

about a problem, but it takes real leadership to actually work to solve a problem.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans are showing leadership by producing real solutions to the real problems facing Medicare today. If the Clinton Democrats want to be relevant, I say it is time to put up or shut up. It is time to act responsibly and offer solutions, not criticisms.

OFFERING SOME SOLUTIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. For what purpose does the gentleman from Massachusetts rise?

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. I ask unanimous consent to offer some solutions, for 1 minute.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is recognized for 1 minute.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, well, one solution to the problem would be not to build more B-2 bombers that we do not need, not to build more Sea Wolf submarines, not to add billions to the President's budget for defense, and instead put that into Medicare.

Medicare does need some help, and if the Republicans would stop increasing military spending beyond what we need and instead use it for Medicare, that would help, in particular.

We heard the most astounding thing today. The chairman of the Committee on Rules said that an amendment offered by the second ranking Democrat on the Committee on Armed Services could not be debated, and it would have allowed the House to vote on whether or not we should add \$9 billion over the President's request for the military.

They want to raise the budget by \$9 billion in that regard, and the chairman of the Committee on Rules said, "Oh, no, it is too delicate. We are negotiating now with the Senate, so we cannot let you vote on it." In other words, to preserve their negotiating position with the Senate, apparently knowing that it is a weak one, they will muffle this House, they will stifle this House.

And so you want to help Medicare? Do not waste that \$9 billion. Use it where it is needed.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 1764, AN ACT TO END PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT

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

Mr. FUNDERBURK. Mr. Speaker, of all of the ideas invented by the American left, none has been more destructive to the American notion of fair play and equal justice than affirmative action. It has changed America from a country grounded in individual rights to one where justice is determined by what is done for and to one's racial or ethnic group.

Discrimination is wrong, period, and affirmative action is nothing more

than discrimination with the Federal seal of approval. That is why on June 7, I introduced H.R. 1764, an act to end preferential treatment. Based on the California Civil Rights Initiative and introduced in the other body by Senators HELMS and SMITH, H.R. 1764 eliminates all Federal affirmative action programs in public employment, public contracting, and programs providing race-based benefits in education. H.R. 1764, puts America on the color-blind path envisioned by true believers in civil rights. It puts us on the road where skill and initiative determines an American's future, rather than skin color or where his parents came from.

Mr. Speaker, it really is long past time to end affirmative action. Support H.R. 1764, and put America back where it belongs.

HEALTH CARE REDUCTIONS, TAX BREAKS FOR SPECIAL INTERESTS

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, Republicans continue to talk about the tough choices they have had to make in crafting their budget. I agree. Choosing to take health care away from our seniors in order to pay for special interest tax breaks is certainly a tough choice, and I cannot understand why they made it.

Why did they choose lower payments to hospitals in order to give tax breaks to large corporations? Why did they choose higher premiums and higher copayments for seniors of all income levels, in order to lower taxes for the most affluent? Why are they giving seniors fewer choices of doctors so that gas and oil companies get away with paying no taxes?

Mr. Speaker, only in Republican Washington is this reckless attack on our seniors called a reduction in the rate of increase.

PRIORITIES OF FEDERAL ASSISTANCE IN OKLAHOMA CITY

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

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, as we know, there was a horrible tragedy in Oklahoma City, and our Federal Government has responded accordingly, as they do to other natural emergencies or manmade emergencies. They go down and offer assistance to help the affected area rebuild, and that is exactly what they have done in Oklahoma City.

First of all, keep in mind what is above the Speaker. It says, "In God we trust." The Federal Government went down there and said to the businesses in Oklahoma City, "Whether you own a saloon, whether you own a moviehouse that shows X-rated films," not exactly regardless, but almost regardless, "we will help you rebuild. There is one ex-

ception. The only people trust will not help rebuild in Oklahoma City are churches. Churches, don't you come to the Government and ask for one penny. Forget the fact that you were the temporary mortuary. Forget the fact the FBI used you as a headquarters. Forget the fact you suffered damage like every other business in Oklahoma City. We are the Federal Government. We will help the local saloon. We are not going to help the local church."

What do you call this? In God trust?

What a great thing to hear about the Federal Government: Not one penny for a local church.

RESUMPTION OF NUCLEAR TESTING BY FRANCE IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC WOULD RAISE DEEP CONCERNS

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

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deep concern about the possible resumption of nuclear testing by the Government of France in the South Pacific.

Not only does the resumption of testing raise serious environmental concerns for the people of the Pacific who have unfortunately gained a firsthand appreciation of the hazards of nuclear weapons over the past 50 years, but this issue has a larger international dynamic.

Only a few weeks ago, some 170 nations agreed to extend the Non-Proliferation Treaty indefinitely. Central to that decision was the expectation that the nuclear weapons states would complete a comprehensive nuclear test ban on all nuclear testing no later than 1996 and that they will refrain from testing until that time.

A resumption of French testing will destroy this historic opportunity and seriously undermine international efforts to curb the proliferation of nuclear weapons. With the recent Chinese nuclear test, this is the time to stand our ground and affirm our leadership on the nuclear test ban issue.

Today, I am initiating a letter to President Clinton urging him to receive assurances from French President Jacques Chirac in their meeting tomorrow that France will continue its current testing moratorium. I encourage my colleagues to join me in signing this important letter. Let us say bon jour to the President, but au revoir to French testing.

