

The message also announced that the Senate had passed bills of the following titles, in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 533. An act to clarify the rules governing removal of cases to Federal court, and for other purposes; and

S. 677. An act to repeal a redundant venue provision, and for other purposes.

U.N. CONTROL OF U.S. FORCES UNCONSCIONABLE

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, well, here we go again. Our President, without consulting the Congress, has allowed the United Nations to make a decision to bomb in Bosnia. It is going on as I speak. The U.S. F-18's, according to the press, are over there bombing. U.N. control of U.S. forces is unconscionable, without resorting to consent from the Congress. We did not declare war.

If one American life is lost because of these actions, I think it is a disgrace to American integrity.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will recognize 10 Members from each side for 1-minute speeches.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING MUST BE PROVIDED FOR ALL AMERICANS

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

Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, first I might start off the morning by hoping that all of our colleagues will perhaps say a prayer today for our esteemed colleague, JOE MOAKLEY, who has just been raised from critical to serious condition in the hospital after a liver transplant in Virginia. He is a terrific fellow, as we all know, and deserves our prayers and consideration this morning.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to the action taken by the Committee on Appropriations last night in their 25-percent reduction in our Nation's housing funding.

We have decimated our Nation's housing funding over the course of the last week and a half. A week ago we cut \$7 billion out of the Nation's housing. Yesterday evening we cut an additional \$7 billion, 25 percent of the annual budget.

We take photo ops and give sound bites in front of the worst public housing, ignoring the fact that 90 percent of the public housing in this country is in good, decent shape and providing affordable housing for the poorest, most vulnerable people in this country.

Let us stand for something in this country. Let us not conduct a war on the poor. Let us conduct a war on pov-

erty. That is what we need, and that is where we should be headed.

SELLING POLITICAL FAVORS

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, while Republicans are working to fulfill their promise of changing business as usual in Washington, liberal Democrats have their sights set on campaign 1996.

The Clinton White House has begun campaign efforts by starting their own version of the Publisher's Clearinghouse Sweepstakes. Instead of buying chances at winning the million dollar grand prize, big Clinton campaign contributors are buying chances at winning big White House favors.

In this political game, grand prize contributors of \$100,000 win two dinners with President Clinton, two receptions with Vice President AL GORE, plus, their very own spot on a foreign trade mission with business and party leaders.

They have yet to confirm if Ed McMahon will announce the winners of these special White House perks.

UNITED STATES SHOULD RENEW DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH VIETNAM

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

Mr. PETERSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today the President will announce the renewal of diplomatic relations to Vietnam. I applaud these efforts. It is time.

For the record, I spent 6½ years as a POW in Vietnam. I know about as much about Vietnam as anyone in the House. I am convinced that these efforts will enhance our search for the fate of the missing MIA's. We have made significant progress over the last 4 years in our joint efforts with the Vietnamese, searching all over Vietnam, with access to prisons, access to virtually anyone on the street, and certainly access to their archives. We have sincere, trustworthy, and competent people working together in Vietnam in this effort.

But now we are at a point if we do not renew diplomatic relations, the Vietnamese could unilaterally just say get out of here, we quit. We do not want to lose the progress we have made. It is time for diplomatic relations. It is time to move on, with the world bringing Vietnam into the League of Nations.

ADMINISTRATION'S NEW VIETNAM POLICY IS WRONG

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

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, today is a very, very sad day for America, but it is an even sadder day for American families who are waiting word on loved ones that have been designated as MIA's or POW's in Vietnam. The policy of normalizing relations with Vietnam, which will be announced today by the President of the United States, is a slap in the face at those families who are waiting word on their loved ones.

This is not a correct policy, this is a wrong policy, and until the Government of Vietnam comes forward and accounts for all of those who have been missing in action or designated as POW's, we should not normalize relations with Vietnam. We should not do it for economic reasons. That is the worst reason to do it. What we should be saying to them is "give us a full accounting." We owe it to the people who have lost their loved ones.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that all Americans will speak out against this.

A FEDERAL INVESTIGATION OF WACO FIASCO NEEDED

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, the fiasco of Waco, TX, commando raids, machine guns, tear gas, bulldozers, loud music, the recorded screams of dying rabbits all night, young children, 90 dead. And any Federal agent could honestly testify that David Koresh could have been arrested without incident, without harm, without force, any morning he jogged outside that camp, every single morning.

The truth is, the Federal agencies wanted a media milestone. The Federal agencies instead ended up with a media massacre. Yes, there must be a congressional investigation. There must be. Waco screams out louder than the recorded screams of those dying rabbits for a congressional investigation. The Federal agencies earned it, they deserve it.

Mr. Speaker, let us get on with our business.

CHANGING THE STATUS QUO

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

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, since taking control of Congress, the Republican Party has stayed focused on the commitment we made with the American people—to change the status quo. While the Democrats are playing politics by creating a "buyers market" for the White House, we are trying to save and protect Medicare for senior citizens and for future generations.

Our plan abolishes the one-size-fits-all plan, designed over 30 years ago. We replace it with a program that allows senior citizens to have the same health care choices as other Americans.

Also, the well-documented waste and fraud of the Medicare system, will be

rooted out allowing for a 54-percent spending increase—the spending per senior will increase from \$4,800 to more than \$6,700.

