

the questionnaire, are included with this report.

An analysis of the questionnaire results reveal the following:

a) More than 75% of those questioned knew that Medicare was going bankrupt;

b) More than 75% were very concerned about Medicare going bankrupt, and more than 93% thought that Congress should take steps to save Medicare;

c) In terms of the changes that should be made, 67.8% said that some changes should be made but that the program should be preserved, while 11.2% wanted a complete redesign. Only 10% thought that there should be no changes in the current program;

d) While 48% preferred getting a Medicare policy directly from the government, 15% would approve of a voucher or check to purchase private insurance and nearly 37% were undecided;

e) More than half favored reduction in payments to hospitals and doctors and thought that seniors should receive incentives for identifying fraud;

f) Personally 77.2% would be willing to check their bills for fraud and abuse, 53.5% would be willing to engage in preventive and educational programs to stay healthy, and 47.5% would be willing to engage in cost-pricing to locate the most economical, quality provider;

g) Nearly 75% thought that fraud and abuse is a serious problem that needs to be addressed when Congress reforms Medicare, while 52.7% thought that lack of incentives for finding affordable care is a serious problem in the current system;

h) While 16% claim that they always shop for economical treatment, 55% said that they would if there were incentives for doing so;

i) Seventy-nine percent of respondents believe that senior citizens should have greater choice in their medical care programs, assuming that Medicare would be one of those choices.

The Communications group presented these findings to Congressman Newt Gingrich on July 9, 1995. Reports from the Medicare Fraud, Medical Technology and Alternatives to Medicare groups were also presented at that time. All information was reviewed by health care policy staff and considered in the drafting of subsequent Medicare legislation.

A CONTRACT WITH OUR SENIORS TO SAVE, STRENGTHEN AND PRESERVE MEDICARE

1. The Clinton administration's trustee's report warns the Medicare Trust Fund starts to go broke next year. The Program is Bankrupt by 2002.

2. The House Republicans will save, strengthen, and preserve Medicare through new technologies, new management and new approaches.

3. Medicare is growing at 10.5% a year, more than twice the rate of private health care spending. We can make Medicare solvent by slowing the rate of growth.

4. We will increase Medicare spending over 7 years from \$4,800 per beneficiary today to \$6,700 in 2002.

5. Medicare and Medicaid are government-run health care programs filled with waste and fraud—tens of billions a year (GAO). We'll crack down on this waste.

6. And we'll empower seniors to fight waste and fraud if we pay them a share of any waste they find in their own bills.

7. We will preserve the current Medicare system for those who want it.

8. We will engage in a dialogue with seniors since we believe the best ideas come from the Grass Roots.

9. Together we can create a system that offers the best care at the lowest cost with

seniors having the greatest control over their own health care.

TOGETHER WE WILL STRENGTHEN MEDICARE SO IT CAN BE SAVED AND PRESERVED

SAVING, STRENGTHENING & PRESERVING MEDICARE are.

Gender of Sample=35.8% Male; 45.3% Female; 18.9% No response.

1. Did you know that President Clinton's Board of Trustees reported that Medicare will be bankrupt by the year 2002?

A. Yes 75.9%
B. No 19.6%
No response 4.4%

2. How concerned are you about Medicare going bankrupt?

A. Very concerned 75.2%
B. Somewhat concerned 13.5%
C. Not concerned at all 3.5%
D. Undecided 4.2%
No response 3.5%

3. Do you think that Congress should try to save Medicare?

A. Yes 93.1%
B. No 1.2%
C. Undecided 2.8%
No response 2.8%

4. Do you think that Congress should (check one):

A. Completely redesign Medicare 11.2%
B. Make some changes in Medicare but preserve the program 67.8%
C. Leave Medicare alone, even though it is going broke 10.1%
D. Undecided 5.3%
No response 5.5%

5. Would you prefer to (check one):

A. Get a Medicare policy directly from the government 48.3%
B. Receive a check or voucher to purchase private insurance 15%
C. Undecided 28.5%
No response 8.1%

6. In order to save Medicare, which of the following would you favor (check all that apply):

A. Have wealthy senior citizens pay a higher premium 37%
B. Reduce payments to physicians and hospitals for care they provide 50.4%
C. Provide incentives for seniors to join managed health care plans 24.4%
D. Provide seniors with incentives for locating fraud and abuse in their bills 59.1%
E. Raise the premiums for all Medicare recipients 15.4%

