

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

and preempt a slaughter in Rwanda, where nearly 1 million died, and now we are still paying the United Nations billions.

President Clinton did not support the lifting of an arms embargo to allow Bosnians to defend themselves, and thousands died, and now we are paying the United Nations and NATO billions.

President Clinton still did not get the message when 315 Members of this Congress said we do not want 20,000 American troops in Bosnia, we do not want Americans killed and held hostage, we do not want our military under the U.N. command, and we do not want to spend billions on another fiasco.

REPUBLICANS CUTTING MEDICARE

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

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, in 1965, Democrats enacted Medicare into law over the objections and strong opposition of the Republicans. That was then; this is now.

Then, in 1965, before Medicare, 50 percent of America's elderly had no health care insurance.

Now, in 1995, 99 percent, almost everyone, of our seniors have health care insurance.

Then, in 1965, almost one-third of all senior citizens lived in poverty.

Now, in 1995, the poverty rate among elderly Americans had declined to a little more than one-tenth.

According to all reliable information, the Republicans are cutting Medicare by at least \$100 billion more than the trust fund needs for solvency.

That is now.

Then, in 1965, the Republicans paid no attention to the solvency of Medicare. They fought and voted against the program. One can but imagine what they will do now that they are pushing us back to then.

TRAVEL AND TOURISM

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

Mr. ROTH. Mr. Speaker, sometimes here in Congress the really important events go unnoticed, so I want to report to the Congress that the travel and tourist industry, the largest employer in each one of your districts, met here for a White House conference. The President, the Vice President, the Speaker, and key leaders, appeared before the conference.

Travel and tourism provides more jobs in America than any other industry except one. Travel and tourism stood united in its request that we in Congress help establish a private-public partnership, a bold, new, innovative approach, and, in the transition period, to agree with the Senate appropriation request for the U.S. Travel and Tourism Administration.

I ask Members to focus on travel and tourism in their respective districts. While we know of many industries which are downsizing or have downsized, here is one industry that is growing, and the growth potential is nothing short of phenomenal.

MEDICARE CUTS OFFENSIVE

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

Mr. FRAZER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the views regarding Medicare that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have consistently taken.

The leader of the other body says that Medicare has never worked and he is proud that he opposed its creation 30 years ago; further he supports its dismantling today.

In this body, the Speaker has said that this is the first step to dismantling the program entirely. He also states that this is the road toward historic change. If this is the road toward historic change, then I hope the record clearly reflects who was responsible for the new course America took regarding the disabled and senior citizens health care services. It is not fair to our elderly who have invested in a health care system for decades to spend their golden years wondering if they can afford to pay for a prescription.

These cuts in Medicare are outrageous and I hope that the President will veto this offensive legislation.

REPUBLICAN LIMBO DANCE

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

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, the exercise that we are going through here in this budget battle reminds me of the limbo. How far will the Republicans go to give a tax break to the wealthiest Americans?

First we see the pole at a level they have to go under where they will affect America's seniors, cutting benefits to seniors while increasing their premiums in Medicare. Next, Medicaid, where they remove a guarantee for health care to America's seniors, at the same time removing standards for nursing homes.

Let us move that pole down as the Republicans come around in this dance again, and see what they do for children. Reductions in school nutrition programs, reductions in student aid programs, removing millions of children from guaranteed health care while removing Medicare as an entitlement for them. And what about those children's families? Here they come again, lower the pole in this limbo dance. How low can you go to give a tax break to the wealthiest Americans, while raising taxes on millions of Americans under \$30,000 a year?

Mr. Speaker, today it even gets worse. In addition to this limbo dance, today the Republicans are going to hit Americans where they live by cutting over \$5 billion in housing, and that, Mr. Speaker, shows just how low they will go to increase homelessness in order to give a tax break to the wealthiest Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I urge our colleagues to vote "no" on this bill today.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I, the pending business is the question of agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 317, nays 88, answered "present" 1, not voting 26, as follows:

[Roll No. 760]

YEAS—317

Ackerman	Chenoweth	Furse
Allard	Christensen	Gallegly
Andrews	Chrysler	Ganske
Archer	Clement	Gekas
Armey	Clinger	Geren
Bachus	Coble	Gilchrest
Baesler	Collins (GA)	Gilman
Baker (CA)	Combust	Gonzalez
Baker (LA)	Cooley	Goodlatte
Baldacci	Cox	Goodling
Ballenger	Coyne	Gordon
Barcia	Cramer	Goss
Barr	Crapo	Graham
Barrett (NE)	Creameans	Greenwood
Barrett (WI)	Cubin	Gunderson
Bartlett	Cunningham	Hall (OH)
Barton	Danner	Hall (TX)
Bass	Deal	Hamilton
Bateman	DeLay	Hancock
Beilenson	Dellums	Hansen
Bentsen	Deutsch	Hastert
Bereuter	Dickey	Hastings (WA)
Berman	Dixon	Hayes
Bevill	Doggett	Hayworth
Bilbray	Doolittle	Herger
Bilirakis	Dornan	Hobson
Bishop	Doyle	Hoekstra
Bliley	Dreier	Hoke
Blute	Duncan	Holden
Boehlert	Dunn	Horn
Boehner	Edwards	Hostettler
Bonilla	Ehlers	Houghton
Bono	Ehrlich	Hunter
Boucher	Emerson	Hutchinson
Brewster	English	Hyde
Browder	Eshoo	Inglis
Brownback	Evans	Istook
Bryant (TN)	Ewing	Jefferson
Bryant (TX)	Fattah	Johnson (CT)
Bunn	Fawell	Johnson (SD)
Bunning	Fields (TX)	Johnson, Sam
Burr	Flake	Johnston
Burton	Flanagan	Jones
Buyer	Foglietta	Kanjorski
Callahan	Foley	Kasich
Calvert	Forbes	Kelly
Camp	Fowler	Kennedy (MA)
Canady	Fox	Kennedy (RI)
Cardin	Franks (CT)	Kennelly
Castle	Franks (NJ)	Kildee
Chabot	Frelinghuysen	Kim
Chambliss	Frisa	King
Chapman	Funderburk	Kingston