

that the American people want to get the financial affairs of this country in order, but not on the backs of our children and senior citizens and not while giving tax breaks to the richest people in America.

GET ON THE REFORM BANDWAGON

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

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, in New Hampshire this past weekend, President Clinton agreed with Speaker GINGRICH that Medicare is in trouble. In his own words, he said, "We cannot leave the system the way it is. There have to be some changes."

Mr. Speaker, it is nice to see the President of the United States recognizes a problem that affects millions of senior citizens in our country. However, I can't help thinking how nice it would be now to actually see Democrats produce some solutions to these problems.

Unfortunately, the Democrats around here have no ideas on how to fix the current Medicare crisis. Instead, they stand up day after day to whine and moan and complain about Republican actions on Medicare.

It would be nice to see the Democrats divert some of their energy into helping us develop solutions to preserve and protect Medicare. Join the President, join the Republicans. Let's preserve and protect a very good Medicare system. Stop whining, stop complaining, get on the reform bandwagon.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH A "CORRECTIONS CALENDAR IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES"

Mr. SOLOMON, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 104-144) on the resolution (H. Res. 168) amending clause 4 of rule XIII of the rules of the House to abolish the Consent Calendar and to establish in its place a Corrections Calendar, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

MEDICARE

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, for the last 30 years or so, most of the laws made by Congress assumed that Government was more efficient and more wise than any other institution in the country.

For instance, Medicare was implemented in the 1960's and was designed to provide health care, primarily to the elderly, based on the idea that Government could best distribute health care resources.

Since the creation, Medicare spending has increased dramatically. In fact,

Medicare part B has increased 5,400 percent since the creation of the program. Medicare is in such bad shape that even members of the President's own Cabinet admit that Medicare will be bankrupt in 7 years.

Mr. Speaker, buried deep in the philosophy of programs like Medicare is the assumption that Government has all the answers. It does not. It is time for the American people, both Republicans and Democrats, to work together to save Medicare. It is not too late to preserve and protect it before it goes broke.

WHERE'S THE BEEF?

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, for years Washington politicians have been asking, Where's the beef? I can honestly answer this morning, we found the beef. It is grazing on the beltway, 12 errant bovines on the beltway, running around recklessly, grazing at will, and some people say they are just restless, it is the breeding season.

I say, Mr. Speaker, they are looking for the budget. The President has one, the House has one, the Senate has one. The truth is the American people know there is a lot of bovine flatulence down here, and the American people want to know where the cash cow really is.

I say let's develop a budget that creates some jobs. Where's the beef politically? Sad to say, it is on the beltway.

IMPROVING CHILD-PROOF MEDICINE CAPS

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

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday was a rare example of how Government can work with industry—instead of against them—on regulations that will improve safety. I am referring to the decision by the Consumer Product Safety Commission on child-proof medicine caps.

New Jersey is home to 15 major pharmaceutical companies with over 83 facilities statewide. The industry employs over 56,000 New Jerseyans and contributes close to \$10 billion to our State's economy.

Child-proof caps have become so hard to remove—especially for our elderly—that adults leave the bottles open or switch the drugs to pill boxes, where kids can easily get into them. The result was that more children were ingesting dangerous substances.

In February, during a VA-HUD appropriations hearing, I asked that the commission work with industry to fix this problem. Yesterday's ruling does just that.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the commission and industry for working together. This is a win-win result and I am glad that I was able to play a part.

This rule should improve child safety and make older Americans' lives easier—what could be better?

FIXING A BROKEN MEDICARE SYSTEM

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

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, it is part of American conventional wisdom that if it ain't broke, then don't fix it, but Medicare is broke because it is going broke. The Medicare board of trustees said in March in their 1995 annual report on Medicare, that the program is severely out of financial balance and is expected to be exhausted in 2001.

It is broke because it is going broke. We have a responsibility to fix it. That is what this debate is all about. If you look at the numbers that we are talking about, the way that we fix it is in terms of numbers. We increase the spending from \$4,800 per recipient per year to \$6,400 per recipient per year. In other words, we go from about \$400 a month per person to about \$550 a month per person. But the real challenge is working out the details of how that is done.

I am confident that we can do that. I am confident that based on where the private sector has gone to squeeze out money in the medical system, that we can do it. But what we need is the help of the Democrats, we need the help of the President, we need the help of the public. We need our own people, and we need to all work together to come up with a solution that will in fact fix this system.

IN SUPPORT OF THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET

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

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the budget that our President introduced this week. It is a thoughtful, fiscally responsible, and compassionate approach to the most difficult challenge that faces this governing body.