F. Raise payroll taxes 9.6%

G. Reduce benefits offered to seniors 5.7%

H. Raise the age of Medicare eligibility from 65 to 67 beginning in the year 2000. 34.5%

7. In order to save Medicare would you personally be willing to (check all that apply):

A. Check your bill for fraud and abuse 77.2%

B. Engage in preventive or educational programs to learn how to stay healthy 53.5%

C. Engage in cost-pricing to locate the most economical, quality provider 47.5%

D. Pay more money in terms of higher taxes or premiums 11%

8. As Congress looks at improving Medicare, what do you think are serious problems that ought to be addressed (check all that apply):

A. Excessive amounts of paperwork 62.8%
B. Inability to understand rules/regulations 43.7%

C. Fraud and abuse 74.3%

D. Lack of incentives for seniors to locate affordable care 52.7%

E. Issues related to long-term care 52.7%

9. Do you ordinarily check your Medicare bills for accuracy?

A. Yes 77.9%
B. No 11.3%
No response 10.8%

10. How often do you find out the cost of Medicare procedures prior to having them done?

A. Always 19.3%
B. Usually 21.4%
C. Occasionally 20.5%
D. Never 25.7%
No response 13.1%

11. How often do you shop for more economical treatment of comparable quality?

A. Always 16.6%
B. Usually 16.5%
C. Occasionally 17.5%
D. Never 34.3%
No response 15%

12. If you were rewarded monetarily for finding more affordable treatment of comparable quality, would you?

A. Yes 55%
B. No 11.5%
C. Undecided 19.8%
No response 13.6%

13. Have you ever suspected fraud or abuse on your Medicare bills?

A. Yes 38.5%
B. No 48.5%
No response 12.6%

14. If you find instances of billing errors on Medicare bills, do you do anything to rectify the situation? (If so, give details and the usual outcome)

A. Always 31.9%
B. Usually 14%
C. Occasionally 10.1%
D. Never 12.4%
E. Not applicable 16.5%
No response 15.6%

15. Would you try to locate and report instances of fraud and abuse on your Medicare bills, if there was a financial incentive for doing so?

A. Yes 72%
B. No 6.9%
C. Undecided 9%
No response 12%

16. Do you think that senior citizens should have greater choice in their medical care programs, assuming that Medicare is one of the choices?

A. Yes 79.5%
B. No 4.2%
C. Undecided 7.8%
No response 8.5%

17. What are your major concerns regarding health care?

18. If you could tell Newt one thing about saving Medicare what would that be?

KILDEE HONORS LOCAL SCHOOL BOARDS

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 1995

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, in January, 1996 we will be celebrating national School Board Recognition Month in this country. In honor of this occasion I rise today to pay tribute to the contributions local school boards make to our education system.

As a nation we place a high premium on the benefits to be gained from pursuing educational goals. Local school board members are elected by the community to ensure that everyone is given the opportunity for self-improvement through education. School boards seek community input and involvement in the education process. They are the liaison between the community and our schools. The members of school boards have accepted the responsibility of shaping the education of future generations and thereby the future of our

Nation. School boards must assess the needs of their communities and provide the learning opportunities to meet these demands. They play a vital role in safeguarding students and schools.

The theme for 1996 is "Uniting Communities through Public Education". This spotlights the role local school boards have in bringing together persons from all walks of life. They help unite us into one nation. Through the dedication of local school boards, all Americans can learn and work together. School board members speak for all schoolchildren regardless of their background or goals.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the House of Representatives join with me today in honoring these dedicated individuals who have accepted the challenge to provide quality education to every schoolchild. They play a historic role in carrying on public education's proud tradition.

TRIBUTE TO JIM MILLS' 40 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE MIDDLETOWN COMMUNITY

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 1995

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, for 40 years, Jim Mills has served the Middletown area through his local reporting and editorial writing at the Middletown Journal. Jim began his career at the Journal in 1955 starting off as a reporter covering local government. In 1957, he was appointed Sunday editor and moved to city editor in 1960. From 1972 until 1981 Jim was the managing editor of the paper. Ultimately, in 1981, he headed the newsroom and retained the title managing editor.

Jim and Middletown, OH have seen many important news stories over the last four decades. Some of the local highlights include the growth and restructuring of Armco to its present organization as AK Steel, creation of the City Centre Mall, and redevelopment of the downtown area, State championships for area high schools, and the change Middletown and its business community have undergone.

Jim and the Middletown Journal staff were always conscientious to bring the local angle to national news items ranging from the John F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King, and Robert Kennedy assassinations, the Vietnam war, the Iranian hostage crisis, Desert Storm, and the explosion of the Space Shuttle *Challenger* explosion.

