

years old today who will not have the benefit of Medicare when they retire in 2002. It is about our parents and grandparents whose health care needs are met today because of Medicare.

Republicans will not let Medicare go broke. We are acting to protect, preserve, and save Medicare. And, we will not break faith with the generation that guided America through the Depression, a world war, and the cold war.

CHANGING THE DIET THAT IS POISONING THE MINDS OF OUR CHILDREN

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

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, Americans have been reading much about the violence, the sex, the vulgarity that is on the media today. It is a constant diet, and it is children that are consuming that diet.

We will offer legislation to the telecommunications bill when it reaches the floor, and I would hope that my colleagues would support that legislation because what it does is to empower parents to block out programs that contain explicit violence, gratuitous sex and vulgarity, even when those parents are not able to be home looking over the shoulders of their children to see what they are watching.

We require that a V chip be inserted in all new manufactured television sets. This is not a burdensome requirement when produced in quantity. It is only about \$5 per television set, but it is the kind of technology we ought to use to change the diet that is poisoning the minds of our children day in and day out.

Mr. Speaker, I would appreciate my colleagues' support for this measure.

INCREASES IN MEDICARE AND MEDICAID WHILE REDUCING THE RATE OF GROWTH

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

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I would like to read the words of President Bill Clinton:

Today Medicaid and Medicare are going up at three times the rate of inflation. We propose to let it go up at two times the rate of inflation.

That is about 6 percent. The House bill is 5 percent, the Senate is 6 percent, the same exact thing as Bill Clinton said.

That is not a Medicare or Medicaid cut. So, when you hear all this business about cuts, let me caution you that that is not what is going on. We are going to have increases in Medicare and Medicaid and reduction in the rate of growth.

And the President said, "Well, I tied that to a health care bill." Well, remember the President's health care bill got zero votes from any Democrats or Republicans?

We need to save the health care system, revise insurance and tort reform and others but, yes, we are going to increase the amount of Medicare spending from \$4,800 to \$6,400 per person, and they said, "Well, is there pain?"

Think about the pain of a senior citizen on a fixed income having to increase their Medicare premiums by 300 percent. They cannot do it. We need to protect the system.

WHITE HOUSE WEATHER VANE HAS SHIFTED AGAIN

(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, meanwhile, back at the White House, the weather vane has shifted again. After months of silence, inaction and a game of where is Bill, the President has decided to enter the balanced budget debate.

I ask, "Well, isn't that a risky thing to do? The House has already passed its balanced budget, the Senate has already passed its balanced budget. Why not go ahead and place a bet on the Houston versus Orlando game while you're at it, Mr. President?"

But, as my colleagues know, it is going to be typical, a 5-minute speech to balance the budget, no words, no chart, no math, no particular plans, just words, words from this administration.

Well, that is reassuring. But I welcome his reemergence. We need to have a debate, and, even if it is after the fact, let us get on with it.

RESTORE AMERICAN PATENT RIGHTS TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, unbeknownst to most Americans and many of my colleagues, a provision was snuck into last year's GATT implementing legislation that dramatically reduces the certain patent protection enjoyed by Americans, American inventors and American inventors for over 100 years. It was a rip-off of the control and benefit of technology that was created by our own people and by the technology that was created by the investors who helped finance that technology.

I have a bill, H.R. 359, with 168 cosponsors, to restore America's patent rights before the damage is done. Well, while my bill is being held hostage and prisoner by the subcommittee, and no one has been able to hold a hearing on my bill with 168 cosponsors, adding insult to injury, another bill has been heard, and what does this bill do?

This new piece of patent legislation, and get this, Mr. and Mrs. America, said, "If our inventors file for a patent,

18 months after they file, whether they are issued or not, the patent, the patent is published, meaning the whole world is going to get to see what our inventors and investors have come up with even before the patent is issued." It is a come in here and steal our technology bill.

That piece of legislation has to stop. Restore American patent rights to the American people.

