

group known as the New Federalists did the heavy lifting. And when people said it could not be done and when it got bogged down in institutional inertia, the fact is that Members of this new majority, including several of you folks who have been here for awhile, stepped forward to say this is too important to leave to the institutional business as usual.

And the important thing to note is that, several Presidents have come to that podium here in this Chamber during joint sessions of Congress, during the respective State of the Union Message, talking about reducing the Cabinet-level agencies. And yet, because there was an unwilling majority on this hill that always believed in the growth of big government, those best laid plans were put aside. They were put on the table. And now, ironically, it is the legislative branch serving as the catalyst to reform and downsize the executive branch and actually all of Government. So my friend from Michigan is to be commended.

Mr. CHRYSLER. It is important, because the freshman class set our actually looking at four different departments: Departments of HUD, Energy, Education, and Commerce. Three of those, I am proud to say, passed and went into the budget resolution act by the Commerce on the Budget: Education, Energy, and Commerce. Unfortunately, we could only get the Senate to pass the Commerce. And now we are having a problem with the Senate getting that one in reconciliation because of a thing known over in the Senate as the Byrd rule. I think there is a little difference between running for reelection every 2 years rather than 6 years.

Mr. KINGSTON. That bird is an ostrich, I have come to the conclusion.

Mr. GRAHAM. I remember when we first got together as a class, I did a survey, I think it was in Baltimore. Would you be in favor of abolishing the following departments, and the four that you named are about 85-percent agreement on those issues.

Our class as a whole drank the same water, from South Carolina to Maine to California to all over this country. We could have taken our campaign literature and I think made overlays. It was remarkable to me how much consensus there was among 73 people from different parts of the country who viewed the problems in Washington, DC, very similar.

Most of us have limited our own terms. Over half of us have never been in politics. When we add our class with your class, there is about 100 votes in this institution to really change the way you define compassion.

To me compassion is not how much money you can spend or how many agencies you create in Washington. At the end of the day, how many people have you helped? If that is the standard, we have done pretty poor with this model of government.

Mr. KINGSTON. I know Mr. HOKE and I, if you remember when we were sworn

in 3 years ago, we had all these great hopes. I think we have pushed some things through. But we really did need to merge our fighting 48.

Mr. HOKE. The reality is that this is a winner takes all institution and that if you are going to change things, you have to have the majority on the opening day.

You get to name the Speaker. The Speaker, names the committee chairs. And to be in the minority in this institution is to be certainly about to do things and to help constituents, but it is to be largely marginalized. The fact is that you could, it would be very difficult to overstate the importance of taking over the majority in the House of Representatives.

Mr. KINGSTON. Let me modify that. I know that the gentleman is saying. The majority is the party in here who agrees with the American people. One party in here does not make the majority. One party plus the American people. And I believe that is what we had when we defeated the socialized medicine plan last year.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. Fox of Pennsylvania). The Chair will remind Members to address themselves through the Chair by the stated designation and not by the first name.

Mr. KINGSTON. I am amazed that the Speaker is still awake at this hour. I guess I did something wrong. I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. HOKE. I am nonplussed.

I think we were talking about the significance of this change. In fact the numbers that the gentleman from South Carolina [Mr. GRAHAM] is talking about, are very important because we are talking about over 110, more like 115. It is a big voting block. It is actually about 50 percent of the majority conference right now, the Republican Conference.

Mr. CHRYSLER. If I could, from the gentleman from Ohio, the number is actually 54 percent of the Republican majority are freshmen and sophomores, so we are of the majority. That really makes a difference, everybody certainly.

Mr. HOKE. I think what the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. KINGSTON] said is absolutely true. I would not want the Speaker to think that we are not aware of this. That is that the American people spoke very, very clearly with respect to the kind of representation that they want. That is what this is all about.

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman would continue to yield, I would like to talk about what reconciliation means, what the appropriation bills mean because you hear these words a lot.

