

OSHA's new approach means nothing if we leave them the ability to change back to their old gestapo attitude whenever the political climate will tolerate it.

Meanwhile, OSHA's absurdities continue:

We heard about the specially designed rubber gloves used by Secret Service officials at the White House.

It was OSHA which cited serious violations of workers safety at Secret Service guard stations.

In speaking with over 15 guards at our own capitol buildings, I failed to find a single officer who had ever been cut or injured, or that had ever heard of an officer being cut or injured, while searching someone's belongings.

They do have rubber gloves, but are allowed to use them at their discretion.

But that's not all. Back in my home district, a dental office was recently cited with 11 violations, all of them serious and most of them for paperwork violations.

One violation included the office's written hazard communication.

The office took the OSHA approved guidelines from another dental office and used them.

OSHA cited them because they had scratched out the name of the dentist that originated the booklet and wrote in their office name.

To come into OSHA compliance the office had to retype the 65 page document, word for word.

In other citations, OSHA took the word of a disgruntled employee and made citations based on her accusations.

The dentist was cited for bloodying gloves while working on one patient, and then using the same gloves, still bloodied, on another patient.

It is difficult to believe that any dentist, or any patient for that matter, would allow that to happen.

He was also cited for putting used gloves in the same container as new gloves, even though OSHA found no evidence of either of these practices actually occurring.

It's time for OSHA to use a little common sense. It's time for real, permanent, and radical OSHA reform.

THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT IS BEING DERAILED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentlewoman from Colorado [Mrs. SCHROEDER] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, as time evolves we are seeing more and more about how things look and how things really are. I must say, as one of the people who has been very concerned about the Violence Against Women Act, because I think living rooms in America and kitchens in America are the classrooms of violence for many of our young people, I was so proud when this body passed the Violence Against Women Act, and what

did it pass by? It passed by 411 to 0, and you really cannot do any better than that. So, after 200-and-some years of this Republic, we finally decided that we would go right to the core of where a lot of this violence was starting, in the home, and we also realized that, if children see every single dispute solved, every single dispute solved with violence at home, they are not going to be able to be given a conflict-resolution course for a couple of hours in school to change their behavior. So, going in and really saying for the first time this country was going to take this seriously I thought was marvelous.

Well, now we see that, while we passed the bill, apparently they are taking all the money out. There was to be \$161 million appropriated for such things as shelters for victims of domestic violence, for families; a hotline for the very first time. We have never had a national hotline on this issue. Also for rape crisis centers \$161 million was to go out this year to begin those things, and, believe me, that money is really needed because to say to the victims of these kinds of acts that you have to privatize it or you are going to have to pay for it yourself, good luck. Part of the reason they have not been able to get out of the violence at home, or whatever, has been because of the economic dependence they have on the batterer, whether it be male or female, so that is very essential.

Well, what happened? It appears, it appears that \$161 million is now \$1 million, that they took \$61 million out. Now that is an outrage. At that point we ought to just say the act has been canceled. I say to my colleague, "Let's be real honest about this. Don't brag about your vote if you vote to absolutely gut this."

There was also \$100 million put into the crime trust fund for this, and that was to help train police and judges and to do more aid in the States and localities to get their laws tougher and so forth. I say to my colleagues, "Well, guess what? If that's all zeroed out, don't brag that you voted for the Violence Against Women Act because obviously that didn't happen."

Now there will be people saying, "Oh, well, it is just women." No, it is not. It is men and women; let me make that perfectly clear. Violence against men or violence against women in the home is wrong. Violence against children in the home is wrong. Instead you see everybody now moving to say that Government should back out of all of that and we should just again go back; the home is totally off limits, and you can batter children, batter spouses, do whatever.

Mr. Speaker, it looks like we are doing something, but we are not because we take all the money away. I hope that people in this country wake up and realize that because, if we ever want to get crime on the streets under control, we are not going to do it until we go to the source. We have had study after study showing that, if a person

grows up in this violence, they are going to be violent.

Second, imagine the horror for the many, many Americans living in this type of situation. If you are afraid to be on the street because of crime, but you cannot even go home because you are also afraid to be there, what a nightmare.

