

their homes, their families and their jobs so that our Nation might be protected. Some faced hardships most of us cannot even imagine. Many died so that our cherished national ideals of democracy and freedom might live on, and live they have.

While we celebrate Veterans' Day in thousands of ceremonies across America, I believe it is also important to remember that our Nation owes a commitment to our veterans every day of the year. We owe our veterans the security of knowing that the programs created for them are not weakened or destroyed. On that account, I am afraid we stand on the brink of failure.

The Republican budget recently passed by the House and Senate will cut veterans' programs by about \$6.4 billion over the next 7 years, including increasing veterans' copayments for prescription drugs.

The severe strains this budget will place on the Nation's 26 million veterans was one reason I strongly opposed it on the floor of the House.

The second way veterans will be harmed is the budget bill contains \$270 billion in cuts to the Medicare Program, \$27 billion in Florida alone. Medicare cuts will force the 8.8 million veterans on Medicare, one-third of all veterans in the United States, to pay increased premiums for low quality care. This includes more than 4.3 million veterans with combat experience and 1.2 million veterans with disabilities connected to their service. In Florida, 648,133 veterans on Medicare would be affected.

Veterans will also be harmed by another provision in the Republican budget cuts in Medicaid totaling \$170 billion. Florida will lose almost \$10 billion as a result, and approximately 12,700 veterans in Florida will likely lose their Medicaid coverage in 2002.

Republican proposals to block grant and cut Medicaid would deny Medicaid coverage to as many as 171,900 veterans nationwide just in the year 2002, including 103,600 elderly veterans and 68,300 disabled veterans under the age of 65. Where will these veterans who lose their health coverage go?

Well, most veterans who lose their Medicaid coverage under the Republican budget simply cannot afford private health insurance. Seventy-eight percent of Medicaid-eligible veterans have incomes of less than \$20,000.

The bottom line is this: Because of budget proposals that cut veterans' programs, Medicare and Medicaid, the Veterans' Administration estimates more than 400,000 veterans who have no private health insurance may find it necessary to seek health care in VA hospitals. However, due to financial limitations of the VA health system, many of these deserving veterans would find themselves left out in the cold.

Mr. Speaker, even as we seek ways to reduce the budget deficit, we cannot allow the burden of our efforts to fall hardest on those least able to carry it.

In the name of fairness and equity and on behalf of the 26 million veterans of America, I believe we can achieve our budgetary goals without breaking faith with those who have already placed their lives and livelihood on the line in order to keep America strong and free.

REPUBLICANS ARE FAINT-HEARTED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. SMITH] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, the Republicans are faint-hearted. You know, we talk about balancing a budget. We are in the throes now of trying to say in 7 years we will balance the budget of the United States. That means we are going to quit borrowing money from what our kids and our grandkids have not even earned yet.

Here is why Republicans are faint-hearted. Number one, we are talking 7 years to do it.

Number two, after we finish this 7 years and brag that we have a balanced budget, Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the people of America know that we are still borrowing, in the year 2002, \$100 billion from the Social Security Trust Fund and the other trust funds, and yet we see people apologizing.

Mr. Speaker, did you know that out of the 7 years, this first year is the easiest spending cut year? And you hear the whining and moaning about the big spending cuts this first year. How do you think we are going to go for the fifth year and sixth year and seventh year if we cannot get through this first year?

We have been calling the President of the United States and saying, "Look, at least agree to balancing this budget in 7 years, even if we continue to borrow \$100 billion a year from the trust funds." He suggested that maybe 10 years is okay, but yet the budget that he sent to Congress, the budget he sent to Congress does not even balance ever. It continues to overspend \$200 billion a year into infinity.

Guess, guess how much taxes a child born today is going to pay just to cover his or her share of interest on the public debt if we do not end up balancing the budget. \$180,000, that is what, \$187,000. That is what is going to be deducted from their paycheck.

There is a generation gap. You know, we have environmental checks. We should have a generation gap check for legislation that this body passes.

How many more burdens do we want to put on our kids and our grandkids? And it is not just the \$4.9 trillion that we have in overspending. Look what we are doing in Medicare. In Medicare, we have now said that we are going to have an unfunded liability, and actuary debt, that amounts to another \$5 trillion; social security, we have made promises over what we are going to be bringing in in the FICA tax. There is another \$3.2 trillion.