What we need to do is be honest with people at home? If 80 percent of the public wants a balanced budget, there is one way to go about it. About two-

thirds of the Federal budget is in entitlement spending. Welfare programs are entitlement programs. Medicare are entitlement programs, which means that the money gets burped out every year.

There is not a whole lot of debate about what goes on. It automatically gets funded. If you did away with all discretionary spending, you would not be close to balancing the budget. So when you talk about reconciliation, you are talking about controlling the entitlements that are two-thirds of the budget.

So maybe we could talk a minute about why we have gone to Medicare, why we have gone to welfare to make these programs more efficient, serve people better and save money because, if you want the Federal budget balanced, you have got to take a 1965 Medicare program, bring it up to 1995 standards. It has grown 11 percent. The private sector is at 3 and 4. You can actually serve people well without spending the amount of money we are spending up here, and you can balance the budget. If there is anybody out there who is not getting a student loan, call my office because it has got nothing to do with the \$10 billion we saved.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, let us quickly go over Medicare. I think that the hour is getting late and the time has about run out. Maybe starting with Mr. CHRYSLER, trustees, April 3, 1995, three of them are Clinton appointees, they say Medicare is going bankrupt in 7 years. What do you do?

Mr. CHRYSLER. In fact, it is going to start spending a billion more than it takes in, started really October 1, that just passed, this year. And so that is why we had to take immediate and decisive and effective action over that item.

Of course by 2002, it is totally bankrupt. You cannot take money from the general fund to fix it. You have to take money out of the trustees fund. That is the reason it was so terribly important. We need to act to preserve and protect and save the Medicare system, and that is exactly the action that was taken. We have done our homework on this much.

It is so important because I know, when I have talked to senior citizens and I have said, here is the system you have now, which is about a 1964 Blue Cross plan that has been codified into law, and this is what you will have under the better Medicare System. I call it the better Medicare System because, if you are not for the better Medicare System, then you must be for the worse Medicare System. But it is the better Medicare System. And when you show that to senior citizens and lay it out in front of them, 85 to 90 percent of them say, absolutely, let me at it. It is great. We only need to move about 14 percent in order to meet the CBO projections.

Mr. KINGSTON. There are some of those options that your parents and

mine will be able to get under MedicarePlus.

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I think my friend from Michigan makes a very valid point here. The point we should make is that those 14 percent will not be compelled by some capricious action or the big hand of government upon their shoulder to be forced into any program. Quite the contrary, what makes this such a unique program is summed up in its name MedicarePlus. It provides choice.

The gentleman from Georgia alluded just moments ago, health maintenance organization. But really undergirding it all is this notion that I think is very important and we cannot mention it enough. If you like traditional Medicare, if you want to keep the System you have now, you can absolutely keep the current System. But if you would like to try a health maintenance organization and indeed with some of the current insurance, medigap insurance in Arizona, some seniors are absolutely enjoying and enthralled with some limited HMO coverage. If they have that opportunity, they get that. Also the notion of a medisave account so that seniors can have control of their health care dollar.

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Just a couple of options, and time would not permit me to go much longer, being a veteran of television.

Mr. KINGSTON. If the gentleman would yield, then we will go through for a wrap-up, but we are running out of time.

Mr. GRAHAM, why do you not say something on Medisave accounts?

Mr. GRAHAM. I am glad you mentioned that. My aunt and uncle worked in the textile industry all their life. Social Security is their chief source of income. They have a paper route where they make about \$500 a month in addition to that. Medicare is their chief medical service. If they had the medical savings account option available to them, they would have saved over \$6,000 in the last 3 years because of this. They pay \$46 and a dime out of their check to go to part B premiums. That is what senior citizens pay for part B, the doctor portion of Medicare. They pay \$120-something a month; excuse me, \$220 a month, total for Medicare supplement policy. They have never in the last 3 years spent over \$500 for doctor or hospital bills. They have been lucky, they have been healthy. Under the savings account plan they would not have paid the \$46.10, they would not have to have the supplement policy. The Federal Government would have provided a sum of money around \$5,000. They would have bought a \$10,000 deductible catastrophic illness policy. There would have been some money left over in the account for their routine medical needs. That \$220 a month they would not have to spend. In their case they would save \$6,600 over the last 3 years if they had had that option.

