

one examines the record, you see a consistent pattern. That consistent pattern says if you are a pregnant woman, you are out of luck, and if you are an infant baby, certainly you do not count, and if you are from rural America, you can be ignored, and if you are poor, you do not matter, and if you are a senior citizen, you are too late.

This weekend we will celebrate Mother's Day. Mothers have always taught us, and we are reminded on Mother's Day, get your priorities right. How we spend our moneys and where we spend our moneys says a lot about us. It says what is important. It says to America that those who spend more than \$200,000 certainly are of more consequence than those who earn less.

It says to America that mothers do not count. It says to the working America we have nothing at all to celebrate this Mother's Day.

WHERE IS THE CUT?

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, where is the cut? This chart shows that under the Republican budget plan, Medicare spending will increase by nearly \$100 billion over the next 7 years.

Now, this second chart that we are going to show here shows that spending per recipient for welfare recipients will go from \$4,700 up to \$6,300 per person.

Now, I know this has to come as a complete shock to my friends on the other side of the aisle who spare no opportunity to scream about imagined Medicare cuts. They look at America and they see only two kinds of people: The wealthy and the victimized. The wealthy are, of course, evil and in need of punishment. The victims need protection, and they think that only liberal Democrats here in Congress can provide that protection.

Well, the liberal political world view has been almost totally rejected by the American people. Americans are tired of excuses. They are tired of the slick blame game, and they will not be scared by the liberal Democrat shrieks they hear here in Congress anymore. These are imaginary cuts. They do not exist.

REPUBLICAN MEDICARE CUTS

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, with Mother's Day on Sunday, we are reminded of the commandment to "honor thy father and thy mother." And, my, how our fathers and our mothers and our seniors all over this country have been honored this week. They have been honored with \$300 billion, almost, of Medicare cuts, and they can bring charts up here all day and all night and all week long.

Apparently, they want to limit the time to discuss this to the bare minimum, but they cannot deny the fact that under existing law they are cutting Medicare by almost \$300 billion.

It is not a matter of what happens here in the Halls of Congress. It is the way the American people will view these cuts. If you do not understand a cut is a cut, go out and ask the seniors across this country and the people that care for them what it means that in order to get the same level of care, your medical deductible is doubled, your premiums go up every month, suddenly you have to pay for home health care and for lab services.

You may not call that a cut, but a senior citizen that faces the decision of whether to eat or whether to get health care is going to view it as the very serious cut that it is.

ENTERING THE BUDGET DEBATE WITH FACTS

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, you know, Sunday is Mothers' Day. I do not remember my mother in the 40 years that I have been her son, worrying about the Federal budget on Mother's Day. I just do not see ourselves sitting around the house and ringing, "Oh, my goodness, the Democrats are not going to get their way in Congress. Mother's Day is ruined."

You know, my mom, my family, we do just fine without the Federal Government running our lives, and that is what the American people want: less Federal Government intervention in the family.

The families of America want the Federal Government out of the picture. The best way to protect the family is to make sure that we have a balanced budget so that there will be a Government that is not totally bankrupt in our future, which my mother's grandchildren and their grandchildren will enjoy.

You know, a great political campaign was run on this slogan: "If not us, who; if not now, when; if not this, what?"

The Democrats' answer to that question, "Well, if not us, somebody; if not now, someday; and if not this, we do not know."

You know, it is time to come to the table with specifics. Are you going to balance the budget, or are you going to sit here and scare everybody in America that the sky is falling? Let us get responsible, let us enter the debate with the true spirit of facts and not rhetoric.

MEDICARE IS ON THE BLOCK

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

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, the previous speaker and I can probably agree on one thing; and that is, we hope everybody has a happy Mother's Day. We hope they are not worried about the Federal budget and the deficit problems.

However, I would observe I have looked at this budget carefully, I have seen what it does to Medicare. As someone observed yesterday, the best thing you can do for mother this year is do not send flowers, send a check.

Because the fact is there is a real cut in Medicare, \$300 billion, and, yes, I have heard that, well, the spending increases. But what happens if, instead of two people there are now three people entitled to it? What happens if you now have higher deductibles when you go to the physician? You have to pay more out of pocket. You are now paying for lab fees you did not pay for before. And, yes, medical inflation in this country still rises faster than regular inflation.

The fact is the matter is that in order to keep current or even slightly current, there is a real cut that is proposed in this budget in the program that affects all of us. So Medicare is on the block, and I think it is an important statement.

Finally, what is more obnoxious to me about this cut it does not do anything about the deficit. It does not do anything for seniors. What if does is pay for a tax break for the wealthiest Americans in the tax cut package that has already passed here.

ACHIEVING A BALANCED BUDGET

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

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I just came over because I was hearing some of the comments.

What concerns me very, very much is what is happening from the Democrats while Republicans have designed a budget that will balance in the year 2002. Everybody, I would hope, thinks that there is some good in achieving a zero deficit, balancing our budget and not spending any more than we take in.

Yet the other side of the aisle, and I usually am not partisan on these things, have seen this as an opportunity to criticize every one of these cuts that the Republicans are making, without presenting to us their idea of where we should be.

If you just look at what the President sent over here as far as his budget, his deficit spending, his spending more than what we are taking in in the year 1996 is 211, Republicans 156; in the last year, 2002, the Republicans' proposal is down to zero, zero deficit. We are living within the budget, within the revenues that we are taking into this Government. The President is 318.

