

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, the Republican budget cuts \$24 billion from Social Security. Seniors who have worked hard their whole lives will lose hundreds of dollars in Social Security benefits. Social Security is a contract that we've made with our Nation's seniors. The Republican budget tears that contract into pieces.

The Republican budget cuts \$283 billion from Medicare. The Republican budget will eliminate Medicare as we know it by herding seniors into HMO's and by charging them \$3,500 more for their health care. Seniors who depend on Medicare will be out of luck.

Mr. Speaker, the Republican budget breaks faith with the millions of American seniors who depend on Medicare and Social Security to make ends meet.

Day after day we have heard how the Republicans have kept their promises to the American people. One after another the Republicans told us that promises made are promises kept.

Well Mr. Speaker, today we learn that Republican promises made are promises broken.

Speaker GINGRICH and the Republican majority promised that they would not cut Social Security benefits. They promised not to devastate Medicare.

But what is the truth? What does their new budget say?

This is how the Republicans keep their promises: By cutting Medicare. By cutting Social Security. The American people deserve better.

BROKEN PROMISES

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, Republicans love to get up here everyday and talk about promises made and promises kept, but it seems that my GOP colleagues have forgotten our sacred promise to take care of America's senior citizens. In fact, under the GOP budget proposal, released yesterday, seniors take a double hit.

First, Republicans cut health care for seniors. The GOP budget reduces Medicare spending by \$283 billion over 7 years—a 25-percent reduction in the year 2002. Then, to make matters worse, Republicans turn around and reduce Social Security benefits for seniors by \$24 billion between 1999 and 2002.

Now, Speaker GINGRICH calls these cuts painless. But, they are not painless to the millions of seniors who rely on Medicare and Social Security to help pay the bills and make ends meet.

Republicans promised to protect Medicare. Republicans promised that Social Security would be off the table during this budget debate. Promises made, promises broken.

REPUBLICAN BUDGET AND NATION'S CHILDREN

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

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, we had a long day in the House Committee on the Budget yesterday. I am here to tell Members about one aspect of the Republican plan to balance the budget that they do not want to talk much about. That is about the deep cuts in Medicare, \$184 billion over the next 7 years. And the impact of these would take health insurance away from 5 million kids that now have it. It is taking a health care problem in this country and making it much worse by depriving 5 million kids of health insurance coverage.

The plan does not stop there, because it also assaults the elderly that depend upon Medicaid to help them defray the cost of nursing home expenses when they have exhausted their personal accounts. What will happen to some in a nursing home that has exhausted their life savings? Will they be put out on the street when the Republican Medicaid cuts begin to hit and there are no more funds available? Will they be forced to move in with their children who are already struggling to make it and provide for the college education of their children?

These are questions that need to be answered as we flesh out the Republican budget. Disaster for kids; disaster for seniors.

SHRINKING THE BUDGET

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

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, if they are making a movie this summer of the Republican budget, I think it can be titled "Honey, I Shrunk the Budget and I Blew Up the Economy." I blew it up by gutting Medicare, cutting it up to 25 percent. And who will pay for that? Senior citizens, by not getting care; businesses and young people, by having to pay more insurance premiums; hospitals that have to close because they cannot absorb these kinds of losses.

Blew up the economy by cutting programs that bring growth. Student loans cut by \$33 billion. Student loans that affect almost every person in this country. The Economic Development Administration, the linchpin for so much industrial develop, the Appalachian Regional Commission terminated. These grow the economy; the Republican budget shrinks it. Balancing the budget, Mr. Speaker, is important for a strong economy. But not with this budget and not one that bankrupts the economy.

KEEP PRESSURE ON JAPAN

(Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts asked and was given permission to address

the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, recently the United States and Japan resumed automobile trade talks and these talks have collapsed. The talks were aimed at opening the Japanese market to autos and auto parts.

The United States presented new proposals in the two priority areas—improved foreign access to Japan's auto markets and increase sales of auto parts in both the United States and Japan. Japan's auto market remains closed. It has been stated Japan sells as many cars in a week in the United States as United States automakers sell a whole year in Japan.

Japan continues to maintain a closed economy which discriminates against United States auto exports and effects international economics. Japanese officials have expressed dismay over what they termed new demands at a late stage of talks.

Currently, there is a \$36.7 billion United States-Japan gap in trade in autos and auto parts. This gap has to be decreased. Japan's market share of auto imports is only 4 percent. In addition, Japan's market share of auto imports is only 2.4 percent.

Nearly 2 years of negotiations have failed to produce an agreement in the United States-Japan auto trade talks. The administration announced tough trade sanctions against Japan. These sanctions will probably entail higher tariffs on Japanese imports worth billions of dollars a year.

I urge USTR and the administration to remain tough on Japan. The United States-Japan gap in trade is not reflective of the competitiveness of United States autos and auto parts. The United States is manufacturing auto and auto parts that are capable of competing in the Japanese market. The quality of United States products would gradually bring about a reduction of the deficit, if Japan would only begin to open their market.

We need to send Japan a clear message that we will not back down on the opening of their markets to auto and auto parts. If they refuse to negotiate, we should promptly enact tough sanctions.

