proportionately less of health care spending.

I believe that it is critical for Congress to work with, and listen to, the American people as we attempt to determine which proposals are most appropriate and cost-effective.

The fact that the coalition Medicare proposal will not be considered in the debate today denies a voice to the moderate mainstream majority of Americans. I regret that the full details of this proposal will not receive a fair hearing.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 1995

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, on October 17, I was unavoidably delayed on my return to Washington, DC, from Hawaii because of a plane delay. Had I been present I would have voted "nay" on rollcall vote No. 714 and "yea" on rollcall votes Nos. 715 and 716.

LEGISLATION MAKING FGM ILLEGAL

HON. PATRICIA SCHROEDER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 1995

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, I was glad to hear that the Senate has approved legislation making female genital mutilation illegal and implementing education and outreach efforts to stop its practice in this country. I commend Senator REID for attaching his bill, which is a companion to mine, to the foreign operations appropriations bill that the Senate passed on September 21. The House passed its foreign operations bill on July 11 without a similar provision and now it is up to the conference committee to preserve the Senate language of FGM.

I have spoken on this floor many times regarding FGM, and some States are now passing or considering their own legislation to ban it. The problem in this Congress seems to be that Members still do not believe that such a brutal procedure happens in this country, something my bill and Senator REID's would seek to correct. Lest there be any doubt that it does happen here, I refer Members to the October Atlantic Monthly, which features an article by Linda Burstyn about the efforts of activist Mimi Ramsey to end FGM in this country.

TRIBUTE TO MILKEN FAMILY FOUNDATION NATIONAL EDUCATOR AWARD WINNERS

HON. MIKE WARD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 1995

Mr. WARD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award winners. A recognition luncheon to honor these five exemplary individuals will be held Wednesday, October 25, at noon at the Marriott Hotel in Louisville. At the luncheon Dr. Wilmer S. Cody, Commissioner of Education; Foundation officials; leaders from business, government, and education, and the award-ees' families will assemble to honor this year's recipients.

In 1981, the members of the Milken families conceived an educator awards programs based on their belief that the most effective way to address the crisis in K-12 education was to focus on the needs and the resources of educators and to encourage bright young men and women to enter the profession. I applaud the Foundation's efforts to improve our Nation's educational system.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that a copy of the distinguished award winners which I am submitting be placed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. I hope that the teachers will continue their invaluable service to the cause of education.

The recipients are: Barbara Byrd Fendley, a teacher from Dupont Manual High School in Louisville; Jerry L. Hodges, a principal from Williamsburg High School in Williamsburg; David E. Jordan, a principal from South Junior High School in Henderson; Susan Bernstein Stucker, a teacher from Blazer High School in Ashland; and Joyce Ann Mason Winburn, a teacher from Eminence High School in Eminence.

THE BILINGUAL EDUCATION TRAP

HON. TOBY ROTH

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 1995

Mr. ROTH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the attention of my colleagues to a column that appeared yesterday in the Wall Street Journal. The author, Michael Gonzalez, makes a compelling case against bilingual education and for preserving our common bond, the English language.

Mr. Gonzalez' article shares his personal experience with bilingual education programs as a new American growing up in New York City. His story is a cautionary tale of bureaucratic excess and educational ineffectiveness. Rather than helping children learn English, the bilingual education programs he describes actually hold them back.

A recent surveys showed that in just 5 years, there will be 40 million Americans who can't speak English. Those Americans will be isolated, cut off from realizing the American dream, if they don't have the one skill that is required for success in America: fluency in English.

We should heed the warnings of people like Michael Gonzalez, who have experienced the

negative effects of bilingual education first hand. I have introduced legislation that would end these misguided Government programs and shift our educational focus back to teaching new Americans English quickly and effectively. I hope you will join me in this effort by cosponsoring H.R. 739, the Declaration of Official Language Act.

I ask that the full text of Mr. Gonzalez' article appear in the RECORD at this point.

[From the Wall Street Journal, Oct. 18, 1995]

THE BILINGUAL ED TRAP

(By Michael Gonzalez)

The push to make English the official language of the U.S. misses the point. If proponents of such a constitutional amendment aim to prevent Balkanization and preserve the ideal of the melting pot, they would do far better to channel their efforts into radically changing bilingual education programs. Immigrants will learn English if the social engineers will only let them.

I know about bilingual education first-hand. When my family came to this country from Cuba via Spain more than 20 years ago, the New York City public school system, in its infinite wisdom, put me in a bilingual program, despite my family's doubts. The program delayed my immersion into English, created an added wedge between new immigrants and other students, and was sometimes used as a dumping ground for troubled Spanish-speakers more fluent in English.

When I tried to transfer to a regular class, the system threw roadblocks in my way. Administrators finally relented, though it took a lot to convince them. The process was an education in itself, but it wasn't one a 14-year-old should be asked to go through.

One year later, the students who had stayed in the bilingual class were still there, and their English-language skills were little improved. They were every bit as bright as I; it was the system that held them back. Sadly, this picture has not improved in the past two decades.

While a bilingual program of short duration that truly aims at quick immersion in the English-speaking culture would be of value, the lobbying groups that support bilingual education appear to have other aims in mind: chiefly, pushing the Spanish language as something in need of protection and creating a multicultural, multilingual nation.

Spanish is my native tongue, and it is the native tongue of every member of my family. I work hard at not losing it and speak it as often as I can, especially in the street. It is beautiful, melodious tongue, especially suitable for poetry and other forms of literature. It is not a waif that needs the help of some concerned administrator. The language is alive and duly celebrated in Spain and 18 countries in Latin America, as well as in any other country where individuals have chosen to add it to the particular inventory of the foreign languages they know.

