

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Colorado [Mrs. SCHROEDER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mrs. SCHROEDER addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

PRESERVING AND PROTECTING SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE

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

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise for two purposes tonight, first, in response to the last gentleman who spoke.

I think it is important the House note that it was the Republican Congress that led the way to roll back the unfair 1993 tax on senior citizens' Social Security, and it is the same Republican-held Congress that has also called for increases in income eligibility for senior citizens who now are capped at \$11,380 a year. Under the Republican legislation, they will be able to make up to \$30,000 a year without deductions from Social Security.

We will work in a bipartisan fashion to make sure we preserve and protect Social Security and Medicare. What we will do with Medicare is to make sure, through our preservation task force, to come up with options to make sure we eliminate the fraud, abuse, and waste which exists in the system. That is the core of the problem.

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I also rise tonight, Mr. Speaker, to pay tribute to a Norristown community leader from my district, Frances Joyner, someone who gave so much for her community. She died at the age of 53, and this has certainly shortened the life of someone who was a great American, a great community volunteer.

Mr. Speaker, she contributed much in her time, much more so than you might expect for someone of such young years. She was an outstanding employee at the Norristown State hospital, an active employee at the U.S. Post Office. But more important than her regular job was what she did in her community.

She was active in her church, she was active in civic organizations, and she helped start many youth programs in her community in Pennsylvania. She was a member of the board of directors and treasurer of the Norristown Jaycettes, and she was active with the Montgomery County Junior Miss Pageant. She was the founder of the Miss Essence of Ebony Pageant.

She was on the board of directors of the YMCA. She was director of the Foster Parents of the Children's Aid Society. She was a member of the Montgomery County Opportunities Industrialization Center as a director, a judge of elections for Norristown's Eighth Ward. She received the award of the Chapel Four Chaplains at Temple

University in Philadelphia, PA. She was a member of Ebenezer A.U.M.P. Church for more than 40 years.

She was a Sunday school teacher, and one of the organizers of the Junior Missionaries. She was a Past Matron of the Eastern Star, and the list goes on, Mr. Speaker.

What she was for us, Frances Ella "Sissy" Joyner was a leader of the church, a leader of the community, an inspirational humanitarian, a role model for her community. She loved children and worked to help the community become better, and I hope that those who will read and hear about Frances Ella Joyner will in fact be inspired by her life's work so that they reach out to the community and show the kind of volunteer spirit that has made America so great.

WELCOMING PRESIDENT KIM YONG-SAM OF KOREA

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

Mr. KIM. Mr. Speaker, as the only Korean-American in Congress, I was proud and honored today to listen to Korean President Kim Yong-Sam address a special joint session of the Congress. His insightful remarks underscored the very historic and close relationship between Korea and the United States. They were certainly well received by the Congress.

President Kim's visit and address to Congress are particularly meaningful and timely considering the fact that tomorrow Presidents Kim and Clinton will dedicate the Korean War Memorial on the Mall of Washington, DC.

This memorial reminds us that the friendship between the United States and Korea is bonded in the blood and sacrifice of each nation. It reminds us of our common quest for liberty and our shared acknowledgment that freedom is not free. While there are short-term differences that may occur between the United States and Korea from time to time, these minor disagreements can never crack the solid, long-term alliance between us. Just ask those Koreans and Americans who are immortalized by the memorial.

As President Kim pointed out in his speech, Korea's economic and democratic achievements are impressive, especially considering they have been made under the constant threat of war from the north. I am proud that the United States has unselfishly encouraged and supported Korea's advancement and this cooperation does warrant special recognition. Thus, as we reflect on today's joint session, tomorrow's dedication of the Korean War Memorial and all the other events associated with this week's state visit by President Kim, I think we all will agree that both the United States and Korea are truly fortunate to have each other as allies and partners.