So what a wonderful feeling it was a year ago when we all came together in a huge, bipartisan manner, and we voted that out, and we got the bill signed, and we got the details in order, and we really thought the train was moving, and now we find the whole train has been derailed, and they are going to drop a little token, \$1 million, in the box and say "Isn't that wonderful? Look what we have done."

Let me tell you what you have done. You have done nothing. You have done absolutely nothing, and we will be back to business as usual on one of the most important crime generators and violence generators in this country.

And let us be perfectly clear about this. It is easy to tell you about other things, but the most important thing is the home and the family, and if the home and the family is the roots of violence, if the home and the family is absolutely torn asunder, then you are never going to get off square one when it comes to fighting crime.

THE MEDICARE CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Colorado [Mr. ALLARD] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, the most important act of this Congress over the next 3 months will be the reform of Medicare. I would like to take a few minutes this morning to talk about what is at stake for America's seniors.

The Medicare Program is in trouble. In April, the trustees of the Social Security and Medicare trust funds issued an alarming report. The report concluded that next year the trust fund that finances Medicare will begin spending more than it takes in and will be bankrupt in 7 years. This will put the health care of 36 million Americans in jeopardy.

Remarkably, this report received almost no coverage by the media. Uncomfortable as it might be, the trustee's report cannot be ignored. The trustees include the Secretaries of Health and Human Services, Labor, and Treasury, as well as the Social Security Commissioner and two other public trustees, one Republican and one Democrat.

The reason for the crisis is clear. Medicare spending is growing at an alarming rate. This year alone, it will increase from \$176 billion to \$196 billion, a growth of 11 percent. This will be nearly three times the level of spending in 1986. It is obvious that any Federal program that triples its level of spending in a decade is headed for trouble.

Doing nothing might be the easiest course politically, but in my view that is not an option. The crisis must be addressed now. If Medicare goes bankrupt, by law, no payments can be made for hospital care for Medicare beneficiaries or for any other trust fund-paid services. This means that anyone age 58 or older today will be immediately impacted in 2002. And if the system is not then made solvent, millions of Americans who are much younger will be hurt.

Medicare can be fixed right now. And if we do it now, we can make the trust fund solvent without reducing current Medicare expenditures.

Those who oppose reform will make wild charges of draconian cuts. But when you hear those charges ask yourself what opponents of reform are proposing as a solution. The only other options are to either postpone the crisis a few more years, or substantially raise payroll taxes.

While three members of the President's Cabinet are Medicare trustees and signed onto the trustees report, the President's first budget included no reforms. The only response the President and his Democrat colleagues gave to this problem was criticism. However, the new Clinton budget has changed all that.

President Clinton has admitted that a balanced budget is best for our Nation—though his budget falls close to \$1 trillion short of the amount actually needed to achieve a balanced budget. But most importantly for our seniors and soon to be seniors, the President admits that Medicare must be reformed and saved from bankruptcy. Still, even with this, many of his Democrat colleagues still only criticize.

In order to reform the Medicare system, we have slowed the rate of growth from over 10 percent to 6.5 percent a year—a rate that will still exceed private-sector health care spending increases and inflation rate increases. Even with this level of reform, the country's annual Medicare spending will still rise from the current \$4,700 per beneficiary to \$6,400 per beneficiary in 7 years. Similarly, in my own State of Colorado, overall Medicare spending between 1995 and 2002 will increase 60 percent, which results in an increase of \$1,385 per beneficiary.

Much of the reform can be accomplished with more private sector involvement in the program, and by giving seniors more choices and more power over the way their health care dollars are spent. Currently, Medicare beneficiaries are given only one option—the bureaucratic, outdated, 30-year-old, one-size-fits-all program. It is time to bring Medicare into the 1990's. No longer should the Government interfere in the relationship between patients and their doctors. We should ensure that Medicare beneficiaries and soon to be beneficiaries are able to continue their existing coverage—including their choice of doctors and hospitals, or choose new coverage that

better fits their health care needs—such as coverage for prescription drugs, dental, or even to establish a medical savings account.

