

Mexico has no money to honor NAFTA, and Uncle Sam will have to clean up the pollution on the border. Now that means that millions of gallons of raw sewage from Tijuana will contaminate the beaches of San Diego. It also means that San Diego will have to come up with \$16,000,000 to build the treatment plant because Mexico was supposed to but they cannot. But the EPA says, in any regard, no one is going to build a treatment plant down there because you will endanger the habitat of the pocket mouse.

Beam me up. People in San Diego are swimming in raw fecal matter, and the EPA is worried about the pocket mouse. Ladies and gentlemen, why don't we let Mickey Mouse take care of the pocket mouse and EPA take care of the American people like they are supposed to.

I say maybe it is time we enforce NAFTA and also pass the clean water bill. It is a commonsense bill.

A BALANCED BUDGET

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

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, this week the House of Representatives will make history. For a quarter century Government has been the problem rather than the solution. Government policies have squandered our children's future, stagnated our workers' wages, assaulted our families' values and eroded our citizens' freedoms.

This week, once again the people will govern. We will vote on a program to transform the Federal Government by making it work for the people. Our plan will balance the budget for the first time in 25 years by making Government responsible.

Our balanced budget restores our children's American dream by ending the practice of squandering the children's inheritance on big government. It returns power to the people by ending the micromanagement of intrusive Washington bureaucrats. It prepares for the future by saving programs that would otherwise go bankrupt like Medicare. It restores democracy by making government officials public servants. The people of America want a balanced budget.

MEDICARE AND THE REPUBLICAN BUDGET

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

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, Speaker GINGRICH and the House Republicans are pulling a fast one on senior citizens by drastically cutting Medicare and using savings to fund a \$350 billion tax cut for the wealthy. The Gingrich-Kasich budget plan will cut health care services for 37 million seniors receiving Medicare benefits.

Under this plan, Medicare growth will not keep pace with the rising cost

of health care, the growth in the number of beneficiaries and the inflation rate.

The result of these cuts will be an additional cost to Medicare recipients of \$1,000 a year—out of their own pocket—by 2002. To inflict these costs on seniors living on fixed incomes is inhumane.

Where I come from, a person is only as good as their word. The U.S. Government has made a covenant with senior citizens and I implore my colleagues to make sure the Congress honors Medicare promises.

By breaking this promise of a healthier life for tax cuts for the wealthy will mean turning our back on senior citizens and working American families.

By slashing Medicare to pay for tax cuts for the wealthy, Speaker GINGRICH is ensuring that the wealthy get a gold mine while senior citizens get the shaft.

URGING SUPPORT FOR A BALANCED BUDGET

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

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, President Clinton claims he wants a Government that is lean but not mean. Today the Federal Government is big and mean. It takes 1 of every 4 dollars the average family earns. That is mean. The average family has to spend more to pay for the cost of Government than on anything else.

Big government is not just mean to our families. It is nasty to our children. This year the Federal deficit will skyrocket to \$176 billion. The debt will explode to \$4.7 trillion. That is \$75,000 of debt for every family of four. Families beware—the Democratic leadership does not help you—they thrive on you.

There is a better, leaner way, and we are voting on it this week. It is our balanced budget and it puts the big, mean old system on a diet. Our balanced budget ends deficits by 2002, returns power, control, and money to families and restores the American Dream to our children.

I urge my colleagues to vote for leaner, not meaner, Government. Support our balanced budget.

REPUBLICANS AND MEDICARE

(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, the public is not fooled by the Republican shell game.

They oppose Republican plans to pay for a tax break for the privileged few by cutting Medicare.

Today's Washington Post tells us that 56 percent of the people are opposed to the Republican plan to cut Medicare. They are not fooled by Republican claims of fixing Medicare. The

public is on to the Republican scam of using Medicare as a piggy bank to pay for their tax breaks for the privileged few.

Rather than wiping out billions of dollars in tax cuts for large corporations, Republicans chose to slash support for the old and the sick.

The Republican chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee says he will not touch the billions of dollars of tax breaks for wealthy corporate special interests.

Mr. Speaker, let us go after the billions in corporate tax breaks before we stick a "sick tax" on our parents and grandparents.

MEDICARE GOING BROKE

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

Mr. RIGGS. Mr. Speaker, let me just respond to the previous speaker by pointing out the Washington Post also says, in a column entitled Which Budget, referring to the lack of any proposal from the House Democrats, "Democrat complaints about Republican budget plans have a hollow and unpersuasive ring."

Mr. Speaker, the silence of those on the other side of the aisle about Medicare is deafening. All we hear from them is more distortions, more hot air, no solutions. But do not take our word for it about the condition of the Medicare trust fund. Take the word of the Medicare trustees who said in their April 3 report, and I quote, "the present financing schedule for Medicare is sufficient to ensure the payment of benefits only over the next few years."

The bottom line? The fund is projected to be exhausted in 2001. This conclusion was reached by three of the President's own Cabinet Secretaries who also double as Medicare trustees: Secretaries Rubin, Reich, and Shalala.

Mr. Speaker, the American people are tired of this evasion. They are tired of the posturing. They sent us here to Washington to handle the Nation's problems, not to avoid them. Republicans are providing leadership while the White House and the House Democrats are providing scare tactics and class warfare demagoguery.

PAIN FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

(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, what the Republicans really want to do over the next six years is privatize and eliminate Medicare. A couple of weeks ago I saw Speaker GINGRICH on TV saying the cuts in the budget were going to be large but painless. Painless for whom, I wonder, Not painless for seniors and not painless for children.

