

These are investments that produce income, which accrues to the benefit of the participants.

They are made from within the plan and the investment stays with the plan.

Mr. Stark's bill would allow funds to be taken from the plan—without notice.

The sole beneficiaries of this pension grab are the corporate moguls who fund the PAC's led by the Republican leadership.

So, retirees and pensioners, hold on to your wallets—the corporate raiders—the Willie Suttons in Gucci loafers—are headed your way and they have Arme'y's army leading the charge.

This is bad tax and pension policy and should be stopped.

IMPROVING TIES BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND BULGARIA

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 20, 1995

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the attention of my colleagues to the progress and success that has been achieved by Bulgaria in the past 5 years, as the Government of Bulgaria has implemented a number of democratic reforms. Since that transformation, there has been considerable progress, although these times of change and instability have been difficult for many of the Bulgarian people.

The relationship between the United States and Bulgaria has improved steadily since 1990, when the authoritarian Communist government was replaced by a democratically elected government. There have been a number of concrete indications of the growing cooperation between our two countries. In early 1991 our two countries completed a bilateral trade agreement, and as a consequence of that agreement, most-favored-nation trading status was extended to Bulgaria in November 1991. Thanks to Bulgaria's progress, the House passed a bill earlier this year to grant permanent MFN trading status to Bulgaria.

Several decisions have been made recently confirming the commitment of Bulgaria toward strong bilateral cooperation with the United States. These decisions include revoking export licenses from two arms trading companies for irregularities in their trade operations. The Bulgarian Government has taken positive steps to provide restitution of property, both private and communal, to individuals of Jewish descent. In addition, the Bulgarian Parliament has taken steps to strengthen and improve export and visa regulations, and it has reaffirmed support of the United States-supported peace program for Bosnia and the former Yugoslavia.

Mr. Speaker, Bulgaria has been a source of stability in the Balkan region and this steadiness has contributed to preventing potential expansion of the crisis in the former Yugoslavia. Bulgaria has maintained its policy of noninterference in the affairs of other countries of the Balkans. With regard to humanitarian concerns, Bulgaria has been actively involved in providing humanitarian assistance and shelter to refugees from the regions of conflict.

I commend our colleagues in the Bulgarian Parliament for their efforts and their legislative

actions to ensure Bulgaria's transition to a democratic government and the full implement of market economic reforms. The dedicated members of the Bulgarian Parliament have played a critically important part in the progress, thus far, and I am sure will continue to play an essential role as this transformation continues and succeeds.

TRIBUTE TO GLORY GRADS, JAMES MADISON HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1935

HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 20, 1995

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the most distinguished groups of students ever to attend New York City high schools. They are members of the Class of 1935 of James Madison High School in Brooklyn who are coming from all parts of this land to mark the 60th anniversary of their commencement. The celebration will take place at the Stanley Kaplan Penthouse at Lincoln Center on November 12. The members of the class were named the "Glory Grads" by their teachers because of their outstanding achievements. The school was named after the fourth President of the United States, whose words are carved in stone above the entrance: "Education is the true foundation for civil liberty."

The Glory Grads attained the highest scholastic average in New York State that year and fielded a football team that won the city championship. "You are the cream and you will rise to the top," their grad advisor told them at graduation and they have fulfilled that prediction in a spectacular manner. Over the many years, they have achieved honors and national distinctions in the fields of medicine and surgery, engineering, mathematics, journalism, business and the arts. They were children of the Depression, who came mostly from poor families and had to struggle to get on the first rung of the ladder of achievement. But, they were inspired by family tradition to study and work hard and, therefore, to go on to self-made success.

These Glory Grads never forgot the opportunities they were given by the country to which their parents came as immigrants. They have paid their dues many times over. The great majority of the male class members served in World War II. They then made their way up in professional and business careers, became leaders in community and civic organizations and have been unusually generous in their philanthropies.

I wish to extend special congratulations and felicitations to the chairman of the reunion committee, Stanley H. Kaplan, a friend of long standing and founder of the international chain of test-prep centers that bears his name. I congratulate, too, the members of the reunion committee, including Marty Glickman, famed sportscaster and hero of the Madison gridiron and track oval; Martin Abramson, prize-winning author and war correspondent; businessmen Winn Heimer and Sidney Thomashower; and travel consultant Anita Forin Fine.

I salute "Mr. Basketball Coach," Jammy Moskowitz, a spry 92, who will be making the trip from Florida to New York to attend the re-

union. I also salute Principal Wendy Karp and Director of Alumni Relations Sonya Lerner, without whose cooperation, this "return to James Madison" would not have been as successful.

I salute the Glory Grads. May they have many years of good health, happiness, and continued friendship.

A CELEBRATION OF NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN TRADITIONAL VALUES

HON. GEORGE E. BROWN, JR.

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 20, 1995

Mr. BROWN of California. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to draw the attention of the Congress to an event which I am very proud of that happened this past weekend in my region of California.

At the Jerry L. Pettis Memorial Veterans' Medical Center in Loma Linda, CA, a Pow Wow was held on October 14 and 15 to honor Native Americans who have served in defense or our Nation. The Pow Wow was entitled "A Celebration of Northern and Southern Traditional Values: In Harmony with the Land."

Over 180,000 Native American men and women have served in the U.S. Armed Forces since World War I, defending our Nation with honor. Some of these men and women were in Loma Linda this past weekend.