CLEAN WATER ACT PROTECTIONS THREATENED BY H.R. 961

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

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 961 because I know that rolling back essential protections of the Clean Water Act will not contribute to the health and welfare of my constituents. In communities such as mine, water quality problems still persist. In addition to New York City-wide problems with giardia, a bacteria that causes stomach ailments, the families in my district

have had to depend on aggressive water quality standards, challenging the water company in court when health is endangered by substandard water quality. This right to appeal is predicated on the existence of strong enforcement water quality standards. Standards that H.R. 961 would roll back to erase 23 years of progress.

In addition, the Sixth Congressional District of New York borders on Jamaica Bay, a fragile area of marshland and islands that is widely used for fishing and recreation. Jamaica Bay is regularly contaminated by raw sewage and toxins that result from combined sewer overflow problems and storm water. And we are not alone, a 1992 study showed that 14 large cities, including New York City, Atlanta, and Minneapolis have deposited more than 165 billion gallons of raw sewage and pollution into surface waters each year. For my constituents, H.R. 961 seriously impedes any attempt to control this problem by postponing action to correct problems with combined sewer systems for at least 15 years. While we wait, the health concerns about fishing grow. Jamaica Bay cannot wait until year 2010 for this problem to be addressed. Can the waters in my colleagues district wait? Oppose H.R. 961.

REPUBLICANS BALANCE THE 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 time to balance the budget is now. It is time to end 40 long years of reckless spending.

The Republicans yesterday passed an historic budget. We believe it is wrong to burden a child born today with \$187,150 in taxes in their lifetime just to balance the budget. We think it is wrong to do nothing and let Medicare go by the wayside. We believe it is right to cut waste, to cut duplication. We believe we have a moral imperative to balance the budget.

But where is the Democrat plan? There is no plan, folks. That is the problem.

We believe you should have a plan. And I was taught as a young boy, if I do not agree with something or I think it is wrong, I should have a better plan. There should be a better way to do things.

Their idea is to say, you are cutting kids. Well, there you go again. We have a plan. We have a plan to save our children's future, to protect Medicare and to get us back on the road to fiscal responsibility. That is exactly what the Republicans plan on doing. We are going to join with the American people in doing so.

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THE CONTRACT WITH AMERICA: A DISASTER FOR MIDDLE-INCOME AND WORKING PEOPLE

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

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, at a time when the gap between the rich and the poor is growing wider, I am not impressed by the Republican plan which provides huge tax breaks for the wealthiest people in this country and the largest corporations, and cuts back savagely on a wide variety of programs meant for low-income and middle-income people.

When thousands and thousands of senior citizens in the State of Vermont today are finding it very hard to pay their health care bills, I am not impressed by a Contract With America which savagely cuts back on Medicare and Medicaid. When millions of middle class families today cannot afford to send their kids to college because of the high cost of higher education, I am not impressed by a Contract With America which cuts back terribly on loans that millions of young people will need in order to get to college. The Contract With America works for the rich. It is a disaster for middle-income and working people.

WATER CROSSES STATE LINES

(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, I was disappointed yesterday that the substitute for the Clean Water Act was not passed on the House floor, but I think that during the course of the debate one very important fact was brought out.

Several speakers said and pointed out that the problem with clean water, or the problem with water in general, is that it follows, it crosses State lines. In other words, when we are dealing with the various amendments to the Clean Water Act today, we have to keep in mind that each State cannot be responsible totally for the water within its jurisdiction, because it has an impact on other States. That is why I think it was very important yesterday that we were able to pass the amendment on coastal nonpoint source pollution, because it means that one State will not be able to have a lesser standard or a lesser management program than another State and negatively impact that State.

The same philosophy has to go before us today when we are dealing with the other amendments, whether it is ocean discharge and waivers for secondary treatment, or it is beach water testing. All these things should be voted on and looked at in the context of the fact

that water crosses State lines. Whatever one State does is going to have an impact on another State.

WHERE IS THE CUT?

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

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, where is the cut?

House Democrats have come to the floor, claiming that Republicans are cutting Medicare.

But I have to ask my colleagues, where is the cut?

If you look at this simple chart, you will see that Republicans are not cutting Medicare at all. In fact, we are increasing Medicare spending per person from \$4,700 to \$6,300.

So, where is the cut?

In a liberal Democrat's mind, whenever you slow the growth of spending, whenever you weed out waste and fraud, whenever you give a bureaucrat his walking papers, that is a cut.

But to the American taxpayers, these are not cuts. To senior citizens, these are not cuts. To people possessed of common sense, these are not cuts.

These are reforms that preserve, protect and improve Medicare far into the next century.

Mr. Speaker, I have to ask my colleagues, where is the cut?

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WANT A BALANCED BUDGET, NOT EXCUSES

(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, for weeks now, liberal Democrats have taken to this floor to decry, accuse, condemn, denounce, declaim, vilify, incriminate, fulminate, remonstrate, deprecate, and attack any plan to balance our budget. For some reason, they see no need to balance our budget. We have to make changes.

Despite all the carping from the other side, our friends on this side offer no alternatives. They offer no solutions. They offer no plan.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Republican majority introduced a plan to balance our budget in 7 years. There is no longer any excuse not to balance the budget. We have exhausted all the old methods. All of the old big government ideas have been tried and found wanting and found lacking, for the liberals to come to this floor with their hot air about class warfare is nothing short of irresponsible.

The American people are tired of excuses. They want this Congress to balance the budget. Republicans will do this, with or without the carping and crying of the liberal Democrats.