Jim has received several awards for his dedication and continuous service. Among them are an award from the Associated Press Society of Ohio for exemplary service to the news-gathering business and his assistance to the Xenia Daily Gazette publish and report the news when its' offices were destroyed in a 1974 tornado. For coverage of the devastation the Gazette won a Pulitzer Prize.

During the past four decades, Jim has worked with hundreds of reporters and local officials. They join me in saluting Jim for his work and wishing him the best in his retirement.

A TRIBUTE TO HELEN BEST

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 1995

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I commend the following article to my colleagues:

Whereas, Mrs. Helen Best, should be recognized for celebrating her 80th birthday on December 14, 1995; and,

Whereas, Mrs. Helen Best, should be honored for her achievements, including her membership to the Carroll County Precinct Committee for forty years, deputy director and director of the Carroll County Board of Elections, and committee chair of the Subcommittee on Elections and Candidate Services; and,

Whereas, Mrs. Helen Best, has demonstrated her commitment to Carroll County and the surrounding area; and,

Whereas, the county owes Mrs. Helen Best a great deal of gratitude for her selfless, devoted service; and,

Whereas, I join the residents of Carroll County, with distinct pleasure, in celebrating Mrs. Helen Best 80th birthday.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR H.R. 1020

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 1995

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be the sponsor of H.R. 1020, the Integrated Spent Nuclear Fuel Management Act of 1995, a bill that will make the Federal Government live up to its promise of building and operating a high-level nuclear waste repository by January 31, 1998. While nearly 200 of my colleagues have cosponsored H.R. 1020, there are several that were unable to do so after the bill was put on the House calendar. I would like to acknowledge the following Members as supporters of doing what is right, making the Government live up to its promises: CHARLES BASS, HELEN CHENOWETH, BARBARA CUBIN, JAY DICKEY, VAN HILLEARY, MARGE ROUKEMA, MAC THORNBERRY.

THE PRESIDENT'S PLAN

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 1995

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I don't know what we need to do to get a clear budget plan from the President, but with each day it becomes increasingly obvious that he just doesn't have one.

Our Republican negotiators need an explicit budget plan from the President. The plan submitted over the weekend is at least \$75 billion out of balance. It is a phony. We cannot come to an agreement when all the White House is prepared to offer are superficial numbers severely deficient in detail.

Mr. Speaker, the President must give Republicans a specific plan with specific reforms and numbers. And, he needs to make sure it reaches balance in 7 years. My Republican

colleagues and I have a plan, a real, honest balanced budget on the table. We are prepared to remain in Washington through Christmas to achieve an agreement, but we need the President and his Democrat colleagues to get serious and get to work.

TRIBUTE TO DON MACCULLOUGH, "MR. EDUCATIONAL BROADCASTING" IN SOUTH FLORIDA

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 1995

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a true pioneer in public television, Mr. Don MacCullough, who will be retiring in a few weeks after over 30 years with WLRN-TV in Miami—the past 22 years as general manager.

Throughout his career, Don MacCullough exemplified all that is right with educational television. A tireless worker, his determination helped keep WLRN based in Miami when others wanted to move it elsewhere. His dedication and skill helped the station grow in prestige over the years. His creativity and willingness to try new approaches brought in legions of new, loyal viewers, and helped make WLRN the community institution that it is today. Finally, the reputation he built over the years made him a leader in the industry. When Don MacCullough speaks, people listen.

It is difficult to think of public television in south Florida without Don MacCullough. However, the legacy he created will continue to enrich the lives of public television viewers for years to come.

I know that my colleagues join me in congratulating Don MacCullough on a remarkable career and thanking him for a job well done. We wish you every success in your future endeavors.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

•—Continued E 2413

SPEECH OF

HON. SAXBY CHAMBLISS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 1995

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, today's authorization bill represents a recommitment of this Congress to the men and women who bravely serve and defend this Nation. This bill contains the funding necessary to assure that when we ask our troops to defend our national interest abroad, they go with the very best we can give them.

Here and now, C-17's and C-130's will safely and efficiently airlift our troops to Bosnia. For the future, the F-22 air superiority aircraft continues through the development stages.

The bill expresses the Congress' continued commitment to the B-2 program, notwithstanding the delay on funding until the end of March. In light of this situation, it is incumbent on Secretary Perry to bridge this time period and ensure that industrial activity can continue by freeing up \$25 million yet to be obligated from the 1995 budget.

The Congress spoke clearly in this authorization bill and in its appropriation measure: