

MARYLAND

Associated Builders, Inc., Hyattsville, MD; Bechtel Construction Company, Gaithersburg, MD; Clipper Steel, Elk Ridge, MD; Eastern Steel Construction, Fallston, MD; Gallo Rebar, Capitol Heights, MD; Hickman Construction, Suitland, MD; James Buch & Sons, Laurel, MD; Mechanical Contracting Foundation, Rockville, MD; Mekco, Inc., Laurel, MD; Mid-Atlantic Steel Contractors, Inc., Ellicott City, MD; National Electrical Contractors Association, Bethesda, MD; O'Connell Construction, Inc., Olney, MD; S.C.C.I., Temple Hills, MD; Wood Steel Company, Inc., Bryans Road, MD.

MICHIGAN

Metropolitan Detroit Plumbing & Mechanical Contractors Association, Detroit, MI; Snowden, Inc., Escanaba, MI.

MINNESOTA

Bor-Son Construction, Inc., Minneapolis, MN.

MISSOURI

Bangert Brothers, St. Louis, MO; Heavy Constructors Assoc. of the Greater K.C. Area, Kansas City, MO; Mechanical Contractors Association of St. Louis, St. Louis, MO; National Electrical Contractors Association—St. Louis Chapter, St. Louis, MO; Painting & Decorating Foundation, St. Louis, MO; Site Improvement Association—St. Louis, Maryland Heights, MO.

NEW JERSEY

Associated General Contractors of New Jersey, Edison, NJ; Building Contractors Association of New Jersey, Edison, NJ; Burris Construction Company, Mount Laurel, NJ; Raytheon Constructors, Inc., Lyndhurst, NJ.

NEW YORK

Ashco Contracting Inc., Delanson, NY; Frank L. Ciminelli Construction Co., Inc., Buffalo, NY; General Contractors Association of Greater New York, New York, NY; Grace Industries, Whitestone, NY.

OHIO

Associated General Contractors of Ohio—Cleveland Division, Brooklyn Heights, OH; Cin-Don Inc., Concord, OH; Construction Employers Association, Brooklyn Heights, OH.

PENNSYLVANIA

Allison Park Contractors, Inc., Allison Park, PA; American Bridge, Pittsburgh, PA; Contractors Association, of Eastern Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA; IW Employers Association, Pittsburgh, PA; Joseph B. Fay Company, Pittsburgh, PA; Laurel Contractors Association, Ligonier, PA; Master Builders Association, Pittsburgh, PA; Mechanical Contractors Association, Pittsburgh, PA; National Electrical Contractors Association, Western Pennsylvania, Pittsburgh, PA; Osiris Enterprises, Pittsburgh, PA; Philadelphia Builders Chapter (AGC), Philadelphia, PA; Sheet Metal Air Conditioning National Association, Pittsburgh, PA; Sofis Company, Inc., Clinton, PA.

VIRGINIA

Construction Contractors Council AGC Labor Division, Springfield, VA; Dredging Contractors of America, Alexandria, VA; J.W. Wise Reinf. Steel, Manassas, VA; Master Builders' Association, Inc., Greater Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Chapter, AGC, Springfield, VA; National Erectors Association, Arlington, VA; National Association of Plumbing, Heating, Cooling Contractors, UA Task Force, Falls Church, VA; Sullivan Steel Service, Beaverdam, VA; Vanessa General Builders-VA Ltd., Virginia Beach, VA 23462-4402.

WASHINGTON

Associated General Contractors of Washington, Seattle, WA; Fletcher General, Se-

attle, WA; Max J. Kuney Company, Spokane, WA.

WISCONSIN

Antigo Construction Inc., Antigo, WI; B.R. Amon & Sons, Inc., Elkhorn, WI; C. Jensen & Son, Inc., Superior, WI; Dell Construction Company, Inc., Eau Claire, WI; Dresel Construction Company, Ltd., Chippewa Falls, WI; Duffek Sand and Gravel, Inc., Antigo, WI; Edward Kraemer & Sons, Plain, WI; Edward E. Gillen Company, Milwaukee, WI; Hoeppner Building Corporation, Eau Claire, WI; Hoffman Construction Company, Black River Falls, WI; J.F. Brennan Company, La-Crosse, WI; James Peterson Sons, Inc., Medford, WI; James Cape & Sons Co., Racine, WI; Lunda Construction Company, Black River Falls, WI; Mann Brothers, Inc., Elkhorn, WI; Market & Johnson, Inc., Eau Claire, WI; Mashuda Contractors, Inc., Princeton, WI; Mathy Construction Company, Onalaska, WI; Michaels Pipe Line Construction, Milwaukee, WI; Oscar J. Boldt Construction Company, Appleton, WI; Pagel Construction Co., Inc., Almond, WI; Payne & Dolan, Inc., Waukesha, WI; Reliance Construction Company, Inc., De Pere, WI; Rock Road Companies, Inc., Janesville, WI; Roffers Construction Company, Inc., Ashland, WI; Ruzic Construction Company, Neillsville, WI; Stoehr Grading Company, Inc., New Berlin, WI; Straight Arrow Construction Co., Inc., Cottage Grove, WI; Timme, Inc., Endeavor, WI; Trierweiler Construction & Supply, Marshfield, WI; Vinton Construction Company, Manitowoc, WI; William Beaudoin & Sons, Inc., Brookfield, WI; Wingra Stone Company, Madison, WI; Yahara Materials, Inc., Waunakee, WI; Constructors' Labor Council of WV, Charleston, WV; West Virginia Heavy/Highway Labor/Management Council, Charleston, WV; West Virginia Construction Council, Charleston, WV.