GOP MEDICARE PLANS THREATEN WOMEN'S HEALTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Illinois [Mrs. COLLINS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, in keeping with the Republican's back-to-the-future approach to legislating, the GOP Medicare-gutting plan will do nothing less than turn the table of progress on women's health in the United States and jeopardize the lives of millions of elderly women in order to foolishly subsidize massive tax cuts for corporate fat cats and rich folks. Sounds a lot like a return to the tired old, worn out, smoke-and-mirrors, trickle down, voodoo economics of a former time—and we all know how well that wreaked havoc on our Federal budget.

What in the world makes our Republican colleagues believe that a \$270 billion cut to the Medicare program is good medicine for our Nation's seniors, particularly our elderly women. Today one-quarter of all women over age 65 live at or near the poverty line. With the GOP cuts estimated to increase out-of-pocket health care expenses \$3,500 annually by the year 2002, these women will be forced to choose between essential health care services and daily food and shelter.

These Gingrich cuts will also disproportionately affect minority women who have lower retirement income, little health care coverage beyond Medicare, and greater risk of acute and chronic illness than white women, and are twice as likely to end up in poverty than their white counterparts.

Is this the contract the Newt Republicans have with their mothers and grandmothers—a promise to gut, slash, and burn the vital health care support that these women have come to trust and rely upon in their golden years? Unfortunately, it is.

Important preventive services, such as biannual mammograms for women over 65 are endangered under the Gingrich Republican budget axe, despite the fact that older women are six times more likely than younger women to develop breast cancer and eventually die from this tragic disease. Additionally, home health care beneficiaries, two-thirds of whom are women, stand to pay a new sick tax with a proposed 20-percent increase in copayments for home care services.

The facts seem pretty clear to me. American women, who live longer than men, contract disabling diseases such as arthritis and osteoporosis to a greater extent than men, and are far less likely than men to have sufficient retirement income or other economic means, will be devastated by the Republican's cruel, short-sighted, and needless attack on Medicare as a means to get tax breaks to the privileged few. Why the GOP is pushing such an agenda remains a frightening mystery to me and my constituents.

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

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

WASTE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

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

MEDICARE TRUST FUND SUMMARY

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, I was not going to speak about Medicare tonight, but I will speak very briefly, and then there is something else that I really want to bring to your attention.

Mr. Speaker, the one thing that I would urge that Americans would do is to get a copy of the summary, the 14-page summary that has been prepared by the trustees of the Medicare trust fund, that is the Medicare and the Social Security and the disability trust funds, get a copy of that. It is a 14-page summary of the annual report of the trustees.

Now, there are a lot of people that do not want the American public to see that. Most of them happen to be on the other side of the aisle. Because frankly, when you read this 14-page summary, it takes about 15 minutes, very clearly written, very simply written, after you read this summary, then finally, it dawns on you and you say, my goodness gracious, we really have a problem here.

These trustees lay it out in black and white, it is very clear, it is not partisan. It is not political, it has not been politicized, it is not subjected to demagoguery, it is very straightforward, it is clear.

Mr. Speaker, you will see that this is a problem that every single responsible legislator in this country has got to address. We have to deal with it at this level. If we do not, the fund will be bankrupt and Medicare will be in complete chaos.

So I just urge you, Mr. Speaker, to let the American public know that if they call their representative at (202) 225-3121, (202) 225-3121, ask for this 14-page summary of the annual report of the trustees, you representative will send it to you and it will lay out in very clear language exactly what the challenges are to the Medicare trust fund. It gives some very specific recommendations with respect to the need for legislative intervention, so that this thing will get fixed.

That is not what I want to talk about this evening, but I did feel that it is just important to bring that to the Speaker's attention.

Mr. Speaker, what I want to talk about, I want to know, is anybody watching what is going on at the Department of Energy? The Secretary of Energy is sending 50 people to South

Africa next week, 3 weeks in advance of the Secretary going to South Africa. That is just the advance team. Fifty people are going to be there 3 weeks ahead of her, I guess to make sure that the beds are turned down properly, I do not know. But this is a tremendous embarrassment to this administration, it is a tremendous embarrassment to the President, and it is time that somebody started to blow the whistle.

