

France's underground nuclear test explosions at these reefs produce radioactive materials that will, over time, leak into the surrounding environment. In fact, scientific studies conducted in the area around the test site have found evidence that this is already occurring. In 1987, marine researcher Jacques Cousteau examined the reefs and collected water samples. In his report, Cousteau indicated that the water samples contained concentrations of the radioactive isotope cesium-134. Cousteau also noted that reefs are the "worst possible choice" for locating a test site because of the potential for leakage of radioactive contamination.

In addition to environmental damage, French nuclear testing also severely undermines ongoing efforts to conclude a CTB outlawing all tests for all time. French testing slows the momentum toward global nuclear disarmament which was achieved at the U.N. conference permanently extending the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

I am pleased that Congressman FALEOMAVAEGA and Congressman STARK have joined me in this effort, and I hope that France listens to the message we are sending today and stops testing immediately.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SONNY BONO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 1995

Mr. BONO. Mr. Speaker, on October 12, 1995, I was unavoidably delayed and missed rollcall vote No. 713, final passage of the Omnibus Civilian Science Authorization Act of 1995, H.R. 2405. If I were present, I would have voted "aye," in support of final passage.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN T. AND LORRAINE HEDRICH

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 1995

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor John T. and Lorraine Hedrich as they are recognized for their vast contribution to polka and the State of Michigan. John and Lorraine were inducted into the State of Michigan Polka Music Hall of Fame on Sunday, October 1, 1995.

America was built by the hard work and commitment of settlers who brought with them a rich and varied heritage. Polka flourished in Michigan largely due to the devotion of those who brought with them their families' traditions and customs, as well as their love of polka. John and Lorraine are two of those special individuals who are proud to keep an honored tradition alive.

John T. Hedrich of Chesaning, MI has been playing the drums since the age of 5. His wife Lorraine has been playing the accordion since she was 11 years old. John and Lorraine first met in 1962 when Lorraine played with John's Hot Shots at the Quaker Inn in Coruna. The two were married in February of 1965. In 1973 they began playing together in a two-piece band still known today as The J & L

Bluetones. Currently, John and Lorraine are members of the Saginaw Musical Association Local 57.

Mr. Speaker, thanks to John and Lorraine's efforts, we are all able to enjoy an old musical tradition from many years ago. They were honored at a reception in Owosso, MI because of their dedication and commitment to spreading the polka tradition and helping others enjoy this special music. I am confident that the musical legacy of these outstanding individuals will be remembered for decades to come.

MEDICARE

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 1995

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I am inserting my Washington Report for Wednesday, October 18, 1995 into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE GINGRICH MEDICARE PLAN

Congress will consider soon proposals to reform the Medicare system. Everybody agrees that reducing the growth in Medicare spending is essential to eliminating the federal budget deficit, but there is disagreement over the level of cuts that should be made.

Is the Medicare system broke? Medicare consists of a Part A program, which pays for hospitalization of older Americans and is financed through a payroll tax of 2.9% of wages, half paid by employers and half by employees; and a voluntary Part B program, which covers doctor bills and outpatient expenses and is financed by general tax revenues and monthly premiums paid by beneficiaries.

Part B is not in danger of bankruptcy because it is financed from general revenues. The Part A trust fund, however, will not have enough money to fully cover the benefits required by law, according to the program's trustees. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB), which oversees the federal budget, and the Medicare trustees say that \$90 billion in cutbacks are needed to ensure the future solvency of Part A over the next 10 years. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO), the non-partisan budget arm of Congress, estimates that around \$150 billion in cutbacks are needed for the next 10 years, which is as far as CBO will measure it.

The trustees have issued similar findings for almost every year since 1970, and Congress and the President have always raised taxes or adjusted benefits in plenty of time to prevent bankruptcy. The real problem for Medicare is long term. Its costs are growing rapidly and soaking up a large share of the federal budget. Significant structural changes are necessary early in the next century. To illustrate, there are almost 4 workers paying taxes for each person covered by Medicare today. The ratio will fall to 2½ workers per beneficiary in 2025.

Why are costs increasing? The costs of Medicare are increasing for two basic reasons. First, the population is getting older and living longer—which means more health care problems, greater health care spending and more demands on the Medicare system as the number of beneficiaries climbs (there are presently 37 million Medicare beneficiaries). Second, health care costs are rising, driven largely by inflation and the advance of medical technology.