Mr. Speaker, the other side should not criticize. They should be forthright

in a saying here is what we think are the reasonable cuts if we are going to achieve a balanced budget.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA'S 1995 SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET AND RESCISSIONS OF AUTHORITY REQUEST ACT OF 1995—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. 104-74)

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania) laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with section 446 of the District of Columbia Self-Government and Governmental Reorganization Act, I am transmitting the District of Columbia's 1995 Supplemental Budget and Resciissions of Authority Request Act of 1995. This transmittal does not represent an endorsement of the contents of the District's budget.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, May 12, 1995.

□ 1330

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

THE REPUBLICAN BUDGET IS A CUT IN MEDICARE AND SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, I rise this afternoon to speak about the Republican budget and its effect on Medicare and Social Security. The assertion is trying to be made on the Republican side that this is not a cut. Well, I beg to differ. To the senior citizens of this country who have paid all their lives into this trust fund, it is a cut.

A cut is a reduction in services, an increase in premiums, an increase in copays and deductibles. So to the senior citizen out there, or to their family, you can call it anything you want to call it; it is a reduction in services. It is less than they expected to be able to get out of this very, very important program in their lives, and let us remember who we are affecting here. We are not just affecting the recipient of the program for the person that is enrolled in Medicare. We are affecting their entire family. The 30-, and 40-, and 50-year-old sons and daughters of these recipients of Social Security will have to make up the money if their parent cannot come up with it for the

copy, or the deductible or the increased premium, and remember that this increased premium will come out of their Social Security check. It is automatically deducted, so it is in effect a decrease in their Social Security monthly payment.

Mr. Speaker, we have got lots and lots of senior citizens around the country who live on their Social Security. It is the only thing they have to look forward to every month to pay their rent, to pay their heating bill, to pay for their food, and so that amount will be reduced. Let us also remember this budget calls for a reduction in the Social Security benefit. It calls for an arbitrary reduction in the cost of living escalator by over a half a percent a year beginning in 1999.

By the year 2002 it means a \$240 cut in their Social Security benefit. So, because of the Medicare cut which comes to about \$1,000 a person a year immediately, the \$240 cut in their Social Security benefit by the year 2002, these folks who are living on Social Security and their families who help support them are going to be out about \$1,240 a year that they now count on in order to get by.

Now let us remember that these programs are supported by taxes. There is no deficit in the Medicare trust fund. There is no deficit in the Social Security trust fund. There is more money coming into those trust funds today than is spent, and we believe that it is wrong to make up for problems somewhere else in the budget out of those trust funds, yet that is precisely what the Republican budget does.

They said proudly for days, "We're not going to touch Social Security; it's off the table." Well, it is on the table again in a big way, \$1,240 per person per year it is on the table, and that is not what was said. What was said before the budget came out was Social Security is off the table, it is not going to be cut.

And now we even see why it is being cut. It is being cut for a tax break. The Medicare cut almost equals the amount that is going out to give a tax break, a tax windfall, for the wealthiest people in the country.

So now we see the real value that is being expressed. A budget is an expression of values in its most important meaning. The value that the Republican Party is expressing in this budget is that it is fine to take dollars, \$1,240 a year ultimately, from the middle-income families of this country and transfer it to people making \$200, and \$300, and \$400 and \$500,000 a year so they can get a \$20,000-a-year tax break. We are going to take \$1,240 a year from middle-income families and families trying to stay in the middle class.

Is that our sense of values? Is that what we want to have happen in this country? I do not think so. I think what we want is to help middle-income families stay in the middle class, and that is what Social Security and Medicare have primarily been about.

This is not the right approach, this is not what we ought to be doing, and if you say the Social Security funds may not be stable and solvent 5 and 10 years from now, I say, "Fine, let's look at that. Let's look at the whole health care system as we do it, and let's not start this discussion by giving a \$20,000-a-year tax break to families earning \$250,000 a year. Let's put that off to the side. Let's save that one for later when we finally got enough money in the budget to consider things like that. But for right now let's talk about the real problems of our country: education, Medicare, Social Security, keeping those programs there for the middle-income people who paid their taxes their entire life. Let's not take it from them. Let's help strengthen those programs."

So I hope, as we go into this most important budget, this Republican budget represents the greatest change in U.S. budgets in many, many years. Let us have a full debate in this Congress about what is actually happening here. This budget will have direct significance, dramatic consequences, in the lives of average working American families. They deserve to know what this budget will do to them, and before we vote on it and cast votes for it or against it, let us let the people know what is in it. Let us let them participate in the debate. Then we can make a judgment. And I believe if that is done, we will make the right judgment, and the right judgment is not to invade Medicare and Social Security to give tax breaks to the people who have done the best in our country. That will not be our judgment, and I urge that, after this debate, we will make a better judgment, and we will make sure that Social Security and Medicare are not invaded, and that these cuts are not made to the middle-income people of this country simply to give a tax break to the people who have it made.

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

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

OSHA UNDER ATTACK

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

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, OSHA, the agency responsible for the health and safety of workers in this Nation, is presently under intense attack. Particularly my colleague, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. NORWOOD], who is a fellow member of the Economic and Educational Opportunities Committee, has launched a relentless series of attacks on OSHA.