

THE CLEAN WATER ACT, H.R. 961

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

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 961, the legislation to reauthorize the Clean Water Act. As someone with experience in growing trees, I understand the concerns about the so-called nonpoint source pollutions from forests. I appreciate that we have extensive regulations which address other sources and that we are looking to control runoff of water from all sources. You would not know it from the rhetoric, but the forest industry has done a pretty good job already in controlling the problem.

When I was in the State legislature, I cosponsored sedimentation legislation that today on North Carolina's basis controls runoff from forests as well as other sources. Every State in the country with any significant forest activity has what is called best management practices which are sets of very detailed practices which have to be in place before forest practices are undertaken.

For example, the best management practices include everything from ways to build temporary roads with water bars to prevent runoff in other ways.

I urge support of the Clean Water Act and the bill of the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. SHUSTER].

MEDICARE

(Ms. VELÁZQUEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to take strong exception to the Republicans' proposed massive Medicare and Medicaid cuts. These cuts will hurt the most vulnerable of Americans, our children, our seniors, the poor and the disabled.

Large reductions in Medicare payments will mean increased out-of-pocket costs for seniors. On average seniors will have to come up with another \$3,000 for medical expenses once the Republican plan goes into full effect.

The Republican plan also puts the squeeze on urban and rural health centers, institutions that rely heavily upon Medicare reimbursement.

The end result would be hospital closures and declining health among poor and working families. Why are they cutting this program? In order to fund corporate welfare programs and tax cuts for the 1 percent of the families who control 40 percent of the assets in this country. That is right, for the wealthiest Americans.

Let us stop this charade and consider real health care reform.

GEORGE ORWELL, SPIN DOCTOR

(Mr. DREIER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, apparently George Orwell has become the spin doctor for the leadership on the other side of the aisle. Only in Orwell's world or the old Washington, DC, when the Congress was under different leadership, could an increased of from \$4,700 to \$6,300 for Medicare be considered a draconian cut. That is right.

Under our proposal we are increasing the level of spending for Medicare from \$4,700 to \$6,300 over the next 7 years, and time after time our colleagues have gotten down here and labeled this a draconian cut which is simply to pay for a tax cut for the rich. Nothing could be further from the truth.

It is wrong for this message to be getting out and tragic that people are being frightened by this kind of message.

Mr. Speaker, the American people want the truth, not the spin. George Orwell should not be the guide for any leadership in this Congress.

REPUBLICANS IN THE MEDICARE BOX

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

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, Republicans are in a box. They are trying to divert attention from what they are trying to do to Medicare. They are cutting Medicare by \$300 billion, and they do not know how to explain it.

The reason is that they have to find a way to pay for their tax cuts for a tax cut that benefits 1 percent of the population making over \$230,000 per year. That is not class warfare. Those are the facts.

Here are the Medicare excuses: Another commission to study the problem, slow the growth of Medicare, tinker with the Medicare trust fund.

Mr. Speaker, the facts are clear. They are cutting Medicare to pay for a tax cut for America's wealthy, the crown jewel of the Contract With America.

A HISTORIC DAY

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

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, today truly is a historic day in America. For the first time in anybody's memory, this Congress today will present to the American people a plan to balance the budget over the next 7 years, a plan that will save Medicare, will improve Medicare for our senior citizens.

It has taken a new Congress to have the guts to bring this issue to the floor of the House because the American people want it. Eighty percent of the American people are demanding that we deal with the fiscal and moral crisis that is occurring in this country and so we have a plan.

I find it interesting that, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, the President of the United States has no plan. There is no plan from you. And so they are going to criticize. They are going to spread fear amongst the people about what our plan is. But I would urge the American people to ask the other side, the liberals, where is their plan to balance the budget? Where is their plan to save the future for our children and their children? Because the Republican plan to balance the budget is a contract with our children and theirs.

TRADE WITH JAPAN

(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, at this moment the U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor is announcing the action by the United States on autos and auto parts under section 301 of our trade laws and the World Trade Organization.

The issue here is clear, opening up the Japanese markets to United States autos and auto parts. We are the free marketers. The Japanese are the protectionists in this area.

Yesterday the Senate passed overwhelmingly on a bipartisan basis support for the administration position and last night the gentlewoman from Connecticut [Mrs. JOHNSON] and I introduced the same resolution in the House.

It says,

The House strongly supports the decision by the President to impose trade sanctions on Japanese products in accordance with section 301, unless an acceptable accord with Japan is reached in the interim that renders such action unnecessary.

Let us, as the Senate did, support this effort on a bipartisan basis. For the first time the industry is united. Let us be united and let us negotiate this out with the Japanese so we open up their markets to our goods as our markets are open to their goods.

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CUTTING MEDICARE IS THE WRONG WAY TO BALANCE THE BUDGET

(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, let me say that this administration deserves a heck of a lot of credit. For the first time in two decades, we are doing something real to open up Japanese markets. Every time America has a better product, whether it be in automobiles or financial services or anything else, the Japanese come up with a million different barriers and put them in the way. Today we are finally saying "Enough." We are not being

protectionist. Our markets are wide open, but so should theirs be.

