

the Capitol Grounds. He said, in short, "while the derby doesn't keep kids off the street, it does give them a drug free activity on the street."

The young people involved spend many months preparing for this race. The day they actually compete provides them with a sense of achievement and comraderie, not only for themselves but also for their families and friends.

This worthwhile event provides the participants, tourists, and local residents with a safe and enjoyable day of activities. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate them for their achievements and wish them all well in this year's race.

Again, I want to thank the Transportation Committee for its continued support of the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby and I encourage all of my colleagues to attend this year's race.

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, further reserving the right to object, I join my colleague Mr. GILCHREST in supporting House Concurrent Resolution 38, a resolution to authorize the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby. The event is scheduled for July 15, 1995, and part of the Capitol Grounds as well as Constitution Ave. NE., will be used for the race.

Boys and girls, ages 9 through 16, design, build and race their own soap box cars. In the process they become familiar with the principles of aerodynamics and mechanics. In addition, the entire family can participate in, and enjoy the fun and activities of the day.

The winner of the Washington race will then compete in the national competition in Akron, OH.

This is a very worthwhile, well attended activity. I wish to commend Mr. HOYER for his support for this annual event, and urge support for House Concurrent Resolution 38.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

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

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 38

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring).

SECTION 1. AUTHORIZATION OF SOAP BOX DERBY RACES ON CAPITOL GROUNDS.

The Greater Washington Soap Box Derby Association (hereinafter in this resolution referred to as the "association") shall be permitted to sponsor a public event, soap box derby races, on the Capitol grounds on July 15, 1995, or on such other date as the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate may jointly designate.

SEC. 2. CONDITIONS.

The event to be carried out under this resolution shall be free of admission charge to the public and arranged not to interfere with the needs of Congress, under conditions to be prescribed by the Architect of the Capitol and the Capitol Police Board; except that the

Association shall assume full responsibility for all expenses and liabilities incident to all activities associated with the event.

SEC. 3. STRUCTURES AND EQUIPMENT.

For the purposes of this resolution, the Association is authorized to erect upon the Capitol grounds, subject to the approval of the Architect of the Capitol, such stage, sound amplification devices, and other related structures and equipment as may be required for the event to be carried out under this resolution.

SEC. 4. ADDITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS.

The Architect of the Capitol and the Capitol Police Board are authorized to make any such additional arrangements that may be required to carry out the event under this resolution.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERMISSION FOR SUNDRY COMMITTEES AND THEIR SUBCOMMITTEES TO SIT TOMORROW, JUNE 28, 1995, DURING 5-MINUTE RULE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the following committees and their subcommittees be permitted to sit tomorrow while the House is meeting in the Committee of the Whole House under the 5-minute rule: The Committee on Agriculture; the Committee on Banking and Financial Services; the Committee on Commerce; the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities; the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight; the Committee on the Judiciary; the Committee on National Security; the Committee on Small Business; and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

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 Florida.

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, the gentlewoman is absolutely correct. The Democrat minority leadership has been consulted. We have no objection.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservations of objection.

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

There was no objection.

CUT WASTE, FRAUD, AND ABUSE IN MEDICARE

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I met with 100 senior citizens from my district to talk with them about the cuts they will be facing under this new Republican budget plan that came out of the conference committee. They do not understand

why leaders in Washington would cut their senior health care plan in order to finance a tax cut. Frankly, Mr. Speaker, I do not either.

I also had a chance to visit with some doctors who asked me not to cut Medicare. These doctors were declared Republicans. They said, for the first time in 30 years, they have been able to adequately provide health care for seniors through the Medicare program. We should cut fraud in Medicare by funding Operation Restore Trust, to eliminate fraud in health care, but we should not arbitrarily cut Medicare to finance our egregious tax cut plan.

The Republican budget agreement cuts Medicare, education, job training, and then cuts taxes. They want to cut taxes and also cut Medicare at the same time. Then they say that are not cutting Medicare to finance their tax break. Something is fishy.

Mr. Speaker, Congress should work hard to cut the waste, fraud, and abuse in Medicare. I hope we can agree that seniors should not be used to balance the budget for sound bites in Washington. Let us be fair to the students and seniors and not punish them for a balanced budget. It's not good government.

Mr. Speaker, I submit for the RECORD an article from the Houston Chronicle.

CONGRESSMEN WARN SENIORS OF GOP BUDGET CUTS

(By Stefanie Asin)

Democratic U.S. Reps. Dick Gephardt and Gene Green told about 100 senior citizens Monday the Republicans want to balance the budget at their expense.

The GOP wants a \$270 billion cut in Medicare and Medicaid spending, and if the GOP's budget agreement passes this week in the House, seniors could expect \$1,000 more a year in medical costs, said Gephardt, House minority leader from Missouri.

"It is wrong to do this," he said. "A lot of you live on your Social Security. You're already having trouble paying for rent, housing, groceries and prescription drugs."