What is Speaker Gingrich's plan? Speaker Gingrich would cut \$270 billion from pro-

jected Medicare spending over 7 years. He would control costs by shifting beneficiaries into private plans and Medical Savings Accounts, holding down payments to doctors and hospitals, and doubling premiums paid by beneficiaries.

Does the plan cut Medicare benefits or just slow the rate of growth in spending? The answer is both. To provide the benefits required under current law, the amount the government spends for each Medicare beneficiary is projected to rise from the current level of \$4,800 to \$8,400 in 2002. Gingrich's plan would reduce the projected increase to \$6,700 per beneficiary. The increase, however, would be inadequate to keep pace with inflation and more expensive medical treatments. Consequently, Medicare will buy fewer services for each beneficiary.

Will Medical Savings Accounts (MSAs) and managed care networks save money? Gingrich's plan relies on MSAs and managed care to save money. MSAs offer retirees the option to buy with government money a catastrophic policy to cover large medical bills along with a tax-free savings account to pay routine medical bills. The MSA in his plan may include a \$10,000 deductible. This option appeals mostly to healthy retirees who expect small medical bills and therefore could expect tax-free buildup of money in the MSA. The sicker patients would remain in Medicare, driving up costs.

Gingrich's plan also seeks to generate savings by encouraging seniors to enroll in managed care networks, such as health maintenance organizations. The theory behind managed care is that networks can offer more comprehensive coverage than traditional fee-for-service plans because they are better able to hold down costs. Managed care may save money (at least in the near term), but it also entails less physician choice for beneficiaries.

Does the plan add up? CBO has indicated that Gingrich's plan falls short of the projected savings of \$270 billion. Gingrich proposes a "fail-safe" to make up for any shortfall by taking additional (but unspecified) budget-cutting steps in the future, such as further reducing payments to doctors and hospitals.

Are there alternative plans? An alternate House plan has been introduced which would make \$90 billion in cuts over seven years, the amount recommended by Medicare trustees to ensure Medicare's solvency for 10 years. The plan includes modest reductions in hospital payments, limits on physician reimbursement, tough fraud and abuse prevention, and a commission to address the long-term solvency of Medicare. There would be no increased costs to beneficiaries. A similar plan has been introduced in the Senate.

What is my view: I believe that Medicare must be cut and reformed, but changes have to be made in such a way to protect the lower income elderly and the disabled who lack the means to buy their own health care. The Gingrich plan extracts two to three times what is necessary in order to help pay for a huge tax cut, and does this too fast. We need to ease up on Medicare and find savings elsewhere.

Managed care should be an option, but we do not want to shove beneficiaries into it if they prefer to choose their own doctor. The Gingrich plan will likely make physician choice too expensive for beneficiaries, and could push doctors into managed care arrangements. We should also eliminate the "fail-safe" devices in the Speaker's plan which will bring about direct price controls.

Medicare is a vitally important program to the American people and it must be protected. The congressional leadership and the President must work together in a cooperative spirit to ensure the program continues

to be there when people need it. I think this is what Americans want. Time is running out for careful deliberation in 1995. We all want affordable, high quality health care—goals we must be careful not to undermine.

MEDICARE PRESERVATION ACT OF 1995

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

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, with Mr. LINDER in the chair:

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong opposition to the Medicare Preservation Act of 1995, H.R. 2425.

The Republican leadership is constantly saying "trust us" when it comes to deep cuts in Medicare. Yet, the Republicans can't even keep their word about hearings, and we're supposed to trust them about what they have in store for our doctors, our hospitals, and our senior citizens.

Republicans are cutting Medicare to pay for tax cuts for the rich and special interests. They can call it whatever they like, but it's still a cut and it will be paid for by one of our most vulnerable populations, seniors.

The bill makes the most sweeping changes in the Medicare Program since its establishment in 1965. For 30 years, Medicare has helped to assure that older and disabled Americans get the health care they need, while lessening the burden on families who might otherwise be responsible for paying the medical bills of ailing parents and grandparents.

Under the Medicare Preservation Act of 1995, the elderly will be forced to make choices between paying for health care and paying their heating bills. Hospitals, dependent on Medicare revenue will be forced to significantly cut back service or close altogether, leaving countless rural residents miles from health care facilities. Community economies will falter as hospitals close, laying off workers and making it more difficult to attract new economic development.

Do I want to improve Medicare? Yes. Should we continue to look for efficiencies in this program? By all means. But not at the expense of unnecessary increased costs, fewer benefits, loss of choices, and lower quality medical care for our senior citizens and for disabled people to whom we made the promise of Medicare 30 years ago.

