

The FBI shot and killed Randy Weaver's unarmed son. The FBI then shot and wounded Randy Weaver. The FBI then shot and killed Randy Weaver's unarmed wife while holding her infant son, shot her right between the eyes. Now reports say that the FBI destroyed documents to conceal the incident of Ruby Ridge.

Did anyone really believe the FBI would leave a smoking gun on Ruby Ridge? It is unbelievable, my colleagues.

The bottom line here is the FBI says they made a mistake. I say the FBI committed felonies and committed a crime on Ruby Ridge. Since when did the Congress of the United States empower the FBI to first entrap and then shoot down and kill unarmed American families?

The remains of the Weaver family are screaming out from graves for justice, and Congress is turning its back. Let us investigate Ruby Ridge, and let us let the FBI answer to the people, the Constitution, and the Congress of the United States of America.

#### WE ARE GOING TO PROTECT, PRESERVE, AND IMPROVE MEDICARE

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

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, Republicans have a simple three-step plan to give Medicare recipients the right to the same quality and choice that their own children and grandchildren have.

First, all senior citizens currently on Medicare must be allowed to remain on Medicare just exactly the way it is for as long as they want, if that is what they choose.

Second, all seniors who want to join a health plan that covers more than today's Medicare, including routine physicals, prescription drugs, and eyeglasses, should have that right.

Third, all seniors who want to set up a Medicare savings account that will pay for their health care needs and reward them for making healthy choices should be given that right as well.

Mr. Speaker, today's seniors deserve the right to the best medical care system possible, and tomorrow's seniors deserve to know that the money that they have paid in Medicare taxes will also have been a sound investment, and, Mr. Speaker, according to the budget resolution all of this would be done with an increase in spending per beneficiary from \$4,816 in 1995 to \$6,734 in 2002.

We are going to protect, preserve, and improve Medicare.

#### SAVE MEDICARE

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

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Mr. Speaker, the real question is, How many years have your loved ones, parents, aunts and un-

cles, relatives, been in the work force? 30 years? 40 years? 50 years?

The legacy of our seniors who have given to this country is one of hard work.

But do my colleagues know what the call of the Republican Party is today?

Let's ration them. Let's voucher the Medicare system. Let's make sure that seniors and the disabled just get a minimal amount of medical care and make sure that, if they need more, the heck with them. It doesn't matter whether you've been in the work force and given to this Nation 30, 40, 50 years of commitment, and now you come to a time when you are retired and you need the Medicare system, developed by this Nation in order to relieve the health care burden on seniors and the disabled. What the Republicans want to do is voucher you out of the system. They want to cut \$270 billion out of Medicare with the false premise that we're slowing growth.

What does slowing growth mean? It means that those who are diabetic who have been able to be under maintenance, and survive, and be healthy will no longer have any care. It means people with high blood pressure will wind up in hospitals with strokes, without adequate health maintenance to keep their blood pressure down.

Save the Medicare program. What we need is to fix the fraud, but we do not need to voucher those who contributed to this Nation out of the system. Medicare is for those who have worked and the disabled. Both groups now need our help to save Medicare.

#### ROLE MODEL ECONOMY

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

Mr. DICKEY. Mr. Speaker, \$245 million; that is what the tax cut is proposed right now. People are saying, "What about spending cuts first? Part of this is being overlooked." One way that we can have spending cuts in our Government is to starve the agencies that are overspending at this time. So, we are looking at shrinking the Government by reducing the taxes. That is No. 1.

No. 2 is that we are going to give back to the taxpayers the money that they have earned. We have too long gone with the idea that this money that comes up here is the Government's. It is ours. It is the bureaucrats'. It is the politicians'.

It is not. It is the people who earn it, and those people who earn it are entitled to spend it, and, if we give it back to them, they will spend it the way they want to, or they can save it. We, as a government, are not saving anything. We have a chance to give it back to the people. We have a chance to say, "You've earned it, and you could do what you want to with it. It will help the economy."

One other thing:

When we sit here and say we are going to discriminate against the rich

and we do not want to have a tax cut because it will help the rich, it is avoiding an opportunity to have a role model for those people who want to acquire more.

#### CAMPAIGN AND LOBBY REFORM

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

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, last Sunday on "Face the Nation," Speaker GINGRICH backed down on his promise to pass campaign finance and lobby reform. His excuse—Congress is moving too quickly on the issue.

Too quickly? Is he serious? Mr. Speaker, we have yet to have a hearing this Congress on campaign finance reform. And there has been no floor action on lobby reform since the Republican leadership stopped us on the first day of the session. Even the loyal class of freshman Republicans is starting to get fed up with Speaker GINGRICH's string of broken promises on these reform issues.

Mr. GINGRICH, I know you are enjoying the dramatic increase in PAC contributions to the Republican Party and it's clear you don't mind if industry lobbyists co-write legislation. But if you're really serious about curbing the power of special interest in Washington and making Congress more accountable to the voters, it's time to move on campaign finance reform.

You're not fooling anyone with your call for exploratory committees, Mr. Speaker. It's just another transparent delay tactic coming from a party leader benefiting from the status-quo.

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#### SAVE MEDICARE

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, what do Robert Reich, Donna Shalala, and Robert Rubin have in common?