The President has included those items that are least justifiable in terms of the Federal role. It goes after the corporate tax subsidies, the most egregious ones. It follows up on the down payment we made on balancing the budget in 1993, the Omnibus Budget and Reconciliation Act, by keeping the spending caps on domestic discretionary programs.

Most importantly, it reforms the health care system. It has the insurance reforms that we have reached consensus on, that need to be made. It does not take money from the recipients of our programs in the way that most of the Medicare cuts that are included in the Republican budget do.

But what it does is to go after the providers, the providers that, in fact, have been taking most of the increase

in health care costs, the insurers, the facilities, and even some of the physicians. What we need is a reform that affects everyone, where everyone contributes a reasonable share to balancing the budget, to achieving what has got to be our Nation's foremost objective. The President's plan does that in 10 years, it does it in a responsible way, one that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle ought to support.

PERMISSION FOR COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AND THEIR SUBCOMMITTEES TO SIT TODAY DURING 5-MINUTE RULE

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the following committees and their subcommittees be permitted to sit today while the House is meeting in the Committee of the Whole House under the 5-minute rule:

Committee on Commerce, and Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities.

It is my understanding that the minority has been consulted and that there is no objection to these requests.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, we have been consulted about this request. We have no objection.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1996

Mr. QUILLEN. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 167 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 167

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 1(b) of rule XXIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1817) making appropriations for military construction for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule.

Points of order against provisions in the bill for failure to comply with clause 2 or 6 of rule XXI are waived. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 6 of rule XXIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit.

SEC. 2. (a) For purposes of sections 302 and 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 as they apply in the House of Representatives to the Committee on Appropriations and to the consideration of general appropriation bills, amendments thereto, or conference reports thereon, the Congress shall be considered to have adopted House Concurrent Resolution 67 in the form adopted by the House on May 18, 1995.

(b) The allocations of spending and credit responsibilities to the Committee on Appropriations that are depicted in House Report 104-120, beginning on page 144, shall be considered as the allocations required by section 602(a) of that Act to be included in the joint explanatory statement of the managers on a conference report to accompany a concurrent resolution on the budget.

(c) This section shall cease to apply upon final adoption by the House and the Senate of a concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 1996.

□ 1020

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BURTON of Indiana). The gentleman from Tennessee [Mr. QUILLEN] is recognized for 1 hour.

(Mr. QUILLEN asked and was given permission to include extraneous material.)

Mr. QUILLEN. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. HALL], pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 167 is an open rule providing for the consideration of H.R. 1817, the Military Construction Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 1996. The rule provides 1 hour of general debate divided equally between the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations.

The rule waives clause 2 of rule XXI, prohibiting unauthorized appropriations and legislation in an appropriations bill, and also waives clause 6 of rule XXI, prohibiting reappropriations, against provisions of the bill.

Additionally, the rule provides that the spending and credit allocations to the Committee on Appropriations con-

tained in the House-passed budget resolution shall apply for budget act enforcement purposes until final adoption of a budget resolution. Under the rule, the chair may accord priority in recognition to Members who have preprinted their amendments in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Finally, the rule allows one motion to recommit.

Mr. Speaker, the waivers provided in this rule are necessary since the defense authorization bill has not yet become law. I'm not aware of any objection to such waivers, and there was bipartisan support for this rule by the Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction and by the Rules Committee.

Mr. Speaker, this is a special occasion that deserves proper recognition. As Members know, our colleague from Nevada, BARBARA VUCANOVICH, is the chair of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction. She is the first woman to chair an appropriations subcommittee in 40 years. And all I can say, Mr. Speaker, it is about time and I cannot think of anyone more deserving of this distinction than Mrs. VUCANOVICH. She has served this Congress with dedication and commitment for over 12 years, and she is one of the most highly respected Members of the House. I applaud her hard work and bipartisan spirit in working together with the ranking minority member, BILL HEFNER, in bringing forward this first of the 13 appropriation bills. They did an outstanding job of addressing the important housing needs, base realignment and closure costs, and construction requirements of the military.

Mr. Speaker, it is estimated that about one-eighth of all military families living off-base reside in substandard housing. Additionally, more than one-half of the on-base family housing units are unsuitable and in need of significant repair. We've all heard stories of military families whose standard of living is so low they qualify for food stamps. This is deplorable, and we have an obligation to ensure an adequate lifestyle for those patriotic, dedicated men and women who have chosen to serve this country and are willing to put their lives on the line to defend America.

About 72 percent of the projects in this bill are for the construction of new barracks, family housing, and child development centers—money well spent in my opinion.

Mr. Speaker, this open rule will allow all Members to fully participate in the amendment process, and I urge its adoption.

Mr. Speaker, I submit the following materials for the RECORD: