

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I listened with great interest to my good friend from Illinois who preceded me here in the well. He quoted Abraham Lincoln accurately. But he misapplied the quote, for rather being malicious and mean-spirited, the only mantra the guardians of the old order can offer, instead what we are doing today is embodying the spirit of America.

Because we are saying to America's seniors, you deserve to have a choice in health care. You do not need to be cut off magically at age 65 to a one-size-fits-all plan. We believe you have the right to determine the health care you should have, and if you want to keep Medicare as it exists now, then you have the right to keep that as well.

But the senseless mantra that we are making changes in Medicare for tax breaks for the wealthy is patently false and, Mr. Speaker, even malicious.

How sad it is; it is symptomatic of the new minority, folks who have no vision for the future, would only apply a Band-Aid and only came up with a plan in the final nanosecond of the 11th hour, instead of dealing responsibly.

Friends, join us. Let us reform Medicare for the better.

MEDICARE AND MANAGED CARE

(Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, today is the day, today is the day that the Republican majority will pass historic cuts to the Medicare Program. Today is the day that they will cut \$270 billion out of the Medicare Program. Today is the day that they will begin to raise premiums and deductibles for people, like Herb McCulloch, who lives on \$240 a month and they are going to ask him to come up with an additional \$100 a month in out-of-pocket expenses.

Why are they doing this? Because they want to pass a \$245 billion tax cut. Better than 52 percent of that tax cut is going to go to individuals and families earning \$100,000 or more.

Mr. Speaker, ladies and gentlemen of the House, their solution is to put elderly into managed care programs, managed care. You know what it means. It means managed to deny care to the very senior citizens they propose to protect.

It is not fair. It is not right. As Democrats, we are going to say "no."

Today Republicans should be ashamed of themselves.

TODAY WE VOTE TO SAVE MEDICARE

(Mr. JONES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, today is the day we vote to save, protect, and preserve Medicare. Today is the day we

show the seniors that we care about them and their future.

The Medicare Preservation Act is an honest, realistic, up-front bill, that provides real reform for our current Medicare system. It will ensure that seniors have the right to stay in their present Medicare plan, but will also offer choices to those looking for a change.

The Medicare Preservation Act attacks waste, fraud, and abuse in order to provide real accountability for the taxpayers dollars.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, today is the day we vote to save Medicare for the next generation. I urge all my colleagues to vote "yes" on the Medicare Preservation Act.

TROOPS TO BOSNIA WITHOUT CONGRESSIONAL CONSENT?

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, once again, a President says he can send troops into a war zone without the consent of the Congress.

What is the surprise here? Think about it. The Congress of the United States has time after time allowed the Presidents of the United States to usurp the constitutional power of the people. Turn the other cheek, and now the President is just simply going ahead and servicing all the cheeks he can in Congress.

The bottom line is this: I do not know how you feel about Bosnia, Members, but I say not one American soldier shall be sent to Bosnia without a vote of the Congress. That is not the old-fashioned way. That is the constitutional way.

If we continue to let Presidents take the Constitution and mold it like clay in their hands, we are going to find ourselves in one hell of a bloody war.

WE ARE IMPROVING MEDICARE

(Mr. GILCHREST asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, all those who are listening in the House Chamber this morning, and if there are any people over the age of 65 listening on their televisions at home, the vote that we will take today will not take any benefits to Medicare away.

The existing program of Medicare, if it is not reformed, is not sustainable. We are going to take a vote that will reform Medicare in a manner that, if any senior citizen wants to keep the existing program the way it is, they can choose to do so. If any senior citizen wants to choose another form of health care or another health care carrier, the amount of money that they put in and the Federal Government puts into their Medicare Program as an individual can be transferred to that contracting health care carrier.

The point is we are going to make Medicare better for senior citizens.

A FALSE CHOICE

(Mr. DEUTSCH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, we are here today because my Republican colleagues want to destroy Medicare, and their premise is that Medicare will be bankrupt in 7 years.

What I have here is a chart that points out a fact, which is that in the 30 years of Medicare's existence, the actuarial life of Medicare was less than 7 years. This is not unprecedented. It is a flatout lie that my Republican colleagues have been stating about the unprecedented nature of the 7-year actuarial life.

The \$270 billion in cuts, as my Republican colleagues have been talking about, is also a flatout lie. The trustee report calls for a far less number in terms of what would make actuarial sense for the Medicare system.

The choice that my Republican colleagues have been talking about is a false choice. Everyone in this Chamber, everyone in America knows what the agenda is. The agenda is to force people into substandard HMO's because the reimbursement level in a traditional Medicare will be so low.

Just because people are old in this country does not mean they are stupid. The American people will not believe what the Republicans are doing.

HEALTH CARE CHOICES FOR OUR SENIOR CITIZENS

(Mr. LONGLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LONGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I am tired of the nonsense we have been listening to.

There are three very simple truths about what the House is going to act on today, and, first, as the minority party appears to forget, this is a program, Medicare is a program that is paid for by taxes on the wages of working people and by seniors through their premiums.

We owe it to them to see that this money is used wisely and effectively, No. 1.

No. 2, any senior who is currently in the Medicare Program is going to be guaranteed the right to stay in the Medicare Program as it is if that is what they choose to do. There will be no increase in copayment, no increase in deductible, and the premium rate will be maintained at the 70 percent paid for by the Government rate, 30 percent paid for by seniors.

Third, we are going to allow those seniors who wish to make choices about their health care. What a radical idea, that we would allow people to choose the health care program that might be best for them.

Shame on the minority for failing to understand these principles.

MEDICARE AND MEDICAID

(Ms. VELÁZQUEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks and include extraneous material.)