Gephardt, who heard support from the seniors as he spoke, encouraged them to speak out and fight the proposed cuts. Congress should cut defense spending instead, he said.

"I strongly object to the priorities that have been set," said Green of Houston. "You can't balance the budget on the backs of the senior citizens."

Green said 286,000 Harris County senior citizens receive more than \$1.5 billion in Medicare payments annually and cannot afford to lose their health care.

GOP leaders say Medicare spending must be slowed before the system goes bankrupt. If Medicare payments continue at their current rate—\$4,700 to the average person per year—the fund will be bankrupt by 2002, said Tom Hoopes, spokesman for Rep. Bill Archer, R-Houston, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee.

"If we don't slow the increase, these people will get absolutely nothing," Hoopes said.

"We think it's foolhardy for political gain to spend too much now and end up with nothing after the next couple of elections. We would tell the senior citizens we are truly concerned about Medicare and its future."

Susie Davis, 85, and several others asked the congressmen many questions about how the Democratic and Republican proposals would affect them. Davis, who lives alone

with no family left, said she needs subsidized health care.

"I don't have anything else," she said. "It's bad to do us that way."

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

NATURALIZATION REMARKS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California, [Mr. FARR] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, as we approach the 4th of July celebrating our citizenship and the good fortune to live in a country where people can elect a government that derives its strength from the faith of the government, Let us take this moment during the 4th of July recess to reflect on a lot of people who will be citizens of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I am talking about the many of us who recognize that there are decent, productive, legal immigrants trying to become good and productive American citizens. Sometimes there is one thing in the way, a backlogged naturalization process.

As a Member of this Congress, I have worked with the administration towards eliminating the long backlogs and improving the naturalization process for many hard-working immigrants who wait as long as a year and a half to get naturalized after they have qualified to be naturalized.

Recently I supported the INS request to pour more funds into improving our naturalization system. This successful effort allows the INS to spend \$76.6 million to make progress, processing "adjustment of status applications" and "naturalization applications" much easier.

These critical funds will allow the INS to hire more than 1,000 much-needed additional staff and utilize newly improved technology to more efficiently process the surging backlogs.

It will help also in the INS efforts to improve customer service. It is very important to point out that the money for naturalization is not taxpayer money. It is from the immigrants themselves and from the application fees that they pay into the system.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to see that this unprecedented commitment by the INS to improve the naturalization process and eliminate many of the backlogs will allow many people to become citizens this next year. I ask my colleagues to join me in making the 4th of July a day in which our communities do their own swearing-in ceremonies, to welcome our newest citizens on board.

I will be performing such ceremonies in Watsonville, CA, on July 7. I hope a year from now that the President will

offer the lawn of the White House for the national 4th of July swearing-in ceremony and that every Member of this Congress will sponsor residents in their district of participate in such a swearing-in ceremony.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. BURTON] is recognized for 5 minutes

[Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Ms. JACKSON-LEE addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. FOLEY] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. FOLEY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon [Mr. DEFAZIO] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. GOSS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. GOSS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio [Ms. KAPTUR] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. RIGGS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. RIGGS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. HOKE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. HOKE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

FARM PROGRAMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. KINGSTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to speak briefly about one of the amendments we had today in the full Committee on Appropriations that had to do with some of the farm programs that are coming up.

This particular amendment had to do with the peanut program. The peanut program, like all of the agriculture programs, frankly are somewhat hard to describe and explain and they are very complicated. But one of the things that I think people need to keep in mind when we discuss agriculture is that, number one, the agriculture programs that we have were designed to give the American consumers an abundant supply of food and a steady supply, steady variety at reasonable prices. That has been achieved. American consumers spend 11 percent of their income on food compared to 20 percent in other countries and 33 percent in countries like the Soviet Union.

So when we talk about farm subsidies and farm programs and so forth, we need to keep in mind that the people who are being subsidized are not necessarily the farmers. They are the American consumers. Eleven percent of our income, again, Mr. Speaker, goes to groceries. Compared to other countries, America is favorably ahead.

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Number two, farm programs have been reduced from a \$26 billion level in 1987 to \$10.6 billion today, in 1995. If all the Federal Government programs had been reduced as much as agriculture programs, we would not have the deficit. We would be paying down the debt. No other agencies, with the exception of Defense, can claim that kind of cut in the last 8-year period of time.

Yet, Mr. Speaker, every time I pick up the newspapers, the big problem with the Federal budget seems to be agriculture. People do not keep that in mind.

Finally, let me say this. The farm bill is coming up. Every year we have a farm bill, and all these programs are up for negotiation right now. There are many, many Members who are moving these programs to a more traditional capitalist system. We are changing the status quo. We are moving towards no net cost programs.

I have noticed that the gentleman from central Georgia, SAXBY CHAMBLISS, has come down here. He is on the Committee on Agriculture. He is involved. I am happy to yield to the gentleman from Georgia. I know he has been involved in changing the peanut program to a no net cost program, and I know he is doing the same with many other programs.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.