OUR PILOTS ARE WORTH IT

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

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues, today we are going to be voting on a very important measure, the measure offered by the gentleman from California [Mr. DELLUMS] and the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. KASICH] to cut the B-2 bomber, and that vote, I think, is very much related to an incident that happened just a few days ago, and that was the shooting down of the F-16 aircraft that was carrying our pilot, Scott O'Grady, over the skies of Bosnia.

During Vietnam, Mr. Speaker, we lost 2,300 aircraft, shot down, most of them picked up on SAM radar, surface-to-air missile radar, made in the Soviet Union, and hit by SAM missiles. So we developed a new technology, an ability to evade radar. That is a stealth technology that is embodied in the B-2 bomber.

If we deny the B-2 bomber to our pilots, we are going to be doing something we never did in the history of American aviation, and that is tell our pilots and the crews that we had a system that could have protected them, but we did not do it. We did not buy it because we thought it was too expensive and they were not worth it.

THAT IS THE REST OF THE STORY

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

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, I have waited and heard a lot about Medicare, people saying there are distortions coming from this side of the aisle and so on. As noted radio commentator Paul Harvey says, "Let's hear the rest of the story."

For those who say the President's remarks the other day with the Speaker said there must be Medicare cuts, the President has always said that Medicare must be restructured, but in the context of total health care and bringing total health care costs down.

To those who keep holding up the bloody shirt of the trustees' report, but let me say that that trustees' report, and indeed one of the trustees, has said, "You can solve Medicare's problems by cutting far less than what the Republican balanced budget proposal does."

For those who say that it is really we who are talking about increases in

Medicare, not cuts, what about the senior citizen who will pay \$3,500 more out of pocket over the next 7 years, pay more deductibles and copayments?

The rest of the story is very clear. All these reductions in Medicare go not to balancing the budget, but to paying for a tax cut for the wealthiest individuals, mostly the wealthiest individuals in this country. One and a half percent of the people get 51 percent of the tax cut benefits, and yet a hundred percent of senior citizens end up paying up to \$3,500 more.

Now that is the rest of the story.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WICKER). As 1-minute speeches have almost concluded, the Chair will again remind Members to refrain from references and debate on matters pending before the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct.

□ 1430

DEEP CUTS NEEDED IN AID

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 2 minutes and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, last week I offered an amendment to the foreign aid bill to cut the Agency for International Development's operating expenses by \$69 million from the Committee on International Relations recommendation of \$465 million. The committee cut the administration's request by just 10 percent. My amendment would have cut the administration's request by 23 percent from what AID received in 1995.

Unbelievably, that amendment was defeated. Those who opposed it said AID would not be able to economize and prioritize under such a reduced budget and would have to close down.

That is just hogwash, Mr. Speaker. If congressional committees can reduce their staffs by 30 percent and the General Accounting Office can reduce its staff by 15 percent, then AID, the most notorious abuser of taxpayers' dollars, can cut its operating expenses by 23 percent.

Since 1985, AID's program costs have gone down by 23 percent, yet their operating expenses, even though they have had their program costs go down, their operating expenses have increased by 41 percent.

AID should have to tighten its belt just like everybody else in this country and Government. Listen to what Sally Shelton, a senior staffer at AID, said in a message she sent to the AID's field offices:

Larry Byrne, the Assistant Director of AID, announced that AID was 62 percent through this fiscal year, and we have only spent 38 percent of the dollar volume of procurement actions completed. We need to do \$1.9 billion in additional spending in the next

five months. There are large pockets of money in the field, so let's get moving.

In essence what they are saying is they want to blow \$1.9 billion as quickly as possible because they are two-thirds of the way through the year and they have only spent one-third of the money.

AID is on a spending orgy. It needs to be stopped and I call on my colleagues on the Appropriations Committee to do the right thing and make deeper cuts in AID.