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to take strong exception to the right wing attack on Medicare. The drastic and mean spirited cuts Republicans propose will devastate the health care system and severely jeopardize access to health care for the elderly in my district and around the Nation.

Lets be clear about what is going on here. Republicans want to cut Medicare not to save the trust fund but to finance back door deals with wealthy doctors, special interest groups and rich corporations.

The issue of whether we should slash Medicare is simply a question of values. Are we going to bankrupt the elderly? Are we going to kick seniors out of nursing homes in order to finance a tax break for the rich?

I believe that to do so would be immoral, unfair, and just plain cruel.

Mr. Speaker, here is a letter that a Republican constituent wrote to me. She said:

Cuts in Medicare will be devastating and these cuts are unacceptable. We the people, put the Republicans where they are today and we will be sure to take them out if we are not represented.

I include the entire letter for the RECORD.

OCTOBER 17, 1995.

Re Republican Medicare Bill.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN: I cannot even begin to put into words the seriousness of the repercussions of this proposal.

The effect of this bill will be devastating to my local hospital and nursing home.

The projected loss of future revenues for my local facility and nursing home seems incomprehensible to me: \$14.2 million over 7 years! In addition, the projected loss of jobs in this area being at 3,500 is not tolerable.

This program will shift enormous funding to me a property owner in Wyoming County because the hospital is county-owned. The tax burden will increase an estimated 28 percent. This is not acceptable.

This legislation threatens the survival of my hospital and the future jobs of my neighbors. I understand the Speaker of the House needs to retain his parties support but we, the people, put the Republicans where they are today and will be sure to take them out if we, the voters, are not represented.

CYNTHIA TINKER,
Warsaw, NY.

PRESERVE AND PROTECT MEDICARE

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, not since Mother's Day have Democrat mommas across America gotten so much attention.

But what are Democrats' sons and daughters telling them? It is a nostalgic piece of Chicken Little, "The Sky Is Falling." Yes, with creativity of Steven Spielberg, they are story-telling.

They should remember this one: Two mothers, two women were fighting over the same baby. The wise King Solomon pulled out a sword and said, "Cut the child in half." One would-be mother said, "Fine." The other one said, "No, never." Love is stronger. Love of a parent deserves love of a child.

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What a different bill we would have today if the Democrats would follow the example of love. The love of a Mother Theresa rather than the terror of a Stephen King. If the Democrats criticism energy were spent coming to the table rather than launching grenades at those who sit at the table, what a better bill we would have. It is time to put love of parents and love of seniors above love of politics and partisanship.

Mr. Speaker, let us do the right think to do: Reform, protect, and preserve Medicare.

PAY MORE, GET LESS PLAN

(Mr. DOGGETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, let me take the gentleman to a little different part of his Bible. There is a part called honor thy father and thy mother, and I do not find anything honorable about this Republican pay more, get less plan. That is what it is.

Of course, not everybody is unhappy with it. You see, while it gives a swift kick to seniors, those who bought into the plan get a mighty big kickback. Even the Republicans' own staffers say yes, taxpayers are going to have to fork over an extra \$1 billion because of the repeal and weakening of antikickback provisions in this bill. The pharmaceutical companies settled for only \$100 billion by the Republican plan to repeal the discount for pharmaceuticals at public hospitals.

Yes, it is very difficult for the Republicans to talk about being antifraud when there is so much fraud in this plan. We only need to turn to this morning's newspaper to see that they are saying House Republicans today open literally a vote trading bazaar. Speaker NEWT GINGRICH cheerfully described the bargaining as "a little bit like Christmas shopping." Well, there are a lot of mothers and fathers in America who have nothing to be cheered about and much to worry about when it comes Christmas shopping time.

H.R. 2425 PROTECTS MEDICARE

(Mr. HANCOCK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HANCOCK. Mr. Speaker, I have been hearing a lot of conversations the past several years, but I am 66 years old. Here is my Medicare card. I am voluntarily leaving the Congress at the end of this term, and I frankly have a very vested interest in the preservation of Medicare. I want the choice for my future medical care given to me in this Medicare bill.

This bill is good for senior citizens, it is good for the working people who are paying the payroll taxes to guarantee the Medicare, to pay for Medicare. It preserves, protects, and it saves Medicare. Within a year from now, I guess I will be full-time on the Medicare bill, after I leave the Congress.

SYMBOLISM SPEAKS LOUDER THAN RHETORIC

(Mr. KLINK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, as we head down a road as historical as the one that we are encountering today, symbolism becomes very important. It is an important symbol as we note that exactly the same moment that we are debating and voting on a \$270 billion cut in Medicare in the other Chamber, the House Committee on Banking and Financial Services is debating and voting out a \$245 billion tax giveaway by the Republicans.

Our Republicans say one has nothing to do with the other. But the symbolism of the moment is they take place at exactly the same time in both houses of this great Congress. There is no quid pro quo, no tit for tat. I think the symbolism speaks otherwise.

It is also important to note that another new version of this bill came out of the Committee on Rules last night that no Member of the House has had an opportunity to read the 900-plus pages. By the way, we started a few days ago with a bill that was 421 pages, it grew and grew until finally now 10 days later it is almost 1,000 pages, and not one hearing has been held on any version of this legislation.

Ladies and gentlemen, symbolism speaks louder than the Republican rhetoric.

FACT OVER FICTION

(Mr. HEFLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, they shall not bear false witness—that is what the Democrats have been doing on this Medicare issue. Republicans have a plan to save Medicare. Republicans have a good plan to save Medicare. We want America to see our plan. We aren't afraid to show the American people what we're trying to do, because what we are doing is saving the single most important entitlement program