Bottom line, the Republicans stand for change and the Democrats stand for the status quo. It is time to put aside political games and address the concerns of the American people.

MEDICARE

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

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to take strong exception to the Republican budget resolution that will drastically slash Medicare payments to senior citizens.

Instead of wasting less on weapons and military spending, the Republicans want to balance the budget on the backs of the elderly. This plan will slash \$270 billion from future Medicare spending, the largest cut in history.

Large reductions in Medicare payments will mean that Seniors will have to pay more for health care out of their own pockets.

Republicans are cutting Medicare in order to give \$240 billion to wealthy corporations.

Balancing the budget is a worthy goal, but it should be done more fairly, and not at the expense of the health and well-being of our Nation's elderly.

Senior citizens have worked hard and contributed all their lives to this country. Let's end these shameless cuts and choose an equitable path to a balanced budget. Less for guns and corporate welfare; more for children, working families and seniors.

A MAN OF CHANGE?

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

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, recently House Democrats have been posting signs outside their offices that read "Not For Sale." I guess their reasoning for doing so is to distance themselves from the current administration. Democrats might argue that it's in reference to their blatant hypocrisy over a committee seat, but since the White House has begun selling access to the open ear of the executive branch, I think it's because it looks bad back home. The reason it looks bad, is because it is bad. This administration claims to be the party of the poor and working class. Mr. Speaker, I ask how many factory workers, teachers or civil servants you know who could afford to spend \$100,000 for a couple of meals at the White House. This administration has claimed to be the party of change and I guess it's true because \$100,000 is a lot of change.

TRIBUTE TO FOSTER FURCOLO, FORMER MASSACHUSETTS CONGRESSMAN AND GOVERNOR

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

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in this Chamber to pay tribute to a former member of this institution, who has represented the Second Congressional District of Massachusetts, who passed away this past Wednesday.

A distinguished Italian-American from western Massachusetts, Foster Furcolo served as a Member of the 81st and 82d Congresses from 1949 to 1952, where he was known as a moderate Democrat. Five years after serving in this House, Foster Furcolo became Massachusetts' 60th Governor.

A product of Yale University undergrad and law school, educational achievement was on the forefront of Furcolo's political agenda. His proudest achievement in Massachusetts was the establishment of the community college system. He also expanded the University of Massachusetts and sponsored growth in loan and scholarship programs. He strengthened programs for the elderly, and outlawed housing discrimination.

Hailing from Longmeadow, MA, Foster Furcolo was a mentor to those of us from the western part of the State who were interested in public service and government. His contributions to Massachusetts will not be forgotten.

MEDICARE AT A CROSSROADS

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

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, the Medicare system is at a crossroads. The Medicare Board of Trustees have said, and I quote from page 3 of their report, " * * * The fund is projected to be exhausted in 2001 * * * ." That leaves this country with two options. We can either take the path to protect, preserve, and save Medicare or we can do what the President would like to do and walk down the road to no idea land that would throw millions of Americans off needed health benefits. Everyone agrees that there is a problem but only the Republicans pose a solution. Where's your plan Mr. President? Your own trustees agree that Medicare will go broke yet you do nothing. Does that mean that you would rather stay on the political median than save Medicare from bankruptcy? The answer to that question is clear. Our President is once again absent without leadership.

DISMANTLING MEDICARE

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, the Washington Times confirmed what seniors have feared about Republican plans to cut Medicare. The conservative newspaper reported that the Republican leadership's ultimate goal is to privatize Medicare.

Now, Republicans claim that their plan to privatize Medicare will offer seniors more choices in the private health care market. But, unfortunately seniors know that the only choices that privatization offers them is to pay and pay and pay.

The privatization of Medicare will mean that seniors will pay more in premiums and deductibles. Recipients who now pay \$46.10 per month for Medicare part B would pay more than \$110 per month, under the GOP plan.

Thirty years ago when Medicare was established, 95 percent of Republicans opposed the plan. Now, Republicans are out to achieve a 30-year goal, dismantling what they never wanted in the first place—Medicare.

MEDICARE

(Mrs. SEASTRAND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks and include extraneous material.)

Mrs. SEASTRAND. Mr. Speaker, over the last month or so, liberal Democrats have proven over and over that they have become the party of obstruction. They have no ideas, they offer no vision. More importantly, they have completely ignored reports of the impending insolvency of Medicare.

Liberal Democrats act so very concerned about Medicare. But let us ask this: Why have they not recognized the report by the Medicare Trustees saying that Medicare will go bankrupt in just 7 years? How come they have not put forth a program to save Medicare?

The differences between the parties on Medicare are all too obvious. Republicans are committed to saving Medicare from bankruptcy and preserving it for future generations. Liberal Democrats play lip service to Medicare and attempt to scare the elderly all in the name of their twisted class warfare agenda.

COMPACT-IMPACT AID

(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, in 1986 the United States flung open its borders to the three countries of the former U.S. Trust Territory of the Pacific. The Compact of Free Association, negotiated between these nations and the United States, waives all usual INS procedures allowing totally unrestricted immigration into the United States. Because of Guam's proximity to these islands, we bear the brunt of this in-migration.