

working men and women in this country and to slash educational opportunities for those who seek a college education.

Why did they do it? They did it so they can pay for a tax cut to the wealthiest people in this country. The vast majority of their tax cut goes to the upper 5 percent of the people in this country. They have asked the children, they have asked our college students, and they have asked our pensioners to pay for it.

They say if the President does not agree to it, they are going to force the Government to default. If the Government defaults now, they are going to ask the pensioners once again to pay for it. They are going to ask the retirees to pay again. They are going to ask those people who get an income tax refund to pay again. They are going to ask homeowners with mortgages to pay again. They are prepared to ask everybody to pay in the country, except the wealthiest people in this country, for that tax cut.

They should not be allowed to force this Government to default to provide an unfair tax cut to the wealthiest people in this country.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE TRYING TO SEND A MESSAGE

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

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, I looked at the cover of the U.S. News and World Report which talks about the death of the Democratic Party. I think all you have to do is listen to the last speakers that have been up here to understand why.

A few speakers ago, we had somebody come to the floor and said he was disgusted with the tax cuts, that we should take pride in the fact the deficit has gone down over the past year or two. What he does not tell you is he is proud of what has happened in the past year or two because he voted for the largest tax increase in the history of the world. He voted for taxes on seniors who they claim to protect. He voted for tax increases on working men and women they claim to protect. He voted for taxes on middle-class people who they claim to protect. He voted for taxes on small businesses that create jobs.

Now it just absolutely amaze me that the Democratic Party despises the jobmaker but loves the jobs. I mean, let us get real here. Read the cover of U.S. News and World Report and figure something out.

The American people are trying to send a message, and that is, "Get government off our backs and lower out taxes."

AMERICA MUST BE CONCERNED ABOUT A DEFAULT

(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, a few days ago Speaker GINGRICH went to New York, and he stood defiant to default, proclaiming, "I don't care if we have no executive offices and no bonds for 60 days, not this time."

Well, in order to counter that kind of extremism, the Republicans got a couple of their big campaign contributors from Wall Street to come down here to Washington yesterday and tell them not to be concerned.

I would suggest the American people have every reason to be concerned if we continue to pursue this approach of, "It's NEWT'S way or no way, even if it means the first default in the history of this great Nation." Indeed, perhaps our Republican colleagues would be well advised to read this morning's Washington Post and the comments of one of their senior Members, our colleague, the gentleman from New York [Mr. HOUGHTON], who says, "I think the whole thing is nuts. Nobody knows the potential impact. If you play this hand and lose, you can really do a lot of damage."

It is like threatening to explode an atom bomb in your own backyard. Yes, that is the approach. These Gingrichites who defaulted to the people on Medicare ought not to default to the rest of America as well.

DEMANDING FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE WELFARE, WELL-BEING, AND WHEREABOUTS OF JOURNALIST DAVID ROHDE

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

Mr. LONGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to report that this morning, about 3 hours ago, the United Nations confirmed that the American journalist, David Rohde, who has been reported missing in Bosnian Serb territory, is alive and in Serbian hands. According to Clayton Jones, international editor of the Christian Science Monitor, a high-level Bosnian Serb official informed the United Nations Mr. Rohde is being held in a Bosnian Serb stronghold of Polje.

Mr. Rohde, the Monitor's East European correspondent, has not been heard from since last Saturday. I think it is an important message to send to the Bosnian Serb Government that we demand an immediate accounting of Mr. Rohde's whereabouts, his health and safety, and that we want to make it absolutely clear they will be held responsible for his safety.

In the context of the peace talks that are currently beginning in Dayton, it seems to me the entire integrity of the process rests on whether in fact these governments actually control the territory that they presume to control, and I call for David Rohde's immediate release and return to this country.

THE BIGGEST PENSION RAID IN THE HISTORY OF THE COUNTRY

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

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, 95 to 4, by a vote of 95 to 4 the Senate overwhelmingly rejected a House Republican proposal to remove solvency safeguards on private pension funds.

In the 1980's \$20 billion was yanked out of private pension funds, often the workers' own retirement funds, which were used to finance hostile takeovers that resulted in downsizing and restructuring, ultimately costing them their very jobs.

On three separate occasions, Congress put in place protections to preserve the solvency of these vital pension funds. Now, without so much as a hearing, House Republicans have sought to remove these protections so companies can yank money out of their pension funds. They estimate that \$40 billion will be pulled from private pension funds under their proposal.

When we sought a separate vote on this issue, we were rejected. It was included in the budget. And so now, without so much as a hearing, without so much as a separate vote, House Republicans are moving forward a proposal that would allow the biggest pension raid in the history of the country. They must be stopped.

AN HONORARY GEORGIAN FOR THE DAY

(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, today we in the Georgia delegation pick up a new Member. To the young men and women from Magnificent High School, I know this is shocking.

But as your own gentleman from Ohio [Mr. HOKE], who for the day, as part of being on the losing side of the World Series, becomes an honorary Georgian. Here is State flag for him, a tomahawk. I am going to give him some of the other Georgia products off the floor, but in the meantime I yield to him, and I want him to show the American people that he is truly an Atlanta Brave for the day, and he is wearing a Braves tie.

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I do thank him for this gift and these other gifts. These really are very thrilling, and of course I am fulfilling my side of a bet here.