LIBERALS OFFER NO IDEAS, ONLY FEAR

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

Mr. BAKER of California. Mr. Speaker, President Franklin Roosevelt said "We have nothing to fear but fear itself."

Winston Churchill told the British people, "I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat."

The liberals in this chamber have decided to put those two bold and spirited quotes together to come up with their new motto, "We have nothing to offer but fear itself."

Everyday we see a parade of liberals come down to the well, not to shed light and clarify, but to distort and sow fear.

They tell seniors we are slashing Medicare, when the truth is that we are increasing spending on Medicare by 33 percent per senior over the next 7 years.

They tell children we are going to take their lunches away, when the truth is we will spend more on them, 4.5 percent more each year.

They tell students we are going to cut student loans, when the truth is we are strengthening the student loan program.

All the liberals offer is fear. No ideas. No plans of their own. No leadership.

What would Franklin Roosevelt think.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

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

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my concern over Monday's Supreme Court decision on affirmative action. I believe this ruling sends the wrong message.

I believe there is no justification in diminishing the power of the Federal Government in building a diverse workplace and ensuring opportunity for all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, the American people should know that affirmative action does not promote unqualified people and firms into jobs and institutions. Instead, it has provided minorities and women equal access to education, jobs, and contracts.

Affirmative action is an important tool to address the persistent dilemma of racial and gender inequality and discrimination. Now more than ever before, we need affirmative action because the scars and stains of racism and bigotry are still deeply embedded in the American society. We cannot go back and we must not go back.

MEDICARE IS IN DANGER

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

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, Medicare is in danger. President Clinton's own trustees say Medicare will be broke in 7 years. Seven years. That means that if your parents, or grandparents, are 58 years old, there will be no Medicare for them when they become eligible at age 65.

Mr. Speaker, our senior citizens depend on Medicare for their day-to-day

medical needs. Republicans are determined to ensure that they can continue to depend on it by strengthening and protecting the current Medicare system.

We will cut the waste and fraud from Medicare and increase the amount we spend on each recipient. We will create a series of new choices within the current system so seniors are not forced into a system they do not want.

Mr. Speaker, the bottom line is, seniors want a Medicare system that offers the best care at the lowest cost and gives them maximum control over their own health care. Republicans will give them that system.

NATIONAL LABORATORIES

(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, the Republican budget plan makes drastic cuts in high-tech energy research at our National Laboratories. It cuts the fossil energy and energy conservation research and development by more than half. This is shortsighted and wasteful.

These cuts will come at a time when Labs such as those at Las Alamos and Sandia in my home State of New Mexico are making critical breakthroughs in the civilian applications of research in areas such as energy production and conservation, pollution control, and pharmaceutical design.

In addition to their important work in technologies which provide for our national security, these research developments will make American industry more efficient and safer for the environment, as well as more competitive in the global market.

Competitive American industry means more jobs for Americans, Mr. Speaker. Our National Labs are essential to this goal.

EVEN THE PRESIDENT SAYS THERE HAVE TO BE SOME CHANGES

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

Mr. HOKE. Good news, America. We are finally going to get to the point in the Medicare debate where we are going to actually talk about the facts.

As you know, back in March the Medicare trustees said the fund is projected to be exhausted in 2001, and yet we have heard repeatedly the big lie, that Republicans are slashing Medicare. In fact, finally the President has said just yesterday—well, it was on Sunday that he said, "No one seriously believes that the budget can be balanced unless we can reduce the rate of increase in Medicare costs," and then he went on to say, "As you know, I believe—well, let me say there are going to have to be some changes. We cannot

leave the system the way it is. There have to be some changes."

Thank goodness. Finally we are going to be able to talk rationally about this, come up with solutions, work together in a bipartisan way and stop throwing stones, as we have seen in the well here for the past several months on Medicare. It is not a political issue; it is a policy problem for the senior citizens of this country and for the next generation as well.

WHY I OPPOSE THE KASICH AMENDMENT

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

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in very strong support of the funding provided in the House Committee on Armed Services bill for long-lead funding for three additional B-2 bombers. I served on the Defense Subcommittee for 17 years and remember well when President Carter and Secretary Brown made the decision to go ahead with the stealth bomber.

I am convinced that in the Gulf War one of the reasons that we were able to win the war quickly and convincingly is the effective work of the F-117, the stealth attack aircraft. It was able to go into the most heavily defended areas and with 2,000 pound precision-guided munitions take out enemy surface-to-air missiles. That is an amazing capability.

The B-2 has 8 times the carrying capacity of the F-117. It can go 6 times as far. I am convinced that in the future it presents us with the potential of a conventional deterrent. If we load it up with smart conventional weapons, we can stop an enemy division from invading in the future into Kuwait.

So, Mr. Speaker, I hope we will support the committee and oppose the Kasich amendment.

REPUBLICANS PLEDGED TO SAVE MEDICARE

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

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, here is a quote from the Medicare trustees report: "Under all sets of assumptions, the trust fund is predicted to become exhausted even before the major demographic shift begins."

In other words, the trustees have considered the impending bankruptcy of Medicare from many different angles and have concluded that, no matter what calculations are used, Medicare is going broke. Not only is Medicare going broke, it will go broke even before the baby boomers begin to retire. In fact, it will be bankrupt in about 7 years, if nothing is done.

Mr. Speaker, saving Medicare is not about calculus. It is not about numbers. It is about people who are 58