RESTRICT AID UNTIL RUSSIA ENDS WORK ON BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS

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

Mr. DORNAN. Mr. Speaker, I guess all of the people who track our proceedings electronically before they pour over the written CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the next day, Mr. Speaker, are aware we have taken a break to pay homage to a beloved Member of this Chamber for 20 years, Les Aspin, the former Secretary of Defense, and who was heading up an important intelligence reform committee when God took him.

He is now in heaven, because he was a good man, talking to all those Rangers and Delta Special Forces guys in the 160th Special Ops Aviation Regiment at Fort Campbell, the world's very, very best helicopter air crews, he is talking to all those guys and working out what went wrong, that our men did not have their gunships overhead, their Spectre Hercules AC-130 gunships and did not have tanks. I guess Les has found out by now what laws were violated that we had two Bradley fighting vehicles and two M-1 Abrams tanks at Waco, four armored vehicles, against U.S. law, posse comitatus, no military equipment to ever be used against civilians. Why did not they have a F-16 fighter roll in and strafe Waco, just outside, to scare them, and make them all run out choking with tear gas, which, of course, 22 children could not do.

So there are a lot of things that went wrong under Les in the end. But you have to take a man's whole life, and Les's whole life was one of great activity and work and dedication to his country.

I wish this defense bill was not so critical, I am glad I am a chairman, one of FLOYD SPENCE's five subcommittee chairmen, but I have got to say here and prepare for the debate, and that is what I want to talk about.

We will have an amendment coming up, Mr. Speaker, and all colleagues listening in their offices and all staffers listening and 1.5 million people watching on C-SPAN, on the Soviet continuing ongoing effort to develop weapons of mass destruction in the ugly area of biological warfare. So here is my "Dear

Colleague." It saves some of you who will miss reading it.

Dear Colleague: I will be offering an amendment today, not this week, with the support of the leadership of the National Security Committee, that would restrict cooperative threat reduction aid, a good idea, to the former Soviet Union. Restrict it, unless and until President Clinton certifies to Congress that Russia has terminated all work on offensive biological weapons. No such thing as defensive biological warfare. Senator SAM NUNN and Senator RICHARD LUGAR, both parties, their funding is designed to reduce the threat of weapons of mass destruction being used against our country or our allies by assisting our former enemy, the Russians, in dismantling their systems.

Unfortunately, the record of Russian compliance with the intent of this aid is very poor indeed. In the area of biological weapons, that is hot zone stuff, weapons that can be cheaply, cheaply manufactured and easily proliferated to potential U.S. adversaries, their record is dreadful. Consider the following regarding continued Russian work under Yeltsin on offensive biological weapons, sometimes known as the poor man's atomic bomb.

Russia continues to invest in biological weapons. In 1993, according to press reports, defecting Russian scientists, quoting from the Washington Post, Vladimir Pasechnik, revealed that the Soviet Union and Russia had violated the 1972 Biological Weapons Convention, we are signatories, that outlaws the development or production of bacteriological weapons by continuing to produce such weapons. Pasechnik had recently served in an organization known as Biopreparat, with about 400 other scientists working on genetic engineering of germ weapons.

This is sick in the sense of civilization, it is diabolically evil. Four hundred scientists working on it.

This defector claims Russia has developed a super plague, this means beyond the Ebola virus, beyond the AIDS virus, a super plague, that could kill half of the population of a major city in 1 week. Former CIA Director Robert Gates testified in 1993 that the CIA believes the Russian military is continuing to work clandestinely on illegal biological weapons without the knowledge of Russian civilian leaders.

End of Post story, not know as an organ of the dispensing of conservative information.

I close, Mr. Speaker, by saying we are spending hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars on a program to reduce the Russian nuclear threat, yet they continue to work on offensive biological weapons.

This amendment of mine does not stop or reduce the aid, the Nunn-Lugar aid. Now that we are in the majority, you can call it Lugar-Nunn. It only conditions it on certification that such work on biological weapons has been terminated. I urge a yes vote on the Dornan language on this biological weapons program.