

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

canceling 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

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NOAA clearly indicates that some of this money was used to engage in blatant political advocacy, including lobbying local county officials to vote against holding a referendum on the sanctuary.

TNC's lobbying efforts in south Florida were summarized in a quarterly report sent to NOAA. This describes a TNC contractor's very interesting activities performed under that grant, which included: "developed and directed plan to counter opposition's push for a county-wide referendum against the establishment of the Sanctuary \* \* \* Plan was successful in blocking referendum and generated many positive articles and editorials using many of the messages discussed in plan." TNC denies lobbying with grant funds, relying on a flimsy crutch regarding segregated funds and the like. However, TNC has yet to produce any itemization to explain how the \$44,000 was spent. TNC's shrouded activities are questionable enough that they have received considerable press in Florida.

TNC's lobbying schemes are but the tip of the iceberg for taxpayer-funded lobbying activities. Later today my colleagues will have the unique opportunity to finally bring an end to these unjustified lobbying shenanigans, and I urge my colleagues' support in this effort. Enough is enough.

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#### MEDICARE

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

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, Medicare cuts, now an \$11 premium increase on part B, all to pay for a tax break for the wealthy.

My constituents are concerned. And in fact, a recent letter from one of my constituents said:

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE STUPAK: I have been out of circulation for a while because of illness. I do hope my letter will not be too late for your consideration.

We are deeply concerned about the health care programs, particularly Medicare and Medicaid and also Social Security. Granted they need attention. It seems the first move should be to take the graft out and better bookkeeping. There are also many programs that are fleecing America which could be cut to help balancing the budget!

My husband and I have worked very hard all our lives and strived to make a decent retirement situation. We have been community workers giving our time and money. We thought we were in good condition until my husband and I were downed with Alzheimer's Disease and I have been in the hospital 9 times in recent years. My husband worked for the Post Office thirty-seven and a half years, the last 15 as Postmaster.

We should have a good retirement but instead we are going broke. Please consider what you are doing to the middle class.

To my GOP colleagues, as my constituent asked, it is not too late to reject the Republican Medicare cuts to pay for a tax break for the wealthy.

#### PRESIDENT SHOULD SIGN THE BALANCED BUDGET

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

Mr. TATE. Mr. Speaker, the voters of the Ninth Congressional District have sent a clear message to me. They want less taxes, and less government, and less spending, and that is exactly what the Republican Congress is doing. We are going to balance the budget for the first time in a generation, the second time in my lifetime, which will lower interest rates and create more jobs for the people of Washington State. We will reform the welfare system which has been a failed system by anyone's standards by increasing personal responsibility. We will save Medicare which President Clinton's own board of trustees said was going broke by preserving, protecting, and strengthening Medicare by giving seniors more choices and weeding out waste, fraud, and abuse and giving it more competition. We will also provide tax relief for working families in the form of a \$500-per-child family tax credit.

Mr. Speaker, we challenge the President to join with us, and balance the budget, and work for these types of reforms. Mr. President, no more gimmicks. Mr. President, no more tricks. It is time to do the right thing for America's future. Sign the balanced budget.

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#### KENTUCKY REJECTS REPUBLICAN ASSAULT ON AMERICA

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

Mr. WARD. Mr. Speaker, the people of Kentucky yesterday rejected the Republican assault on America and elected Democrat Paul Patton as our next Governor. I rise today to congratulate him, and I have today's Louisville Courier-Journal, which I will give to the Speaker because, make no mistake about it, Speaker GINGRICH, this Kentucky election was a sharp repudiation of the Republican contract and devastating Medicare cuts imposed by you. This election serves as clear and convincing evidence that the American people do not support these draconian cuts to our Nation's safety net, and that was before today's news that Speaker GINGRICH late last night moved up the date to January 1, next year, when our seniors will have to begin paying the higher part B premium. Take the time to balance the Federal budget carefully without hurting our seniors, our children, our students. We can do it. We just have to do it carefully.

Mr. Speaker, that is the message from Kentucky.

#### REJECTION OF REPUBLICAN EXTREMISM

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

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, Earth to the Speaker. Earth to the Speaker. Come in Mr. Speaker.

Yesterday people from Kentucky to New Jersey, from Niagara Falls to Staten Island rejected Republican extremism.

They rejected gutting Medicare to pay for tax cuts for the rich. They rejected cuts to student loans and education. They rejected the extremism of the Contract on America.

And today, Colin Powell is announcing that he will not run for President as a Republican. Why? Because Republican extremists will reject General Powell—a moderate, pro-choice, pro-gun control war hero.

Yet, as if he had not heard the news, the Speaker woke up this morning and said, "Today's a perfect day to raise Medicare premiums for our seniors." Republicans are actually bringing to the floor today a \$100 increase in next year's Medicare premiums as part of the stop-gap spending bill.

And like lemmings, this extremist Congress follows him over the cliff.

Earth to the Speaker. Come in Mr. Speaker.

The American people do not want your type of revolution. They want change that makes sense. And yesterday, they said overwhelmingly that the Speaker's extremism just does not make sense.

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#### WATCHING AND WAITING

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

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, the votes have been tallied, the results are in and the message is clear: Voters across the country have rejected the extremist right-wing Republican agenda. In Kentucky, Maine, Mississippi, Virginia, and New Jersey, Democrats were victorious.

The voters said no to the Republican cuts in Medicare. They said no to Republican tax breaks for the rich. They said no to Republican assaults on our environment. And they said no to Republican cuts in student loans and education.

Mr. Speaker, heed the message of the 1995 elections. America is watching and waiting, waiting for 1996. Waiting to stop Republican attacks on the elderly, the poor, students, and working-class Americans; 1995 is a prelude.

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#### MESSAGE OF VIRGINIA ELECTION

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