TRIBUTE TO BILL MARX

HON. W.J. (BILLY) TAUZIN

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 1995

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday evening, October 26, 1995, the Council of Industrial Boiler Owners [CIBO] will pay tribute to its founder, Mr. William B. Marx, in honor of

his retirement. I would like to join his family, many friends, and associates in honoring his distinguished career and the many contributions he has made to the industrial community and the energy industry of this great United States of America.

Bill Marx was born in Easton, PA on December 20, 1923. He graduated with a bachelor of arts degree from Lafayette College in 1948, including 3 years as a first lieutenant in field artillery. He earned a masters degree from the Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy in 1949, and began working for the CIA in the Far East and other locations. After marrying his wife Marge 45 years ago, he returned to the States where he raised three bright and independent daughters. His career in the energy industry included TransAmerica, Babcock & Wilcox, and executive director of the American Boiler Manufacturers Association, finally founding the Council of Industrial Boiler Owners. In 1986 Bill was named "Coal Man of the Year" by the Washington Coal Council.

In 1978 Bill saw the need for a voice to represent the highly diverse industrial energy user community to bring the facts of the industrial situation, the production base of the United States, to Washington to ensure the development of technically sound, rational and cost-effective energy and environmental legislation and regulations. Bill, through his leadership, initiative, foresight, and perseverance in unifying this group, brought reality to the public policy debates on these issues; and, was instrumental in achieving the dual objective of maintaining a strong industrial energy base and simultaneously improving the environment.

The task that Bill successfully accomplished was extremely important to the long-term economic health of the industrial energy community, and it helped improve the Nation's environment. His accomplishments are numerous and will benefit the United States in ways yet to be seen in the many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, please join me and my colleagues as we recognize, with honor and respect, Mr. Marx's contributions as he retires to enjoy the benefits of this great country he has helped promote and preserve.

TRIBUTE TO MARY KAY LOUCHART

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 1995

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mary Kay Louchart, a dedicated social worker who was honored for her generous service to the community on October 6 at the 1995 St. Benedict the Moor Neighborhood Center's dinner dance, in the South Bronx.

Ms. Louchart is one of eight individuals who were recognized for their remarkable success in helping rehabilitate individuals who had been struggling with substance abuse. The rehabilitation program is being implemented at St. Benedict the Moor Neighborhood Center.

Born and raised in Michigan, Ms. Louchart devoted 10 years to helping Mexican migrants through the Saginaw Catholic Diocese Committee, and another 10 years assisting the elderly with the Saginaw County Commission on Aging.

In 1981 she came to the South Bronx to work with the Grail Team, with whom she re-

modeled burned out apartments at 383 St. Ann's Avenue and led the community to create the original park and garden. The St. Ann's residence currently houses women and men recovering from drugs and alcohol.

Ms. Louchart is a U.S. delegate to the Grail International Council and serves on the U.S. International Team. She earned a master degree in adult education and an APD in religious studies.

One of her most significant achievements has been through her work at the Bronx Grail Women's Group helping to empower them and to improve their self esteem.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Louchart's efforts in the community should not pass unnoticed, therefore, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing her today on this special occasion.

POLICE OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 1995

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, a few months ago I delivered a statement on the occasion of National Peace Officers Memorial Day, a day dedicated to the thousands of peace officers who have given their lives to protect their communities.

I listed the names of 17 Twin Cities' area police officers who were killed by a gunman's bullet since 1970. These names are inscribed on the walls of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, located just a few blocks from the Capitol.

Two other brave Twin Cities officers—John J. O'Brien and John Harold Larson—are also immortalized on the memorial's walls. These two men also sacrificed their lives serving their communities.

Officer John Larson died tragically on August 10, 1974, in a collision with a fire vehicle responding to the same emergency to which he had been called.

On April 16, 1981, Officer John O'Brien was killed in an auto accident resulting from a high-speed chase. John's older brother Frank and younger brother Michael are still serving on the St. Paul police force.

These two men epitomize the finest qualities of our brave men and women in law enforcement—dedicated to serving their communities and selfless in their sense of duty, putting their lives on the line daily for people they may never know and people who may never be able to thank them.

Their ultimate sacrifice will live on forever, not only on the walls of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, but also in the hearts of the people they served and the officers who served with them.

On behalf of a grateful State and a grateful Nation, I salute these two brave men and the thousands like them who lay down their lives every day so our streets can be safer and our children have a secure place to grow up.