The cuts in the budget are certainly not painless for the seniors in my district or across the United States. In fact, the Republican majority has proposed to slow growth or, as most of us would say, dramatically cut billions from Medicare over the next 7 years.

The Republican cuts would result in an increase in copayments, deductibles, and premiums for senior citizens in Houston, TX and across the country. The budget plan is a broken promise to working families and their parents.

The Republican majority has promised us they would balance the budget without devastating families and senior citizens. That is one promise they cannot say they kept. While I understand and promote the need for a balanced budget, there is a right way and a wrong way to do it. Balancing the budget on the backs of senior citizens while you give tax breaks is not what the American people want or hopefully the Republican majority would want.

BASIC MATH

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

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I spent 24 years of my life as a teacher, and I thought for a few moments today we might go back to school.

Here, as you might remember from kindergarten, is a number line. What we were supposed to learn from that was that 3 is greater than 2 and 6 is greater than 4. But apparently some of us are slow learners.

As you will see from this next graph, these are the numbers for Medicare payments per recipient. On a scale that is uninterrupted so it is not distorted, as a result of the Republican plan to balance the budget. Please notice that we are now spending \$4,700 per recipient in Medicare. By the year 2002, that will increase to \$6,300. That is bigger than, larger than \$4,700.

Let us see if we have got it right now: \$6,300 is bigger than \$4,700. So Republicans are not cutting Medicare.

HANG TOUGH ON AUTO TRADE SANCTIONS

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, at this very moment our United States trade ambassador is announcing proposed trade sanctions against Japan for its unfair trade practices. After a decade, the executive branch of our Government has taken seriously Congress' mandate to open Japan's auto market.

Imposing penalties on Japan has my full support. In the weeks ahead, as Democratic cochair of the auto caucus here, I urge United States representative Mickey Kantor to hang tough for America and fight as hard as he can to

increase our access to Japan's market. If this Nation were to achieve auto trade equity with Japan we could build 100 new factories in this country, each employing 5,000 people. That is how big the gap really is.

The United States has trade balances with every other major trading partner in the world but for Japan. So for Japan, the time has come.

□ 1200

TOP 10 TACTICS OF THE NEW MINORITY IN THE POSTCONTRACT PERIOD

(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, from the home office in Scottsdale, AZ—here are the top 10 tactics of the new minority in the postcontract period.

No. 10. Change the name of "Medicare" to "Mediscare";

No. 9. Hire Freddy Krueger as the new liberal Democrat spokesman;

No. 8. Get Leon Panetta to take likeability lessons;

No. 7. Set up a new political action committee—the "Whine producers"—w-h-i-n-e;

No. 6. Insist that it is relevant to carp, complain, and sit on the sidelines instead of offering policy alternatives;

No. 5. Put an ostrich ranch here on the Hill to mimic the practice of putting heads in the sand to hide from problems;

No. 4. Insist that a bigger Federal Government is the only way to meet any challenge;

No. 3. Get the Department of Education to change the name of "addition" to "subtraction";

No. 2. Revise history to say the credibility gap was a good thing;

And the No. 1 postcontract tactic of the new minority—grouse, grouch, grumble, and mumble—do anything but cooperate.

SIMPLE ARITHMETIC: TAX BREAKS FOR THE WEALTHY PROVIDED BY BUDGET CUTS

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

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, and people back in the Ninth District, those who I talked to while I was out there, it is flim-flam time. You heard the Republicans on the other side say they are not cutting Medicare. CBO says they are cutting Medicare. They say the increase they give is far below the level that is estimated that is needed to maintain the current level of Medicare benefits required under current law. They say "Yes, we are increasing it," but what about all the other people, for current beneficiaries, they say, "What about all the other people that are coming?"

Mr. Speaker, if you take the tax break, the big tax break out of the

budget, out of their budget, there is no need to cut Medicare one penny. There is no need to cut student loans, there is no need to cut agriculture and veterans' benefits, there is no need to do those things. They are doing it in order to give tax breaks to the wealthy.

It is very simple arithmetic. We had a gentleman there talk about classrooms. Yes, do the arithmetic. Take the tax break for the wealthy out of the budget and see what that equals. That equals more than the Medicare cuts for the elderly and the agriculture cuts and the student loan cuts.

IT IS TIME TO BALANCE THE BUDGET

(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, once again I think we can see clearly that Medicare spending goes up from \$4,700 per recipient up to \$6,300 per recipient. It is not a cut, it is as simple as the figures right here.

Mr. Speaker, in 1969 Neil Armstrong set foot on the moon. Joe Namath predicted a Jets victory in Superbowl III and my home State, Ohio State, won the Rose Bowl. In 1969, that was the last time that Congress passed a balanced budget.

Today, 26 years later, the Republican majority is trying to repeat history. We have submitted a historic plan to once again balance the Federal budget. For the past 26 years, Congress let the Federal budgets grow and grow and grow. The social spending programs of the sixties ballooned and blossomed. They raised taxes, but they could not kick the spending habit. It is time, finally, that we balance this budget. We begin this week.

THE BOLD REPUBLICAN BUDGET

(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, we have seen the charts, but there is one line they do not have on the charts, where they say that there is an increase because it goes up to \$6,300 by the year 2002. They do not have the chart that shows where there is a \$1,000 cut for every senior citizen beyond what their expenses would be. They do not have the chart that shows the increased co-pays for senior citizens. They do not have the chart that shows the increased deductibility. They do not have the chart that shows the increased insurance premiums, not only for senior citizens, but for all insurance premium payers. They do not have those charts, because they do not want to show them to you.

The fact of the matter is cutting Medicare goes for a tax cut for the upper income. Mr. Speaker, I have