

face an average monthly rent increase of \$45 or an average annual increase of \$541. Naturally, utilities would include heat—and with no heating assistance, a cold winter could be as deadly as the recent heat wave has been.

People utilizing public housing today are very low income they can't contribute what they don't have, discretionary income. These dollars will be stripped from the necessities of their life and the families that comprise these low-income groups. This little change will work a significant problem, real hardship on the poor—an unfair hardship—on the poorest of the poor.

THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF MEDICARE AND MEDICAID

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from New York [Mr. OWENS] is recognized during morning business for 2 minutes.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, this week we celebrate the 30th anniversary of Medicare and Medicaid. I emphasize Medicaid because in the ongoing debate about the cuts in Medicare and Medicaid, Medicaid gets left out.

Medicaid is very important. I want to remind everybody that 30 years ago, Democrats created Medicare and Medicaid. Lyndon Johnson, as part of the Great Society program, created Medicare and Medicaid. Democrats created Medicare and Medicaid, just as Democrats earlier created Social Security. Franklin Roosevelt was a Democrat. Democrats created Social Security.

Today we are celebrating the 30th anniversary of Medicare and Medicaid. These two forms of health insurance are the ones which serve those people most likely to need medical care. Yet they are the primary targets of the Republican scorched-earth Grim Reaper budget cutting. While many of my Republican colleagues will rush to the floor next week to defend the continued funding of the B-2 Stealth bomber, they meanwhile are launching a stealth attack against Medicare and Medicaid. Republicans propose to limit the growth of these programs at a rate which is actually one-half of the rate of growth for the private insurance industry.

Because two-thirds of the money in Medicaid goes to the services for the elderly and individuals with disabilities, the Medicaid cuts will drastically reduce access to long-term care for those who need it most but are least able to afford it. If you do not believe it, look at my home of New York City, where the nightmare has already begun. A Coney Island woman has had her 12 hours of daily attendant home care, which is much cheaper than nursing home care. Her 12 hours have been cut back to 4 hours. To make up for the 8-hour difference, they gave her an expensive beeper. She is so sick she cannot even open her mail, let alone use a beeper.

The cuts in Medicare are equally astounding. They will result in low income seniors paying more than double

their current monthly premiums by the year 2000. Let us retain the programs created by Democrats. Let us fight to retain Medicaid and Medicare.

THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF MEDICARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. DEUTSCH] is recognized during morning business for 2 minutes.

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, as you have heard, today is the 30th anniversary of the Medicare Program. I think this is a day to focus on what the Republicans in this Congress are proposing to do to that program.

The Republican budget-passed plan has \$270 billion in cuts. They have said, and they have said recently on this floor, and they continue to say that those are necessary to save the plan, to save the plan from itself. Well, the reality is in the last 30 years of the Medicare Program it has never had more than a 10-year actuarial life. In fact, there have been times over the last 30-year period where it has only had a 2-year actuarial life.

The \$270 billion number has nothing to do with 10-year actuarial life. It has to do with the budget that they have proposed and some of the outrageous corporate welfare systems that still exist.

Now, what can be done? What is that \$270 billion to lead to? The \$270 billion will lead to a fundamental change in the Medicare system for beneficiaries. When you go through the numbers, the inevitable result of \$270 billion in cuts is that you will have a Medicare system not very similar to the system that exists today. We would have a Medicare system that would force a large percentage of the 37 million people in this country on Medicare into substandard HMOs.

Right now, Medicare reimburses HMOs at about 95 percent of the prevailing fee-for-service in an area. Only about 10 percent of Medicare beneficiaries choose to join those HMOs. The Republican proposal will drive down that reimbursement cost in the neighborhood of 70 percent. I do not doubt there are private for-profit HMOs that will be able to provide service at that cost, but at what quality? That is the question.

MEDICARE-MEDICAID

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentlewoman from Connecticut [Ms. DELAURO] is recognized during morning business for 2 minutes.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the Republican plan to cut Medicare for our seniors in order to pay for a tax cut for the privileged few.

The GOP plan is to end Medicare as we know it, a proposal that will devastate American seniors. Do not take my word for it. Just look at what the

conservative newspaper, the Washington Times, reported recently. According to the article, the GOP's ultimate goal is to privatize Medicare.

Privatizing Medicare will mean that seniors will pay more in premiums and deductibles and will lose their choice of doctors. The Washington Times reports that recipients who now pay \$46.10 per month for Medicare Part B would pay more than \$110 per month. And in the year 2002, this plan will cost seniors more than \$1,000 in out-of-pocket expenditures. They will be forced to give up their doctors.

It is ironic, Mr. Speaker, that Republican attempts to dismantle Medicare coincide with the program's 30th anniversary. When Medicare was originally proposed in 1965, 93 percent of Republicans supported a privatized health plan that relied on seniors paying the premiums. Today, 30 years later, we see history repeating itself, Republicans looking to dismantle a program that they never wanted in the first place, and that is Medicare.

My message to the American people is a simple one: Do not be fooled when the Republicans talk about slowing the growth of Medicare. It is a sham and a scam. The reality is that their plan will result in very real cuts to benefits and very real increases in costs for seniors who are on Medicare.

Do not be fooled when the Republicans say that these cuts are being made to fix Medicare or to reduce the budget deficit. The reality is that Medicare is being cut to pay for a \$245 billion tax cut for large corporations and the privileged few.