SOLVING THE MEDICARE CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Colorado [Mr. MCINNIS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like, during the brief few minutes that I have to address, to talk about Medicare. Obviously, that is the issue of the day. It is obviously the issue of the year. It is an issue that we need to become more acquainted with, if you are not already well acquainted with it.

I would like to very briefly go over the history of Medicare, talk about the question of whether or not Medicare is in trouble, talk about why it is in trouble, talk about what we are doing as far as the solution and what is the best bipartisan solution to do something to solve the Medicare crisis that we have in this country.

Medicare was created in 1965, and it is a product of the Democratic Party, and it was a good product when it was created. Today, if we can reform Medicare, it will return to being a good product.

In 1965, when the Democrats created Medicare, the Republicans helped them. The Republicans voted for it. The Democrats controlled the House.

Is Medicare in trouble today? It is clearly in trouble. There is a non-partisan group of trustees which oversees Medicare. That group of trustees issued a report in April of this year. By

the way, three of those trustees were appointed by President Clinton. That report said in April this year, "If you do not do something about Medicare, this program will be bankrupt in 7 years. This program will cease to exist financially in 7 years. You cannot wait until tomorrow. You cannot wait until next year. You cannot wait until 3 years from now to save this program. You have got to take action today."

Why is it in trouble? There are several reasons, four right off the top: First, people are living longer. In 1965, a 65-year-old gentleman or 65-year-old senior could expect to live 14.9 years more. In just a simple span of 30 years, a 65-year-old person now can expect to live 17.5 years longer.

What is the second reason that Medicare is in trouble? The recipients, the people that benefit from Medicare, are getting more out of the system than they put into the system. On average, an average couple on Medicare draws about \$111,000 more out of the system than they put into the system.

We have more retirees than we do in proportion to workers. For example, when Medicare first came about, there were 5.6 workers for every retired person. Today there are only 3.3 workers for every retired person. This spells trouble.

A fourth reason, we have got a lot of fraud in the system, and I can give you examples, and some of the people that are opposing changes in Medicare, if they are honest with you, will also give you examples. The system has grown so massive that fraud is abundant within the system.

Inefficiency is abundant within the system.

We learned in the last few days, and I think it is driven by politics, people that want to maintain the status quo, they want to make all the people of America believe that there is not trouble with Medicare, that we do not need to worry about Medicare, the solution that is being proposed, one is a Republican solution, and they do not talk about bipartisan solutions. It is a Republican solution, and it is going to throw the seniors out in the street.

What a bunch of baloney. Tell those people to get real. Tell them to get their heads out of the sand. We need a solution.

Let me quote from an article called "Medicare Mistake." This is written by a Democrat. Last year he was a Democrat Congressman from Minnesota.

Today Medicare is facing a financial crisis. Democrats are playing politics instead of coming up with constructive solutions. Democrats in the United States Congress have not only opposed Republican reform initiatives, they have also refused to embrace the savings identified in President Clinton's plans. Democrats moved from being the majority party to being the minority party. This change, however, does not mean that Democrats should also move from being a responsible party to an irresponsible party.

Ladies and gentlemen, if you do not want to help us reform Medicare, you

are, in my opinion, being irresponsible. This article was written by a Democratic Congressman from last year.

What I urge all of us in this Chamber to do is join with us next week in this debate. Join with us to find a bipartisan solution, and if you do not have a solution, do not get in the way. Work with us, join with us, and let us save Medicare for every citizen of this generation and let us save Medicare for every citizen of the next generation.

DEVASTATING CUTS IN MEDICARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentlewoman from Connecticut [Ms. DELAURO] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I am really pleased to be here tonight and to be joined by my colleagues to talk about what we, some of us, have been talking about for the last several months, and specifically in the last several weeks, and that is the issue of the devastating cuts that the Republican leadership in this House would like to inflict on seniors in this country with \$270 billion of cuts in Medicare.

I think you need to put this issue into some perspective to understand how the special interests today are winning out over the public interest in this Congress. You really just have to take a look at today's newspapers. There really are two very poignant stories about two different groups who came to Washington, to the people's House, I might add, which is what this body is called. We are not only the House of Representatives, we are known as the people's House.