Our obligation, now unfunded, to civil service retirees is another half a trillion. Guess what we just did in the last few years? We promised every private pension fund in the country that the Federal Government would make it whole.

Mr. Speaker, ladies and gentleman, it is time that we start getting tough. It is time we stopped apologizing and started living within our budget.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. MILLER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. MILLER of California addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

TOBACCO MARKETING PRACTICES TOWARD CHILDREN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. WAXMAN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to revise and extend by remarks.

We have all seen the full-page advertisements being published by the R.J. Reynolds tobacco company in major newspapers around the country. I have brought one with me. It says:

Actions speak louder than words. . . . R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company does not, under any circumstances, want kids to smoke. . . . R.J. Reynolds' policy, like that of all American tobacco manufacturers, prohibits the distribution [of cigarettes] to anyone underage.

Those are RJR's words. Let us look at its actions.

Last Friday, the TV news magazine, "A Current Affair," showed the results of its investigation of RJR marketing practices at stock car races. This investigation showed that as recently as last month, RJR employees were giving free packs of cigarettes to 16- and 17-year-old girls.

The "Current Affair" investigation also showed that RJR brings a kid's ride, called "Camel's Smokin' Joe Ride," to each race. This ride, which simulates a stock car race, is very popular with young kids. During the ride, cigarette advertisements for Camel and Winston cigarettes flash across the screen and are viewed by the children.

Mr. Speaker, I believe RJR's actions speak louder than words. At the very same time that RJR has been running advertisements that say children should not smoke, its own employees have been giving free cigarettes away to children, as well as showing cigarette advertisements to children.

Mr. Speaker, I submit a transcript of the "Current Affair" investigation for the RECORD.

[From "A Current Affair," November 3, 1995]

RACE SMOKES

Narration by reporter Mike Salort: You may have been these national ads from R.J.

Reynolds and probably heard their reassuring executives.

Lynn Beasley, senior vice president in charge of marketing Winston and Camel cigarette brands, R.J. Reynolds. I hope no kid ever smokes, ever. I don't want kids to smoke.

But at three of the company's famous Winston cup races in their own backyard—North Carolina—we found thrills, spills, and the company appearing to break its word.

Christine Coltellaro, 16, Northern Virginia high school student, accepting cigarettes from a cigarette marketer: Do I keep these? Marketer. Yeah.

Christine Coltellaro. Thanks.

Our hidden cameras caught marketers hired by the company handing out Winston and Camel cigarettes to underage smokers—two girls 16 and 17 years old, who simply said they were over 21.

Undercover video shots of the two girls getting cigarettes.

It's a major embarrassment for tobacco giant R.J. Reynolds, maker of Camel and Winston brands.

R.J. Reynolds on site marketing manager Jimmy Holder, as he covers the camera lens. Can we just stop this and talk of camera?

ACA Reporter Salort. No, absolutely not.

Why does he want our camera's off? This manager's company, R.J. Reynolds, has been caught at the worst possible time. President Clinton is trying to ban tobacco promotions from sports events because he feels they convince kids to smoke. The cigarette giveaway appears to be a graphic example of why the President is worried.

Christine Coltellaro. Compared to getting them at gas stations or 7-Elevens, or quickie marts, it was pretty easy.

Christine Coltellaro and Margie Bailey are underage smokers. We hired them to see if they could obtain promotional cigarettes at Winston Cup Races this fall.

Christine Coltellaro. They said, "Well, we need identification." I said, Well I don't really have any on me. They said "Don't worry about it."

In fact, listen close, this man says he's kidding.

Cigarette marketer, handing cigarettes to Christine: I need to see a major credit card and a license.

Christine. I don't have any major credit cards or license on me.

Marketer. I'm kidding.

ACA Reporter Mike Salort confronts marketer who has given cigarettes to the two girls. What are you told by the company that hires you. What you need to do before you give out—

Marketer. We're supposed to check ID.

Salort. You are. Then you're supposed to have a picture ID checked.

Marketer. Yes sir.

Salort. You do that in every case?

Marketer. If they look under 30, yes sir.

Salort, pointing at the two girls. Would you say these two look under 30?

Marketer. No sir.

Salort. They don't look under 30?

Marketer. I wouldn't say so.

So he says these kids look like women in their thirties! We asked the same question of the R.J. Reynolds boss for the race.

Salort, pointing at the girls. Would you say they look under 30?

Jimmy Holder, RJR manager. Yes sir, I would.

Salort. So, what's your policy here?