THE REPUBLICAN TRIPLE WHAMMY ON MEDICARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. FRANK] is recognized during morning business for 2 minutes.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I want to be fair to the Republicans. We should not just talk about the pain they are going to be inflicting by making all the people pay more for Medicare because that is only one part of it. They also plan in their budget to reduce the cost of living every elderly person gets, no matter how low on the income scale.

Their budget balances in the year 2002, only because in part they cut the cost-of-living increase for Social Security. They think older people have been overcompensated for inflation.

But finally, for those older people who live in assisted housing and public housing who have Section 8 certificates, they have a third gift. They are going to raise their rent. So older people are going to find that, if the bill passes that is pending before us, that instead of 30 percent, they will pay 32 percent of their income. Their income will not go up as fast. Maybe that is the consolation when the Republicans cut the cost of living, but they will pay

more for Medicare. They will get less of a cost of living, and their rent will go up.

At least older people who read the comics and remember Al Capp, Lil' Abner, and Evil-Eye Fliegial will know what is happening to them. They are about to get the Republican triple whammy.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. There being no further requests for morning business, pursuant to clause 12, rule I, the House will stand in recess until 10 a.m.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 49 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until 10 a.m.

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 10 a.m.

PRAYER

The Reverend Ronald K. Austin, Spirit of Peace Baptist Church, Washington, DC, offered the following prayer:

Eternal God, the creator and sustainer of all life, we come before You this morning and pray that You would continue to be our ever present strength. Touch our minds and hearts this day that we might continue to be Your instruments for love and justice in this great Nation of ours. May Your light continue to lead this great body of men and women in the difficult decisions that they must make. Be with them in the good times and especially in the tough times. Also we pray for their families because they need Your strength also. Now help us all, dear Father, to reach that great day when nation will not take up sword against nation nor will they train for war anymore. In Your Holy name we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from California [Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair announces there will be ten 1-minutes on each side.

SUMMARY OF SOCIAL SECURITY MEDICARE ANNUAL REPORTS

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

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, this is a report that is a summary of the 1995 annual reports of the Social Security and Medicare boards of trustees. I urge every American to call their Representative at 202-224-3121 and get a copy of it. This is the annual report of your Government, about your trust funds for Social Security and, most importantly, Medicare.

It is something that you should read. It is clearly written. There is a problem, and you need to know about it. Outside of this politicized atmosphere of rhetoric, outside of the demagoguery that is going on, you need to be able to read this yourself and make your own decision. It is 202-224-3121, so that you know what is going on with these trust funds. Please call your Representative. Ask for the summary of the annual reports.

HUD PROGRAM CUTS

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

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, the \$7 billion cut from HUD's 1996 budget will decimate Federal housing programs when housing needs are at their worst, particularly among families with children.

In 1993 alone, 5.6 million family households were in need of housing. And, every night, 600,000 households are homeless.

These proposed cuts will cause much needless pain and suffering.

A \$700 million cut in public housing authority operating budgets will result in increased rents and deterioration of public housing.

These, cuts will also reduce existing housing levels for the elderly, the disabled, and persons with AIDS.

Finally, these cuts prevent distressed communities from leveraging private investment for economic development to improve life in these areas.

This Republican proposal is fused with fact and fiction. The fiction is that these cuts are necessary in order to reduce the Federal deficit, and that all of us must share the pain. The fact is there will be no pain sharing. The rich will get richer and the poor Americans will pay the price.

PROTECT MEDICARE

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

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, Norma and I have realized the American dream. We built our own log home. We cut down the trees, we built the home, we now own the home free and clear. But what of the future? We are both eligible for Medicare.

We are deeply concerned about Medicare. Previous Congresses have spent all the money, decades of wild, irresponsible spending on pork, and foreign aid, and so forth, and they did not build a secure base for Medicare. It is now an insecure base.

The President's own commission says that Medicare will go bankrupt by the year 2002 if we do not fix it. We are not going to let that happen. The new majority will preserve and protect Medicare. It is going to increase 5 percent or more each year in the benefits. Thousands of people are counting on it. We have given our word, and we will not fail them.

EMBRACE NEW TELECOMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGIES

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

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I amended the telecommunications bill to ensure the emergence of the Smart House—a fully automated digital home which the chart next to me diagrams. It is all about the future.

The amendment ensures that the FCC does not limit consumers' ability to use their computers to provide security, maintain air quality, and provide entertainment.

The language is supported by American business alliances including the Telecommunications Industry Association [TIA], the Alliance to Promote Software Innovation [APSI], and the National Cable Television Association [NCTA].

On the other hand, foreign TV manufacturers are pushing for FCC standards that will establish television sets as the gatekeeper to home automation systems.

Mr. Speaker, the issue is simply. We can either embrace the future by allowing new technologies to flourish with minimum Government interference or cling to the past.

I urge you to protect the cable compatibility language in H.R. 1555 and oppose any amendment to limit or strike it.

STRENGTHEN MEDICARE

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

Ms. PRYCE. Mr. Speaker, where is the Democrats' plan to save Medicare? They cannot fix it by whining.

They cannot solve the crisis by finger-pointing and fear-mongering.

And they cannot fool America's seniors with their demagoguery.