□ 2000

Well, we have two groups who came this week. One group's members got a private meeting with the Speaker of the House. The other group's members got arrested. Yes, my friends, the other group got arrested. When the American Medical Association and its high paid lobbyists came to Capitol Hill, they were given a closed door meeting with Speaker GINGRICH. And, lo and behold, after the meeting with the AMA, it announced that it would reverse itself and support Republican Medicare cuts.

You will note on Tuesday, October 10, in the report of the New York Times, it said "For months Republican plans to curb Federal health care spending have sailed along on a silent wave of interest group approval. But now cracks are showing. The American Medical Association is starting to complain about the impact on care." That was on October 10 in the New York Times.

Well, they had their closed door meeting with the Speaker of the House, and, guess what? It was a flip-flop. And here you have on Thursday, October 12, "House GOP Medicare bill wins over doctors with hidden enticements and the promise of profits."

When happened behind those closed doors? And I will quote to you the AMA representative, I believe his name is Kirk Johnson, in the paper said, "Doctors were promised billions of dollars more than they would receive under the original plan."

In other words, they were bought off by the Speaker, How were they bought off?

Today in the Wall Street Journal the headline is as shown here, that the House GOP Medicare bill wins over doctors with hidden enticements, promise of profits, and the Journal lays out what they call the Medicare sweeteners. These incentives include a provision to make it easier for doctors to set and profit from their own managed care plans known as provider service networks; a limit on payment of damages to some victims of medical malpractice; they would allow beneficiaries to set up medical savings accounts which would place no restrictions on the fees that doctors could charge those patients; and a promise to trim spending reductions in future fee for service payments by undisclosed amounts.

Together, these provisions, once again, amount to a windfall of billions of dollars that the AMA representative crowed about after his meeting with the Speaker. Am I against doctors making a profit? I do not think anyone is against doctors making a profit, no. But I will tell you what we are against. We are against doctors making a profit while seniors get the shaft.

You see, the \$270 billion in the Medicare cuts can only come from providers or from beneficiaries. And every time the Republicans cut a deal with the providers, they have to cut more health care for seniors.

Let me tell you, the American seniors are getting the message. They truly are. They understand this GOP shell game. Again, what I want to tell you is what happened yesterday, because it is equally important to find out about these two groups and what happened to them.

When you take a look at the group that came, the National Council for Senior Citizens, they came to Capitol Hill, they did not quite get the same kind of reception that the AMA did. The seniors got no meeting with the Speaker; they received no concessions, no deals. Instead, they were arrested. That is right, there were 15 senior citizens, some in wheelchairs, some with canes, that were arrested yesterday. They were put in handcuffs and they were taken away in a paddy-wagon.

What was their crime? They asked to speak in the people's House. That is what they were asking for, is an opportunity to participate in our democracy. And we have right here the photographs of those who were taken away. You will hear from some of my colleagues in a few minutes that they were there when this happened. You got here Teresa McKenna, age 68, from Falls Church, VA, with handcuffs being

put on her. You have Roberta Saxton right over there, who is from Maryland, and she is 67 years old. There she is being handcuffed.

Let me just say that they simply went, this group of seniors, to ask questions of the Committee on Commerce about the Republican plan, what is in it, what does it mean in terms of our lives, and they came to exercise their right as citizens. But they were turned away. The lights were turned off in the committee room and they were taken out to the paddy wagons.

Let me just say that we found out yesterday that daring to ask a question and asking that question, which is the right of every American citizen, that is punishable by a rest.

Mr. Speaker, I want to conclude my remarks, because I know my colleagues want to join in this debate this evening, but when it comes to the special interests, the Republicans, this Congress and the majority in this Congress, they are all ears for the special interests. But when it comes to the people in this nation, they turn a defense ear. That is not what we should be about.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. If the gentlewoman will yield, I really wonder who the Republicans are listening to, and I would like to hear later from members of that committee. Because as I am reading, a Republican Congressman the gentleman from Iowa, Dr. GREG GANSKE, from the Des Moines Register, said,

I guarantee you that these reductions will be bad for quality health care. Not just for our senior citizens, but also for working families. If Medicare and Medicaid cuts are too deep, hospitals and doctors will shy away from serving the elderly and poor or will try to push costs to the non-elderly, which could further increase the number of uninsured, or the quality of the whole health care system could decline.

Now, that is a Member of this body, who is a Republican and who is also a doctor.

Then from the New York Times, the American College of Surgeons, the American College of Surgeons said today that the Republican proposals would reduce Medicare payments for all surgical services by 10 to 12 percent next year. Cynthia Brown, manager of the College's Washington office, said these cuts would heavily penalize surgeons.

Maybe that is who they might be listening to, just the persons on the money-making end.

I have high regard for any physician that is attempting to practice good medicine. But I do not believe that even the physicians want to make it uncomfortable for our seniors and rob them of quality care just for a paycheck.

Now, according to a poll that was done by Lou Harris & Associates this month, 86 percent of wealthy Americans oppose Medicare cuts to pay for the tax breaks. Americans across the board overwhelmingly oppose using Medicare as a cash cow to pay for the