However, I have one admonition. As we put tariffs on certain Japanese products in an effort to force their markets open, our own manufacturers ought not to take advantage by raising their own prices. We need to have a united front here in America, and no one group, not the automobile owners or anyone else, should take advantage of that.

As long as they do not raise their prices, market share for them will increase, the Japanese will feel the heat, and maybe for the first time in a long time, free trade will be on both sides of the Pacific Ocean.

DESPITE THE RHETORIC, A CUT IN MEDICARE IS STILL A CUT

(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, the Republican majority is almost a month late in meeting the statutory deadline for passing a House budget resolution, but finally they've decided to prepare a budget that is even uglier than we thought. If the Republican majority wanted to balance the budget, they could do that today if we cut Medicare, Social Security, and COLA's, but no, their budget is going to cut it 5 or 7 years from now. Medicare faces cuts in excess of \$256 billion.

It is true. Despite the public outcry not to cut Social Security or Medicare, Republicans are united in a plan that will directly cut Medicare to pay for a tax cut. They also intend to cut the COLA for Social Security recipients by readjusting the formula. The worst part is that Republicans are telling us they are not cutting, they are simply slowing the growth.

They can call it what they want, but if someone is 65 in 1998 and they do not have Medicare, that is a cut. This bill is a cut for that person who is now 62 and needs Medicare 3 years from now, so it is a cut. I do not think we need to play with words. I think the Republican majority needs to be honest with the American people: that in order to balance the budget and pay for tax cuts for the rich they stand united in their effort to cut Medicare.

THE BOTTOM LINE WITH MEDICARE: FIX IT OR LOSE IT

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

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, for the last decade I have represented a district that has as many senior citizens in it as any other district save one or two in the country. I think it is totally unfair to our older Americans to pretend there is no problem with Medicare and try to say that the Republican

Party is out to make cuts in Medicare to give the rich people a tax cut. It is simply not true.

Under our plan, Medicare increases from \$4,700 a participant to over \$6,000. As a matter of fact, it is \$6,300 per participant. That is not a cut.

The bottom line with Medicare is, and their party needs to figure this out, fix it or lose it, because the President himself says it will be bankrupt in 7 years.

MEDICARE CUTS PROPOSED BY REPUBLICANS WILL RESULT IN FEWER SERVICES TO AMERICANS

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, let me point out that the Republicans are talking about saving and improving Medicare by cutting it. We just cannot believe that. If we talk about cuts to Medicare as well as Medicaid, it is going to have a direct impact on senior citizens, in the case of Medicare, and a direct impact on poor people with regard to Medicaid.

There are only certain choices that exist when Medicare is cut. First of all, we will have higher copayments. Seniors will have to pay more money out of their own pocket, or they will have increased deductibles before they get benefits. Again, they will have to pay out of their own pocket.

The other option is that the reimbursement rate to hospitals or doctors will go down. That means a lot of doctors or even hospitals will not accept Medicare patients. A lot of seniors in New Jersey now know they cannot find doctors who will accept Medicare or even Medicaid.

The other option is that the hospitals simply reduce the quality of services, or do not provide the services that they normally do because they are not getting the money through a reduced reimbursement rate. There is a direct impact on hospitals, on the provisions of how medical care and health care is provided to senior citizens. There is no way around that if we make the cuts that are being proposed by the Republicans.

CLEAN WATER LEGISLATION WILL HARM AMERICA'S WETLANDS, STORMWATER PERMITTING PROCESS, AND COASTAL WATERS

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

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, today the House of Representatives will take up the most serious public health environmental legislation considered yet in this historic 104th Congress. The proponents of the measure have labeled it

good environmental legislation. That is a violation of the truth in advertising law.

The fact of the matter is the legislation we will consider today would decimate our Nation's wetlands, would end the stormwater permitting process, would do serious damage to our coastal waters.

We have worked, those of us identified with the Saxton-Boehlert alternative, with the National Governors Association, with the Coastal States Organization, with public health groups, with environmental organizations all over the country, to say that we can be responsible in dealing with clean water in America.

Those who are concerned about this subject are urged to call their elected representatives to let them know that they want clean water, and the time for meaningful action is now.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WICKER) laid before the House the following communications from the Honorable VIC FAZIO, chairman of the Democratic Caucus:

DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS,
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 10, 1995.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to inform you that Representative Nathan Deal is no longer a member of the Democratic Caucus. Sincerely,

VIC FAZIO,
Chairman.

VACATING ELECTION OF MEMBER TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communications from the Honorable NEWT GINGRICH, Speaker of the House of Representatives:

THE SPEAKER,
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 10, 1995.

Hon. DON YOUNG,
Chairman, Committee on Resources, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This is to advise you that Representative Nathan Deal's election to the Committee on Resources has been automatically vacated pursuant to clause 6(b) of rule X, effective today.

Sincerely,
NEWT GINGRICH.

THE SPEAKER,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 10, 1995.

Hon. BUD SHUSTER,
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This is to advise you that Representative Nathan Deal's election to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure has been automatically vacated