Mr. Speaker, two weeks ago in Washington, a special joint session of the House and Senate was held to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II. I am particularly honored to mention that in Loma Linda were several of the famous Navajo code talkers who are widely credited with helping to win the war in the Pacific during World War II. I feel strongly that theirs is a story that needs to be told more broadly so that all Americans—young and old—are thoroughly familiar with one of the many important contributions that Native Americans have made to the continuing freedom and evolution of our Nation. I, for one, am very proud to know that these honored veterans and other Native Americans gathered and celebrated in the Inland Empire region of California this past weekend.

I hope all Members of Congress will join me in congratulating all participants in the October 14 and 15 Loma Linda, CA, Native American Pow Wow.

IN MEMORIAM: ADITYA VIKRAM BIRLA

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 20, 1995

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I call to the attention of my colleagues the obituary of Aditya Birla, which appeared in the October 3 edition of the New York Times. Aditya Birla, the chairman of the Birla Group, one of India's largest industrial conglomerates, died on October 1 in Baltimore. His death at the young age of 51 was a tragedy because it cut short a prolific life of entrepreneurship and leadership.

Mr. Speaker, Aditya Birla was one of the foremost advocates of expanding Indian economic activity abroad and opening India's vast

consumer marketplace to foreign investment and competition. When India began its historic market reforms in 1991 under the leadership of Prime Minister P.V. Narsimha Rao and Finance Minister Manmohan Singh, many observers felt that Mr. Birla, whose company is one of the largest manufacturers of automobiles in India, would resist the entry of foreign companies into the India marketplace. Aditya Birla, however, proved the observers wrong. He became a strong proponent of the reforms and entered into many important joint ventures with American companies. Most recently Aditya Birla signed agreements with AT&T to provide cellular and local telephone service in India.

Mr. Speaker, Aditya Birla was a visionary. His untimely death has left a void in the Indian corporate world that will be difficult to fill. I know my colleagues join me in sending condolences to the Birla family. His wife, son, and daughter should know that our thoughts and prayers are with them at this time.

MEDICARE PRESERVATION ACT OF
1995

SPEECH OF

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 1995

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2425) to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to preserve and reform the Medicare Program:

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Chairman, I rise in recognition of the Gibbons-Dingell-McDermott substitute to H.R. 2425, the Medicare Preservation Act of 1995. The substitute is consistent with the \$90 billion figure which the Medicare actuaries and trustees have determined is

needed for Medicare's solvency. The measure is a vivid statement in support of the fact that Medicare can be fixed with three times less than the amount called for by the Republicans. The measure also confirms that fact that our Republican colleagues' measure, H.R. 2425, is truly designed for reconciliation purposes and, in this case, to give a tax cut to the rich, the people who need it the least.

Mr. Chairman, Medicare is critical to the solvency of the American families' budget. Neither seniors nor their families will be able to absorb the increased cost of health care that would result from the Republicans' \$270 billion cut in Medicare.

My colleagues, I wish that each of you could have heard our seniors at this morning's "speak out" telling their personal story of what living without Medicare would mean to the quality of their life. Bishop Marvin Johnson, a constituent of mine, told his story. He is a disabled senior suffering from diabetes. The medications which he requires already consume a large portion of his Social Security check. Without Medicare, he would be 1 of the over 41 million uninsured. Bishop Johnson also spoke about how the pain that his fellow seniors suffer just brings tears to his eyes.

Mr. Chairman, it's a sad day when the Republicans pull out all the stops in a concentrated, mean spirited, effort to take away health care coverage from the Nation's seniors.

It is just not right to force seniors on fixed income to pay more for less.

It is not right to deny seniors their choice of provider.

It is just not right to force seniors to have to choose between going to the doctors and buying food; or medicine and housing; or medical equipment and heat.

It is just not right to destroy the quality of life for the Nation's elderly in order to pay for a tax cut for the wealthy.

Mr. Chairman, the Republicans sneak attack on seniors is just wrong. Seniors have not even been allowed the opportunity to examine the Republicans' proposal or to present their concerns with respect to this massive life threatening legislative measure.

In fact, we meet here today against a backdrop of no hearings at all, having been held on the over 400 page Republican proposal, H.R. 2425. The Republican proposal more than doubled in size just since last night—over 500 pages of provisions were added. Yet, we are voting on the measure here today.

The size of the Republican document itself is an indication of the magnitude of the health care coverage that H.R. 2425 would take away from seniors. Citizens who have worked long and hard for the betterment of their country, to provide for their families, and to be able to put a little something away for a secure retirement, should not be used as the Republicans' pawn.

The American people must not tolerate the Republicans blatant disregard for the health care needs of the elderly. Their assault on the elderly is unconscionable and inhumane.

Mr. Chairman, when President Johnson signed the Medicare Program into law, he stated: "No longer will older Americans be denied the healing miracle of modern medicine; no longer will illness crush and destroy the savings that they have so carefully put away over a lifetime so that they might enjoy dignity in their later years; and, no longer will this Nation refuse the hand of justice to those who have given a lifetime of service and wisdom and labor to the progress of this progressive country."

Mr. Chairman, I ask my colleagues to join me in ensuring the stability of America's families. Vote "no" to H.R. 2425, the Republicans raid on Medicare.