Because I have to admit any team that could beat the team that had the very best record in all of baseball in the past 40 years, any team that could beat the team that had the highest batting average in the past 40 years of any baseball team, any team that could beat the team that won going away by

over 30 games this year, and I am talking about the Cleveland Indians, then the Atlanta Braves do deserve credit.

It was an agreement both with you and also with the Speaker of the House that if I lost these bets I would wear this tie for the day, and in addition, I am going to be sending pirogies to a hunger center on behalf of NEWT GINGRICH and some bratwurst and some other good Cleveland food, and I offer my congratulations to the Atlanta Braves, to the great people of Georgia, and if I do not get hives too badly, I will wear this all day pursuant to my agreement.

Mr. KINGSTON. You will wear it all day. You may want to wear it next season as well.

MEDICARE SHOULD NOT WITHER ON THE VINE

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, Speaker GINGRICH may use warm and fuzzy words like "preserve" and "strengthen" when he is talking about Medicare in front of the cameras.

But when he is talking to the special interests, he sings a different tune.

Last week, he said that while the new majority did not get rid of Medicare in "round one * * * we believe it's going to wither on the vine." I repeat, wither on the vine.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I am from Marin and Sonoma Counties, CA—the home of the world's greatest grapes and wines—and I can tell you that the only things we let wither on the vine are grapes plagued by disease or ruined by drought.

Never, however, would the people of Sonoma and Marin Counties let Medicare—the root of economic and health security for seniors and their families—wither on the vine.

We know that Medicare must be cared for and preserved for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, if there is anything rotten and sick around here that deserves to wither on the vine it is the Gingrich Medicare scheme, and not Medicare—one of the most popular and successful programs ever created.

OPPRESSION OF THE CUBAN PEOPLE CONTINUES

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, while his decrepit road show passed through the United States, Cuban dictator Fidel Castro made a cynical statement during a pathetic rally in his support, sponsored by our Democrat colleague from the Bronx and attended by some other congressional groupies. Castro commented that "life changes," referring to his acceptance of foreign capitalist investment, to save his failed, repressive revolution.

Life might change for Castro in his desperation to keep power, but not for the Cuban people who continue mired in misery and oppression. In Cuba, human rights violations continue. Political persecution continues. State control over the economy and the press continues. Persecution against those who practice their religion continues. Nothing, nothing has changed over Castro's 37 years of tyranny.

Yes, life changes, but not for the oppressed people of Cuba. Life will only change for the Cuban people once the Communist tyrant is eliminated from power and the Cuban nation can reclaim its freedom.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NO-BUDGET, NO-PAY PLAN

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

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. Speaker, the Wall Street Journal reported this morning that by a margin of almost 2 to 1, American families are counting on President Clinton to veto the Gingrich budget plan. They know the Gingrich plan cuts Medicare too deeply. It hurts working families, and it cuts education and also cuts health care for the poor in this country. They want the President to reject it.

So how will Speaker GINGRICH put pressure on President Clinton? He will try to shut down the Government. For the first time in our history, the first time in the history of the Nation, Speaker GINGRICH wants the United States of America to default on its national debts. That is not only a disgrace, it is something that will hurt working families across America. It will raise interest rates, causing that mortgage payment to go up. It will mean in some instances people will not see their checks coming from the Government on time. That is disgraceful.

That is why I have introduced the no-budget, no-pay plan. Quite simply, if we follow the Gingrich idea, default, close down the Government, Members of Congress are not paid. Pretty simple, but I think Members of Congress will get the message.

WHERE ARE THE PRESIDENT'S COUNTERPROPOSALS?

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

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, only in Washington do they describe an increase as a cut.

Mr. Speaker, the time has come to balance the budget and finally regain control of the ever expanding deficit. Not only have Republicans put forth a plan to balance the budget in 7 years but we have passed it through the House and the Senate. Now the President wants to veto the Republican plan. Well I just have one question. Where are his counter proposals?

President Clinton supports the Republican goals—a 7-year balanced budget, real welfare reform, middle class tax relief, and a sound Medicare system. The administration is trying to have it both ways. They agree with our principles but are unwilling to make the hard decisions necessary to achieve these goals. Americans are tired of the Washington gimmicks and political excuses—if the White House is serious about what they say, it is time to lay their plans on the table.

□ 1030

SAVE MEDICARE

(Mrs. MALONEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I could stand here and tell you that Republicans in Congress want to end Medicare.

But do not take it from me.

Take it from them.

Here is what the Speaker said about Medicare to a group of insurance lobbyists:

Now, we don't get rid of it in round one because we don't think that's politically smart and we don't think that's the right way to go through a transition period. But we believe it's going to wither on the vine because we think people are voluntarily going to leave it.

In a recent campaign speech, the leader of the other body bragged, and I quote:

I was there, fighting the fight, voting against Medicare, one out of twelve, because we knew it would not work in 1965.

Well, Medicare turned out to be one of the most successful Government programs in American history.

The Republicans say they want to save Medicare.

I say, we need to save Medicare from the Republicans.

UNITED STATES COURTING INTERNATIONAL DISASTER

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

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, the United States under the misguided leadership of President Clinton, is courting another international disaster. President Clinton did not learn in Somalia, where he turned a humanitarian mission into a bungled fiasco, costing dozens of lives and billions of dollars.

President Clinton did not listen when he sailed into Port-au-Prince Harbor and then retreated, leaving us with hundreds of Haitian opponents dead and a costly legacy for which the American taxpayer is still paying billions.

President Clinton did not hear the pleas for a Pan African force to prevent