Mr. KINGSTON. Gentlemen, any final words on Medicare or reconciliation?

Mr. HOKE. I guess the only thing that I would say, and I appreciate the question, is just that, as my colleagues know, one of the things that responsible legislators have to do is they have to look at the reality, they have to deal with reality, and then they have to deal with the reality in a way that will preserve a program that we believe in, and we clearly believe in the Medicare Program, and we will preserve it not only for today and this generation, but the next generation as well. That is exactly what we have done. It has been used politically against us because the opposition made the decision early on that this was some sort of an Achilles' heel.

I personally believe that we have been effective at letting the people know that this is a program that was going bankrupt, not according to us, but according to the President's own trustees, that the only responsible thing was to preserve it, to protect it and save it, and frankly, finally at the end of the day, to improve it for America's seniors. That is what we have stepped up to the plate to do. I do not know if we have done it perfectly, I am not saying we have done it perfectly, but we have done it responsibly, we have done it thoroughly, and in fact we have also taken the political risk of doing it at this time because you know what? If we did not do it, if we did not take that political risk, we would not be doing what the American people expect of us.

Mr. Speaker, I could not be more proud of what we have done with Medicare and, frankly, of the way that we have done that as a model for everything that we have been doing in this Congress in terms of being thoughtful, and responsible and reasonable in going about reshaping the Federal budget.

Mr. KINGSTON. Does the gentleman from Michigan have any closing comments?

Mr. CHRYSLER. Just again, from a real-world perspective, certainly I have in my company, I have medical saving accounts. Seventy-seven percent of my employees got back over a thousand dollars after the first year of operation, and it gives them total control over their health care dollars, and it brings that consumer back into the loop, which is what has been missing in health care in this country as doctors, and hospitals, insurance companies have taken over the health care field and where you and I, the consumer, do not even get a say, and this medical savings account program is one of the major breakthroughs that this Congress has passed, and I am just proud to be here with all of my freshman friends tonight to talk to the American people about that.

Mr. KINGSTON. The gentleman from Arizona?

Mr. HAYWORTH. Understand that we are profoundly changing the way this Government operates, not to hurt any-

one, but to empower the American citizenry to help confront the next century. That is what we are doing through reconciliation. That is what we are doing in our 7-year goal to balance the budget. That is what we are doing by reducing the rate of growth, finding real savings, but not radical cuts. It is not what is radical, it is what is rational and reasonable, and it is what the new majority is doing.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. GRAHAM.

Mr. GRAHAM. I have options as a Congressman to choose from several health care plans. Senior citizens deserve the same thing. My aunt and uncle would have saved over \$6,000 in a 3-year period if they had an option of creating this plan. You can spend less money from Washington, DC and still provide a quality of life better than it exists today if you use good business sense, and that is what has been missing, and we are going to use good business sense.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. HOKE], the gentleman from South Carolina [Mr. GRAHAM], the gentleman from Arizona [Mr. HAYWORTH], and the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. CHRYSLER], this concludes our special order. The bottom line is in reconciliation: What is in it for the American people? Welfare reform, saving, and protecting, and preserving Medicare, Medicaid grants, a middle-class tax cut, medical savings account, but, above all, tackling the balanced budget and going after a budget that will even out after 7 years.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. PALLONE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. GIBBONS, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. MALONEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. DELAURO, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. SCHROEDER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. LOWEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MINGE, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. SLAUGHTER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FARR, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. MCKINNEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. CLAYTON, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. HAYWORTH) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. CHABOT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BROWNBACK, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. TIAHRT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FORBES, for 5 minutes, today.