(a) They are all Democrats

(b) They are all members of President Clinton's cabinet

(c) They all predict that the Medicare Trust Fund will go bankrupt by the year 2002

(d) All of the above

If you picked (d), you're right. Republicans aren't making the Medicare crisis up. The Medicare Trustees, which are members of the President's own Cabinet, have said that the Medicare Trust Fund is going broke. So while the Democrats in the House chose to ignore the Administration, the Republicans have listened. We understand the importance of the situation, and we know what will happen if we do nothing but maintain the status quo—Medicare will go bankrupt.

Republicans will work hard to preserve, protect and improve Medicare not only for this generation, but also

for future generations. I urge my Democrat colleagues to listen to their own colleagues and join us in saving Medicare, not the status quo.

#### MEDICARE PROGRAM IN DISTRESS

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

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, help.

I've fallen and can't get up!

This is the cry of a program—the Medicare program—in deep distress.

This is the cry of America's elderly as they tremble at the prospect of losing access to doctors, hospitals and medicines as the Medicare program is held hostage to the Republican steamroller of deficit reduction. By the year 2002, the average senior citizen will pay \$1,200 a year more in Medicare premiums.

This is the cry of health care providers across the country as they struggle to meet the needs of their patients in the face of ever-restrictive government reimbursement policies. Under the proposed \$270 billion cut to Medicare, hospitals will crumple—one hospital in my district will have to reduce its health care services by \$5.6 million. That's just one hospital. Multiply that by the number of hospitals in your district.

And what for? So rich people can wallow poolside in their second and third homes.

What do we get?

Tax breaks for the rich.

Tough breaks for the little guy.

#### MEDICARE

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

Mr. FRISA. Mr. Speaker, Medicare is a trust fund. People pay their money in and trust that it will be there for them when they need it. But the Democrats broke that trust and squandered our Medicare away. And not only have Democrats left their footprints on our seniors' backs, their fingerprints are all over our seniors' wallets.

But, Mr. Speaker, seniors can finally rest assured, because responsible Republicans have the courage and common sense to protect and preserve the Medicare system for our seniors in the future, while providing affordable increases so that they receive the care they deserve.

It is a good thing the Republicans are in control to get our fiscal house back in order.

#### MOVE FORWARD ON CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND LOBBY REFORM

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

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, as a new Member, I came to this House commit-

ted to enacting reform and restoring the trust of the American people in Congress.

I am proud that on my first day in the House, we voted to make the Congress abide by the same laws other Americans do. We cut committee staff by one-third. We opened committee meetings to the public.

But the job is incomplete, and we risk undermining all that we have already done if we don't move forward with campaign finance reform and lobby reform. You cannot have one without the other. It is time to stop the money chase which perverts the electoral process.

It's been a month since the President and the Speaker shook hands over a commission to move these issues forward. The President is ready to act. Why isn't the Speaker? Let's vote on H.R. 1100, which I and others introduced before that meeting in New Hampshire, to form such a commission. The American people want an end to the talk of reform. They want action.

The American people are concerned as we act on legislation to cut Medicare, roll back environmental protection, and cut taxes. For the wealthiest they deserve to know we are doing their work and not that of special interests. Let's end the talk and bring campaign and lobby reform to the floor.

#### HARRY WU

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

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, Harry Wu, an American citizen, a tireless crusader for human rights, and my friend, is being unjustly detained in the People's Republic of China.

Harry Wu survived nineteen years of torture, starvation, and solitary confinement after he was imprisoned for merely criticizing the government. Since then has devoted himself to exposing the horrors of the Chinese gulag.

China, immediately release American citizen Harry Wu and allow his return to the United States. He has committed no crimes and is being detained illegally. This is a gross abuse of his rights and seriously damages U.S.-China relations. Free this innocent man.

To Chinese officials I say this in Chinese:

"Mr. Wu is an American. Mr. Wu is my friend. If you hurt him we will not forget. If you do not free him we will not forget. Be careful."

#### TIME TO SEND A MESSAGE TO SERBIAN AGGRESSORS

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, we shoot at one another across this aisle. We do

it verbally. There is a holocaust abroad in the world, and it is on the front page of the Washington Post, the Washington Times, the New York Times, and on every major network: Thirty thousand new refugees yesterday.

And what do we see on the front page of the Washington Post? A Dutch general, our general, the United Nations' general, having a drink with Ratko Mladic, an international terrorist, an international war criminal, an international thug.

Shame on the United Nations. Shame on the international Western community. Shame on America. We have imposed an arms embargo on the Bosnian people so they cannot defend themselves adequately. Shame on us.

Mr. Speaker, a holocaust goes on. Let us stand up, speak up, and vote to let the Serbian aggressors know that the West will not stand for international tuggery.

#### PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1977, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1996

Ms. PRYCE. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 187 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 187

*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. 1977) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. Points of order against consideration of the bill for failure to comply with section 302(f), 306, or 308(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 are waived. 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. The bill shall be considered by title rather than by paragraph. Each title shall be considered as read. Points of order against provisions in the bill for failure to comply with clause 2 or 6 of rule XXI are waived. The amendments printed in section 2 of this resolution shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against the amendment printed in section 3 of this resolution 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. Points of order against amendments for failure to comply with clause 2(e) of rule XXI are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House