Paul Hill, research professor at the University of Washington's graduate school of public policy, says one hidden agenda of bilingualism's proponents may be to create demand for teachers who speak a foreign language. He also suggests a more Machiavellian agenda: Instilling in a child a self-consciousness as a member of a separate group virtually ensures that he or she will never fully feel a member of the larger society and will be more vulnerable to claims of ethnic pride, or resentment, by politicians and marketers alike. I fear Prof. Hill may be right on target.

As a correspondent, I have witnessed countries such as South Korea and Japan use

unity of purpose to compete globally. I have also witnessed strife in countries that are multilingual and multicultural, such as Afghanistan and Cyprus. We should think twice before we toss out the corny goal of having a melting pot.

Yes, Americans, an English-speaking people, had better start learning foreign languages, such as Spanish, in order to better compete in the world. Yes, our diversity is a real strength: Americans of Eastern European, Asian and Latin American background are leading the charge in opening markets in those regions. But we cannot afford to become dissipated at the center—we have to understand one another, linguistically and culturally, back at the head office.

But if the liberals on one side confuse matters, the conservatives on the other side also send the wrong message with English-only drives. The first law that established English as the official language of a state, in Nebraska in the 1920s, restricted the learning of any other foreign language until secondary education. Any law that risks encouraging isolationism should be opposed. Globalism is real—anyone who doubts it should visit our business schools and see students grappling with how to overcome America's natural seclusion. In addition, if it's fair to speculate about the motives of bilingual-ed supporters, it is also legitimate to hypothesize that supporters of English-only may be animated by nativism, racism and ignorance.

Far from working toward union, making English an official language risks creating further divisions. It goes against the grain of how things have traditionally been done in this country, where there is no official religion nor family that represents the state. Reforming bilingual ed and restricting government literature to English does not require an official language. We've done without one for 219 years. We don't need one now.

TRIBUTE TO RABBI ARTHUR SCHNEIER

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 1995

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in paying tribute and expressing deep appreciation to a truly outstanding American, my good friend, the courageous and inspirational Rabbi Arthur Schneier.

Rabbi Schneier has earned his place among the great leaders in human rights of this century with his tireless efforts on behalf of the world's victims of ultranationalism, religious persecution, ethnic cleansing and intolerance. He has risen above religious differences to establish the Appeal of Conscience Foundation, which has, for 30 years, brought together Roman Catholic, Protestant, Greek Orthodox, Jewish, and Islamic religious and lay leaders to solve the problems that face our globe.

As a young man, Rabbi Schneier led a highly successful campaign to recruit young people at a time of religious disaffection in the 1960's to a program at the Park East Synagogue which eventually became a seven-story day school cultural center that continues to attract young people and currently educates 250 children.

This effort, begun in 1965, was the beginning of an extraordinary career in religious leadership for Rabbi Schneier. That year, he recruited and led a group of political and religious leaders for an Appeal of Conscience

rally protesting religious repression in the Soviet Union.

Rabbi Schneier then established the Appeal of Conscience Foundation, which continues to this day to provide effective and increasingly influential leadership on behalf of religious freedom and human rights throughout the world.

Just a few weeks ago, Rabbi Schneier met with Pope John Paul II to discuss the problem of radical nationalism around the world and its inevitably negative effects on human rights and religious freedom, particularly the prevalence of anti-semitism and xenophobia in troubled countries.

The Appeal of Conscience Foundation and Rabbi Schneier have been involved in a wide range of the world's most intractable problems and most egregious human rights violations. From meeting with Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev to discuss United States-Russian relations to meetings with the Presidents of Bosnia, Serbia, and Croatia to discuss a lasting peace in that troubled region, Rabbi Schneier has taken it upon himself to provide inspirational and effective leadership that has won him praise around the world.

Mr. Speaker, Rabbi Schneier is an inspiration to all Americans. He has taken his wealth of good will, tenacity and intelligence and brought his message to the forefront of international discussions. He has championed an issue that touches us all—the protection of the most basic human rights and the freedom to practice one's chosen religion. It is with the deepest appreciation and most heartfelt thanks that I invite my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Rabbi Arthur Schneier.

IN HONOR OF REVEREND DANIEL CORREA, JR., SENIOR PASTOR OF THE GOSPEL TABERNACLE

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 1995

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today before the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Rev. Daniel Correa, Jr., for his dedication, spiritual leadership, and tireless commitment to the communities of North Bergen, Union City, west New York. He will be honored by the Gospel Tabernacle on October 22, 1995, at their annual Clergy Appreciation Day. This day seeks to acknowledge the contributions of American religious leaders in the 1990's.

Rev. Correa, born in Mayaguez, PR, moved to the south Bronx in New York when he was 6 months of age. He received his first call to ministry at the age of 10, when he preached his first sermon. In adulthood, he became an associate pastor at the Glad Tidings Assembly of God in the north east Bronx for 7 years.

Two years ago, heeding to the call of God, he came to the Gospel Tabernacle in North Bergen where he currently serves as senior Pastor. At the beginning of his ministry, the congregation numbered 40 members. Under his leadership, the congregation has increased to more than 300 members.

Pastor Correa, about to receive his Masters in Theology, instituted several programs of great benefit to his congregation and the community. He established a full accredited Christian Training Academy, which provides a free