

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

heard a lot of talk about how bold this budget is. Congratulating the Republican leadership for being bold by presenting this budget is like congratulating Lizzie Borden for being on the cutting edge.

BEING RELEVANT VERSUS BEING CONSIDERED RELEVANT

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

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that some politicians are only concerned about being considered relevant rather than being relevant.

According to Webster's dictionary, relevant is having significant and demonstrable bearing on the matter at hand.

Relevant is improving the standard of living for our children. That means ridding ourselves of deficits.

Relevant is having significant and demonstrable bearing on the deficits that are mortgaging our children's futures. That means balancing the budget.

Relevant is having significant and demonstrable bearing on the impending bankruptcy of Medicare. That means fixing the problem now.

Relevant is having significant and demonstrable bearing on the spiralling cost of entitlement. That means controlling the growth in the programs, such as Medicaid.

Relevant is having significant and demonstrable bearing on the bloated Federal bureaucracy intruding in the average citizens life. That means eliminate entire agencies and departments.

Relevant is doing what is right by our seniors and our children.

MEMBERS NEED TO STAND UP AND OPPOSE THE REPUBLICAN BUDGET PLAN

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

Mr. WARD. Mr. Speaker, Medicare is being cut in the Republican budget proposal, make no mistake about it. They are reducing the projected spending level, which means higher co-pays, reduced benefits, and reduced services. Why? Why are they doing this? To pay for a tax break for the wealthy. It is a cut in Medicare to pay for a tax break for the wealthy. If there were no tax break in this bill, there would be no need for the reduction in projected spending in Medicare in this budget.

Mr. Speaker, we need to stand up and oppose this plan.

COME HOME, DEMOCRATS

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Democratic Party that once inspired our Nation by proclaiming "We have nothing to fear but fear itself" today has nothing to offer but fear.

The same party that once rallied Americans from the depths of the Depression today ignores the decline wrought by exploding Federal deficits. The same party whose leaders once warned of the dangers of welfare dole today defends a welfare state that traps the poor in dependency and despair. And the same party that marshalled the free world in the fight against Nazis today silently ignores an economic Dunkirk in Medicare.

There is an alternative for Democrats to this defense of the status quo. And it is well within the Democratic Party tradition. Our balanced budget upholds the tradition of Jefferson by ending the practice of saddling future generations with debt. It affirms the tradition of Roosevelt by providing for a strong, effective government that prepares for the future. And it celebrates the tradition of Kennedy by spurring growth through tax relief.

Come home Democrats: Restore the American dream and the proud tradition of America's oldest party by supporting our balanced budget.

THE REPUBLICAN BUDGET IS A BAD IDEA

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, this week we can see what the Republican majority is all about: tax breaks for the wealthy, tax loopholes for special interests, increases in military spending. How to pay for those tax loopholes, how to pay for those special interest tax breaks, how to pay for military spending increases? By cutting student loans for middle class families, by cutting veterans' benefits, by cutting Medicare.

Nearly 37 million senior citizens will pay more out of pocket costs, will suffer a reduction in benefits, and will lose their right to choose their doctor. Cuts in Medicare, veterans, students, to pay for tax breaks for the rich. Mr. Speaker, I am a deficit hawk. I voted for the balanced budget amendment, but the Republican budget is a bad idea.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE READY FOR REAL ACTION ON THE DEBT

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

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, during the district work period and subsequently, many of us have had town meetings and conversations with the good people we were elected to serve. One message that has come through

loud and clear is that the American people want Congress to work together to solve the great problems facing this great Nation. They know that the Medicare trust fund is going bankrupt. They understand that the burgeoning debt will destroy our children's economic future.

As Churchill reminded us, the American people did not cross the oceans, ford the streams, traverse the mountains, and deal with the droughts and pestilence because they are made of sugar candy. The American people are tough. They are ready for real solutions, but they will not accept simply lining up every day and yapping like a bunch of toy poodles while the debt balloons and Medicare goes bankrupt. The American people want real action. The American people are ready.

THE REPUBLICAN BUDGET WILL CUT MEDICARE AND NEEDED SERVICES TO STUDENTS AND THE ELDERLY WHILE GIVING TAX BREAKS TO THE RICH

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

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, we have looked at the charts and we have looked at the graphs. They keep talking about the fact that "We are increasing Medicare, we are not decreasing Medicare." It is like a friend of mine who made \$100 a week back in 1960 saying he got a raise because he makes \$150 now. You have to adjust for inflation, you have to adjust for more people going into the system. This is not an increase. In fact, it is a very large decrease.

In my area in southwestern Pennsylvania, if this Republican proposal to cut Medicare this much goes through, our hospitals tell us that half of the hospitals in southwestern Pennsylvania will close. Many of those hospitals get 60 percent of their money from Medicare reimbursements, because 1 in 5 residents in southwestern Pennsylvania are on Medicare.

Mr. Speaker, this is a budget that would in fact also cut student loans by \$19 billion, that is an average of \$5,000 a year, by charging interest to students while they are in college. We do not want to give them an education so they can get a better job, and when they get older, we want to take their Medicare away; also, so we can give \$20,000 tax breaks every year to the richest 1 million Americans. Unfair, Mr. Speaker.

CONGRESS MUST AVOID RECKLESS BUDGET CUTS IN AGRICULTURE

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