

A broad cross-section of Americans yesterday rejected Republican plans to cut Medicare and education for a tax giveaway and gutting the environment. The American people want to go forward, not to the right. As a start, the majority should stop playing default politics with the debt limit and the country's financial stability.

ELECTIONS ARE A POSITIVE FOR REPUBLICANS

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

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I listened with great interest to my dear friend from New Mexico talk about the voting last night, and with typical Orwellian Newspeak and an inability to capture basic mathematics. Once again, the gentleman misses the point.

When the dust clears, the Republican party will have picked up three key seats and one through five major elections. The fact is for the first time in 28 years, a Republican made huge gains, even though we did not win the Governor's mansion in Kentucky. While work is going on, while we have a 50-seat majority in the New Jersey House, while we will see the governorship come to us in Louisiana, while we saw a reaffirmation of our policies in Mississippi, the American people have their eyes on what goes on in this Chamber. The fact is the American people want to see us balance the budget.

I listened with all due interest and due respect to the gentlewoman from Colorado [Mrs. SCHROEDER] talk about giving a Christmas gift. Well, the greatest Christmas gift we can give seniors and we can give youngsters and we can give everybody in this Nation is balancing our budget, getting our fiscal house in order. Those are the most important numbers.

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CONSPIRACY CONTRACT SHAM

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

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, the Republicans and their rich medical doctor friends have entered into a conspiracy contract sham to take money earmarked for Medicare benefits from the elderly middle class.

The middle class seniors worked for years and the Government took a part of their salaries each pay period, and put it in a trust fund so that when they stopped working or got sick, money would be available for their medical care.

The conspiracy contract between the Republicans and their rich doctor friends allow the doctors to continue to charge high fees, and in some cases, for unnecessary medical procedures and

for this, the rich doctors, through the American Medical Association, endorsed the Republican cutback of Medicare benefits.

Mr. Speaker, this is a Republican conspiracy sham in another Republican contract against America.

THE NATIONAL DEBT

(Mrs. SMITH of Washington asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, today, the national debt stands at \$4,984,737,460,958.92.

This is a problem that has to be dealt with right now. We cannot afford to wait for another Congress somewhere down the road to balance the budget. It is way too late for excuses.

The American people want results, they want an end to the blame-game excuses, and they want a balanced budget.

Last week, Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan had this to say if Congress and the President fail to deliver a balanced budget: "If, for some unknown reason, the political process fails, it would signal that the United States is not capable of putting its fiscal house in order, with serious, adverse consequences for financial markets and economic growth."

Mr. Speaker, Congress is doing its part and when it comes time, I hope the President will do his part and sign a real balanced budget that really puts people first.

ELECTION RESULTS

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

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, voters all across the country yesterday voted against the Republican Medicare cuts and the Republican cuts in education. They voted to put Democrats in office at the local level. And yet last night what were the Republicans in the House of Representatives, and the U.S. Senate doing? They were secretly negotiating to bring about the first installment of the withering of Medicare that the Speaker has said he supports and endorses. They are going to start to wither Medicare by raising the part B premiums today in the debt limit.

They are going to ask senior citizens to step up and take these cuts in Medicare benefits at a time that they still want to continue to press forward for a \$245 billion tax cut for the wealthiest people in this country.

Yes, the Republican votes today will be to let Medicare wither. We ought to reject those votes. We ought to reject that proposition, and we ought to do what the people of this country voted yesterday to do and that is to protect Medicare, to make sure that it is not used as a piggy bank for tax cuts for the wealthy.

BALANCE THE BUDGET

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

Mr. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, it is atrocious that more than 39 cents of every dollar spent in Federal income taxes goes to pay for the interest alone on the national debt. This does not even touch the national debt itself, which is the result of over 25 years of reckless liberal spending.

The new Republican majority is working hard to bring responsibility back to government spending, which will benefit the people of this country and the economy. First, by eliminating the annual deficit, we can start to pay off our \$4.9 trillion national debt. Second, the economy will be boosted due to a drop in interest rates as a result of the balanced budget. This will save students money on their college loans, as well as make it easier for people to own their homes.

A balanced budget will improve the lives of hard-working American families. Let's do the right thing and balance this budget.

REPUBLICANS GO TOO FAR

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

Mr. BRYANT of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I think we are all for balancing the budget, in response to the last speaker, but I would suggest to Members that the American people do not think that we ought to grant a \$245 billion tax cut to the wealthiest Americans while cutting Medicare for average people as the way of doing it. That is the Republican agenda.

The fact of the matter is, Speaker NEWT GINGRICH and his new Republican majority have simply gone too far. The American people recognize it. Yet they apparently do not. Because last night while the election returns were coming in all around the country that clearly rejected this extreme agenda, the Republicans were in a meeting up here changing the current situation with regard to Medicare part B premiums which were scheduled to drop to a 25-percent rate. They decided to raise those premiums to 31.5 percent, which means that instead of a \$42-a-month premium, seniors will pay \$53 a month beginning on January 1.

Thank you very much, Republican new majority, led by Speaker NEWT GINGRICH. You are big talkers when it comes to talking about middle-class America, but when it comes to elderly people, you want to balance the budget on their backs.

CLASS WARFARE

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

Mr. RIGGS. Mr. Speaker, all this class warfare nonsense and the Medicare tactics are designed to do one thing, disguise the fact that the Members on this side of the aisle, the Democrat minority, have no plan to balance the Federal budget.