The goal is to save Medicare. It will not be easy or painless, but it will be much less painful if we do it now, rather than pass the buck one more time. My hope is that reform can be accomplished in a serious manner, without a high level of misinformation and distortion. Congress is now working carefully on a reform plan. Many organizations, such as the American Medical Association, and individuals are providing helpful proposals. The final plan will be available in early fall.

Two things in particular should be kept in mind as the debate progresses. First, no one is proposing any cuts in Medicare, only a slower rate of growth. Second, those who decry the proposed reforms should be challenged to present their solution. Strengthening Medicare is too important to be left to politics as usual. Doing nothing is not an option.

THE MINIMUM WAGE BILL—WHAT HAS HAPPENED?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentlewoman from North Carolina [Mrs. CLAYTON] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, in February, the President proposed a modest increase in the minimum wage. Following the President's proposal, the Democratic leader introduced H.R. 940, the Working Wage Increase Act of 1995. Under H.R. 940, the minimum wage would be increased, in two steps, to \$5.15 by Independence Day in 1996. There are currently 91 cosponsors of H.R. 940.

Nothing has happened on the minimum wage bill since its introduction. Could this be because all of the sponsors are Democrats? It should be a bipartisan effort to raise the minimum wage. It has been in times past. Both Speaker GINGRICH and Senator DOLE have supported minimum wage increases. The minimum wage needs to be increased now for two major reasons. First, to help improve the quality of life for all of our citizens.

And, second, to raise the standards of our workers so that they can keep pace with changing technologies and be better prepared for competing with workers around the world.

WELFARE REFORM—AN UPDATE

While minimum wage is stalled, Congress is moving very fast to drive citizens off welfare. I support welfare reform, but with provisions for training and the minimum wage increase. The welfare reform bill, H.R. 4, passed the House on March 24 of this year and passed the Senate Finance Committee on May 26.

The House-passed bill would block grant cash welfare, child care, school breakfast and lunch programs, and nutrition programs for pregnant women

and children. Unwed mothers under the age of 18 and repeat mothers already on welfare, would be purged from the rolls. Fortunately, the Senate bill is less radical in the changes it proposes to welfare programs. And, with passage of other bills, like the farm bill, more level thinking may prevail.

FOREIGN TRADE—ITS IMPORTANCE

At the same time of these actions, a bill was introduced on June 7, H.R. 1756, which proposes to eliminate six programs from the Department of Commerce and to privatize or transfer into other departments, many other Commerce programs. A similar bill, S. 929, has been introduced in the Senate. The bill would eliminate the Economic Development Administration, the Minority Business Development Agency, the Office of the Secretary, General Counsel and Inspector General at Commerce, as well as several other programs under the Department. Indeed, this bill effectively dismantles the Commerce Department which has been the engine that has helped expand job opportunities in the global market.

ANALYSIS

It is obvious to me that in our zeal to cut spending and balance the budget, we are being penny wise and pound foolish. We are putting people out of work, taking benefits from people without giving them work and keeping those who are working at poverty levels. We are creating a larger, and perhaps more permanent, underclass by these irrational actions.

This blind march toward the year 2002 fails to take into account that the best welfare reform is minimum wage reform. This irresponsible cutting of trade programs fails to take into account that foreign trade has created 274,000 jobs in my State of North Carolina alone.

I have consistently stated that I am for welfare reform. I have also consistently maintained that I support a balanced budget. The problem, however, with the direction we are taking is that we have closed our eyes to the impact of our acts. We can cut programs, refuse to raise the minimum wage and save money.

But, the money we lose by these deeds could far exceed the amount we gain. For example, while we are reducing our domestic deficit, we are ignoring our trade deficit, and our trade deficit is soaring. We may save a few billion dollars through eliminating Commerce to help reduce the deficit, but we will lose \$20 billion through an increased trade deficit. What sense does it make to eliminate the very structure that assists American businesses in expanding, large and small, and helps create jobs for American workers?

SUPPORT THE MINIMUM WAGE

The President's minimum wage proposal, combined with the earned income tax credit we passed last Congress, will go a long way in pushing millions of working Americans out of