

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.

□ 0915

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

in society today. Let's look at the facts.

Premiums are going up. They are going up \$7 so that we can increase spending per beneficiary by \$1,900.

The tax cuts that Democrats say we're giving to the rich to fund these reforms were passed last spring. They have nothing to do with preserving Medicare.

If you don't want to switch plans or service you do not have to. The Republican plan does not require you to change anything unless you want to.

Finally, for Democrats to decry that some kind of a backroom deal was made by Republicans to satisfy certain interest groups is absolutely absurd. What's happening is people are finally starting to really look at our plan and they're starting to realize that it's a good plan and that scares the heck out of Democrats.

A DAY OF INFAMY

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Days of infamy. October 12, we lock up seniors in America. October 19, today, Republicans have 900 pages to trash Medicare. Premiums for all seniors will rise at least \$87 by 2002; hospitals will close; Medicare benefits for beneficiaries will go up \$1,700; and, yes, you will get your \$270 billion for a tax cut.

What a day of infamy. How sad. And when we want to talk about scriptures, let me tell you about a scripture. The story goes in the New Testament that the Lord asked a question, and the lawyer responded as he asked the question, "Lord, when did I deny you?" And he did not realize that he denied him when he ignored seniors in America, the senior from Houston, TX, that says "I do not believe the drastic cuts in Medicaid and Medicare should take place for the tax breaks for the privileged. I can't hardly write, my finger is so sore, and my husband has 2 ulcers on his leg."

These are the letters, time and time again, that I have gotten from my seniors who say stop trashing Medicare and let us make something happen for all Americans.

ONLY IN WASHINGTON IS AN INCREASE A CUT

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

Mr. BILBRAY. Mr. Speaker, it is really sad that we have try to reinforce the public's perception of lack of trust in Washington with the MediScare tactics. Only in Washington could a 42- to 45-percent increase be called a cut.

Now, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle may say that may be working with words and may be working with numbers. Per person we are talking about going from \$4,800 to \$6,700, a \$1,900 increase.

Now, any senior knows if their insurance company told them "We are going to increase your rates by \$1,900, and that is a cut, a slashing of your rates," the senior would say, "You are crazy."

If you want to know a special interest group that is driving this Member, my seniors from AARP, 20 members have been advising me on this item. Their advice is why do we allow more than the rate of inflation? We are proposing twice the rate of inflation, Mr. Speaker. Twice the rate of inflation is what our projections are.

AN OUTRAGEOUS PIECE OF LEGISLATION

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, this is the most outrageous thing I have seen in my 33 years here in the House. Yes, I am talking to you. Nobody has ever seen the bill that we will be voting on in 3 hours. Nobody has ever seen the bill we will be voting on in 3 hours.

The bill we will be voting on is not the bill that came from the Committee on Ways and Means, not the bill that came out of the Committee on Commerce. It is some bill adopted somewhere in this Congress by a group of people whose faces and names are unknown. Nobody knows what is in that bill.

I know why it is being adopted. It is being adopted for one simple reason: GOP, get old people, and use the money you get from them to pay for a tax cut for your wealthy contributors.

This is an outrage.

MEDAGOGUERY

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I have enjoyed the Biblical quotations throughout the morning, but there have also been a number of quotations from the media. My friend from Texas focused on an article that appeared in today's paper, and, frankly, while we do not on this side regularly champion the Washington Post, I believe that the Washington Post described so much of what we have heard over the past few minutes on the other side of the aisle, because they have observed the debate over the past several months. They said the rhetoric which has come from the Democrats is nothing but medugoguery. That is the Washington Post editorialization of what we have been hearing.

We as Republicans have stepped up to the plate. Another article that appeared, Adam Clymer in yesterday's New York Times acknowledged that in the past the Democrats have tried to avoid tough votes.

We as Republicans have acknowledged that when Robert Reich, Bob

Rubin, Donna Shalala, and the other members of the board of trustees from this administration signed that report saying that within 7 years the system will be bankrupt, we had to do something. We Republicans are stepping up to the plate and doing it. Let us address this in a bipartisan way.

MEDICARE CUTS WILL HURT SENIORS

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Congress will vote today on the Republican plan to cut the \$270 billion in Medicare to pay for that \$245 billion, and my colleague from California, they are stepping up to the plate, but they are being greedy. Even though the Medicare trustees, as the gentleman said, said we need to deal with Medicare, they only said we needed to deal with it for \$89 billion and not \$270 billion.

Speaker GINGRICH's Medicare plan takes three times as much to pay for that tax cut of \$245 billion. The simple truth is that they do not need the \$270 billion from Medicare to make the program healthy. They are cutting Medicare to pay for the tax breaks.

Do not be fooled. Seniors will be hurt by Speaker GINGRICH's plan. Number one, premiums will double, forcing many seniors to choose between their choice of health care and other living essentials. The choice of doctors will be limited.

Earlier this year my Republican colleagues talked about the Washington Post editorial. Before they vote today, I hope they would read today's editorial, where it talks about what they say, "Who Pays if Medicare Is Cut?"

I include that editorial for the RECORD.

[From the Washington Post, Oct. 19, 1995]

WHO PAYS IF MEDICARE IS CUT?

The great question—you could say gamble—with regard to the Republican plan to reform Medicare is whether it will succeed in fostering competition that will drive down the cost of care, or will simply shift some large part of the cost from the government back to recipients, thereby creating a much more limited program—a half-Medicare. No one knows the answer. What the House and Senate are being asked to do in considering their respective versions of the plan in the next two weeks is to choose between risks. One is the risk of not acting to curb the enormous projected cost of the program, which threatens over time to break the bank—and which the Republicans are right to have taken seriously and sought to address. The other is the risk of shifting too much cost to lower-income elderly and disabled people who can't bear it and who may therefore be left without the care that they both need and currently have.

The Republicans have argued that the cuts they propose would fall mainly on hospitals, doctors and other providers, and only to a lesser degree on Medicare recipients themselves. But it isn't certain that this is how it