We have already made history. We have passed the first balanced budget in 26 years. And President Clinton and the congressional Democrats had 3 years to do that job. In fact, America is still waiting for the President's balanced budget plan. And if he has a better way to balance the budget than we do, we would like to see it.

President Clinton has offered no budget that balances in 7 years. He has offered no budget that balances ever, and these are the deficits projected by the Congressional Budget Office based on his budget plan, \$200 billion deficits as far as the eye can see. So we are waiting on this side of the aisle, colleagues. Let us see your balanced budget plan.

THE CONTINUING RESOLUTION

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

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am glad my colleague from California, as a new Member of this House, talked about the balanced budget. But in 1992, under the Republican leadership, we had a \$290 billion deficit. And last year, under this current year, we have \$164 billion. It is going in the right direction without cutting Medicare and Medicaid.

It is now November 8, 40 days after the beginning of the fiscal year and only 5 days before the current continuing resolution expires. And what have we seen under this revolutionary Congress? We only have two bills that have been signed into appropriations bills, 40 days late for our fiscal year.

Is that fiscal responsibility? We are aiming for default by the extremist Republican majority. In fact, only two bills at 5 percent of the Federal discretionary funding have been approved. What we are seeing is gambling with the stability of our economic system in the United States based on the Republican majority.

They are too busy cutting Medicare, cutting education funding to make government do its job, and that is really to have a balanced budget.

MEDIGOQUERY

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, the folks on this side of the aisle talk about \$245 billion in tax cuts. Divide that by 7, that is \$35 billion a year on a 1.5 trillion budget. These so called tax cuts represent less than 2 percent of the budget; maybe it is 1 percent over 7 years. It is a blip on the screen.

To make that a main issue, it is like the Washington Post said, it is medigoguery. Remember these tax cuts are less than the Clinton tax hikes of 1993.

Speaking of the Washington Post, look at this quote from their November 3, 1995, editorial. It said,

Now President Clinton has walked away from the welfare bill he sent to Congress last year just, as the week before he renounced the tax increase he pushed to passage in 1993. What next? Perhaps he will say he did not mean to send up last year's health care reform proposals either. Mrs. Clinton made him do it. It becomes increasingly difficult for us to know what the President stands for or whether he stands for anything.

Mr. Speaker, this is a stinging indictment, considering the source. I rarely ever agree with the Washington Post, but in this case, I really think they are onto something.

WEEKLY READER STUDY

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

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, last week a study from the University of California concluded that the "Weekly Reader,"—a staple of American classrooms—had been used as an instrument of propaganda by the tobacco industry.

For 5 years, between 1989 and 1994, the largest shareholder of RJR Nabisco owned the Weekly Reader. Look at the poster. RJR Nabisco, the epitome of corporate responsibility, uses Joe Camel as its spokesman.

During the period when RJR owned the Weekly Reader, 68 percent of the articles on tobacco reflected the industry's viewpoints. One of the articles went so far as to actually debate whether or not Joe Camel encourages kids to smoke.

Mr. Speaker, the Weekly Reader study further explains why Joe Camel is more recognizable to 5-year-olds than Ronald McDonald and why the smoking rate among eight-graders has jumped up in the last 5 years.

Tobacco giants, like RJR Reynolds and Philip Morris, have been—and continue to—target our kids. They plaster their misleading messages on every billboard, magazine, and convenience store in sight. And the penetration of the youth market to pre-adolescents, now extends to the classroom. What is next, the Marlboro Man math book?

COMMENDATION TO MR. DINO CORBIN

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

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend one of my northern California constituents, Mr. Dino Corbin. As the general manager of KHSL-TV in Chico, CA, Mr. Corbin showed great courage and leadership by

canceled the Jenny Jones Talk Show and replacing it with more family-oriented programs. In a television world that is becoming increasingly seamy, Mr. Corbin is the first and only broadcaster to stand up for the standards and best interests of his community of which he is morally and legally bound to uphold.

Instead of mindlessly exploiting the problems of our culture, the television industry and all Americans should be working to solve them. As a concerned parent and legislator, I congratulate and thank Mr. Corbin for his courage and unwavering moral judgment and hope that the television industry heeds this call.

DEBT CEILING PROPOSAL TIES PRESIDENT'S HANDS

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

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, last night Democrats were called to the Committee on Ways and Means to mark up debt ceiling legislation, but it immediately became clear we had been called to a holdup, not a markup.

No responsible Member of Congress wants the Government to default, but the Republican debt ceiling proposal makes default more likely because it would tie the President's hands in managing the debt.

Why are Republicans going to the brink to put heat on the President to accept their extremist agenda? In a word, to blackmail the Presidency. Republicans are playing with fire but the whole Nation could be burned. Adjustable mortgage rates would go up, then fixed mortgages, car loans, credit cards.

Democrats never tried to tie the hands of a President like this. The Nation's full faith and credit is too important to be a political pawn for the extremist agenda of the Speaker.

The Speaker is toying with the unspeakable. So let us say no to default. Say no to extremism. Say no to the Republican holdup.

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

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

Mr. COOLEY. Mr. Speaker, the practice of using the taxpayer's money to subsidize lobbying—either directly or indirectly—is wrong and it should be stopped.

The clearest example of tax dollars being used for lobbying involves The Nature Conservancy [TNC], America's richest nonprofit organization, with assets exceeding \$850 million. In 1993, TNC received a \$44,100 grant from NOAA to "support volunteer outreach and public affairs programs for the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary." Documentation from TNC and