Holder. Our policy is, we've told 'em all, we stress for everyone to card people who look under age.

That's the official Reynolds policy anyway. Only who can produce a pack of their own, 21 and older are supposed to get the handouts. That's three years more than the

legal age of 18, and it's true when we brought 13 year olds to the races, they were turned down. But it was a rare occasion when cigarette marketers refused our 16 year olds.

ACA Reporter Mike Salort interviewing Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif. Salort, handing Rep. Waxman three plastic bags filled with cigarettes. Ok, you've seen the tape, and this was their haul from three separate races. What's your reaction to that Congressman?

Waxman. There's a lot of cigarettes in this haul. The R.J. Reynolds company has run ads all over the country saying actions speak louder than words, and I think their actions on these tapes speak louder than words.

As much as the cigarette giveaway makes him burn, Congressman Henry Waxman of California suspects it's part of a larger scheme to get kids to start smoking.

Waxman. I just feel that the cigarette companies are hypocrites.

R.J. Reynolds Senior Vice President Lynn Beasley. I am really deeply, deeply upset by it.

She's Lynn Beasley, senior V.P. in charge of selling Camel and Winston brands. But flawed as she says her giveaway program was, Beasley denies it's part of a bigger scheme to expose kids to cigarettes. She says the sample smokes, the colorful booths, and the fancy merchandise are all for adults, and what about this . . . It's Camel's Smokin' Joe Ride, hauled to every Winston Cup stock car race. Inside that ride, on a screen in front, kids will tell you—

Young race fan, waiting in line for the camel ride: "It's a simulator. You start out on a rollercoaster and you go to, like, different rides."

Like an exciting car race video, jam packed with cigarette logos.

Shot of Winston and Camel logos flashing across screen. Audio from ride: "thank you for your support of Winston motor sports."

And when it's over, step outside and find yourself conveniently close—to one of those cigarette booths.

Lynn Beasley. We are not trying to appeal to kids.

ACA Reporter Mike Salort. So who does this ride appeal to?

Beasley. Adults. Ninety-seven percent of the people at these events are adults.

Salort standup. Even so there are still hundreds of kids at these events being exposed to that colorful Camel campaign. It's emblazoned on sweatshirts, banners, even pins. It's a sponsorship the government wants to ban because it believes the campaign pushes kids to smoke.

While R.J. Reynolds says giving cigarettes to kids was wrong, the company's Lynn Beasley makes no apologies for the festive tobacco marketing at sports events.

Beasley. Advertising does not cause kids to smoke, it doesn't. Look at the facts. Every study that has been done, study after study, shows the reason kids smoke is because of peer pressure and family influence.

Salort. Every study?

Beasley. Yes!

Incredibly Beasley says she hasn't even heard of a paper unveiled for the press just weeks ago, and published in the prestigious Journal of the National Cancer Institute. That report says promotions like these may well affect kids. It even says the number of kids smoking Camel's jumped after the introduction of the Joe Camel ad campaign, which Beasley worked on.

Salort. Does it disturb you that there's a study out there that says that what you're saying is absolutely wrong?

Beasley. I will take a look at it. I'm telling you, what I have seen is that the overwhelming evidence is that advertising does not cause kids to smoke.

And for that reason, Beasley says her company will still sponsor sports events. But after seeing our footage, she plans big changes for her cigarette giveaway.

Beasley. I think where we went wrong was not in absolutely requiring ID for everyone, regardless of what age they looked.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. BURTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Connecticut [Ms. DELAURO] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Ms. DELAURO addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. ROHRABACHER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. ROHRABACHER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. KIM] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. KIM addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

AN INCREASE IN MEDICARE PREMIUMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PALLONE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to address the fact that today, once again, but this time in the context of the continuing resolution, the Republican leadership has imposed the increase in Medicare part B premium payments under Medicare. As we know, when the Medicare bill that was sponsored or that was advocated by Speaker GINGRICH and also by the Republican leadership came to the House floor a couple weeks ago, it actually doubled part B premiums under Medicare. That is, the Medicare Program that covers physician care, over the next 7 years would essentially double for Medicare recipients and those who participate in the Medicare Program.

We know that at this point the legislation, both the budget and the Medicare bill, are in conference. It was also included in the Budget Act, and the Senate and the House have yet to meet on the budget which includes those Medicare provisions.

But while that is pending, today in the context of the continuing resolution, the Medicare premium increase