The Secretary will herself then follow to go to South Africa with 70 people at extraordinary expense to the taxpayer, and not only that, but with a level and a degree of arrogance that we have not seen in this administration with respect to at least this kind of bizarre appetite for travel. In fact, I saw tonight, and I will bring it tomorrow night, because I think everybody would be interested to see this, the graphic of a T-shirt that the Secretary is having produced, and it says, Hazel O'Leary World Tour, 1994-95." It looks like it is a wonderful color graphic, all at taxpayer expense, thank you very much, of the places that the Secretary has gone around the globe: China, India, Sweden, Egypt, now South Africa, all at taxpayer expense.

Mr. Speaker, here is the real problem. What is the most important charge of the Department of Energy? It is to safeguard, to conserve, to maintain, and to make sure there will be no accidents with respect to our nuclear arsenal. That is the primary reason that the Department of Energy was created in the first place, because we did not want the Department of Defense to be in charge. That was probably bad policy then. But nonetheless, that was the *raison d'être* of the Department of Energy. This money is being taken out of those accounts and being put into the travel account.

Now, Mr. Speaker, it is time that the President look at this very, very carefully. It is time that we blew the whistle on this profligate travel, and it is time that we simply ended it. Because not only is it a wasteful use of the taxpayers' money, but it is taking money away from the much more important responsibilities that the Department of Energy does have at this point.

Mr. Speaker, I know that the gentleman from New York is going to have a very special special order on the Korean war memorial.

SENIORS AT RISK

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, this Sunday, we celebrate the 30th anniversary of the creation of Medicare. On this date in 1965, President Johnson, with former President Truman by his side, signed into law a historic piece of legislation that would dramatically improve the lives of America's seniors and their families.

Look how far America's seniors have come in the latter part of this century. In 1955, only 46 percent of our Nation's elderly had health insurance coverage. By 1994, 97 percent of our seniors were covered. Medicare has made the difference.

In 1965, one in three senior citizens lived in poverty, many having squandered their life savings on costly medical care. Today, only 1 in 10 senior citizens live in poverty. Medicare has made the difference.

For the last 30 years, Medicare has made a difference for millions. It is one Government program that has worked so well that people don't even think of it as a Government program at all. In fact, last year, when Democrats tried to pass health care reform, seniors called and wrote to say: "We don't care what you do, just don't get government involved with Medicare."

Yes, Social Security and Medicare are Government programs. They are Government programs that work. Social Security and Medicare are the twin pillars of Democratic reform—one from the New Deal and the other from the Great Society. For decades these two programs have worked in tandem to ensure that our seniors are secure in their retirement.

That's what this debate is all about: security. Making sure that our seniors are secure. But, Republican plans to privatize the Medicare system will remove the security we promised our seniors 30 years ago.

Just ask your self: will higher medical bills make seniors more secure? Will lower levels of benefits make seniors more secure? Will losing their choice of doctor make seniors more secure?

Will seniors be more secure when their copayments go from \$46 to more than \$100? Will seniors be more secure when they are asked to pay \$1,000 more?

The answer to all these questions is "no." But, GOP opposition to the Medicare program should come as no surprise. Just look at the record.

Thirty years ago, 93 percent of Republicans in this body voted against Medicare and instead supported a plan to privatize the system. Today, Republicans are closing in on a 30-year goal—to end the program they never wanted in the first place.

In 1995, Republicans say they are cutting Medicare in order to save Medicare. They would like America to believe that they are simply pruning the Medicare plant so that it may grow healthy again. But, in reality, they are pulling Medicare out by its roots and using it as fertilizer for their favorite crop: tax cuts for the wealthy.

This plan uses \$270 billion of cuts to finance a \$245 billion tax cut for the wealthy.

Now, I believe that the solvency of the Medicare trust fund needs to be dealt with, but it needs to be dealt with in the context of health care reform. Medicare is growing at the rate