

or just plain negligent. Will we in Congress look away and let workers be injured and/or killed by their employer's greed, indifference, or negligence?

These are family tragedies, and I cannot imagine that the families and friends of these individuals see any valid or compelling reason to reduce OSHA enforcement funds. Such cuts assault the average working American families, and we all pay the price.

GOVERNMENT REFORM FIELD HEARINGS

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

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate that you are in the chair during these comments. We, as you know, went out to Cleveland, Ohio, on July 14 to hold the first of the town-meeting-type field hearings by the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, which you chair. The hearing was designed as an open forum where experts in the private sector, such as the executive vice president of TRW, and those in the public sector, such as the mayor of Philadelphia, and the average American taxpayers in an open forum could voice their views on creating a new 21st century Government.

One of the witnesses that testified before the committee membership was the treasurer of the State of Ohio, J. Kenneth Blackwell, who indicated that, "The Federal Government enjoys access to world capital markets that so far has been unlimited. We have been fortunate that foreign investors and central banks still have sufficient confidence in the strength of our Nation's economy to purchase much of our debt. It is unclear, however," he said, "that this situation will continue. The Federal credit card may be reaching its limit."

As Members of Congress, we live with constant reminders of the staggering Federal deficit. The fact remains that our national deficit is four times the size it was just two decades ago. The time of inefficiencies and waste is over. The time for change is now. The Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, under your leadership, is dedicated to restructuring our current wasteful and inefficient Federal Government agencies and creating a 21st century Government that will be a reliable source of service to all for many generations to come.

EDUCATION CUTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from California [Mr. MARTINEZ] is recognized during morning business for 1½ minutes.

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. Speaker, some would say that the new majority leadership has gone way beyond mean-spirited and is now in a cold-blooded kill-

ing mode. Why? Because in marking up the Labor-HHS-Education appropriation bill, they began what many of us believe is the killing of the American dream by slashing programs that help young people prepare for the future. They eliminate our investment in the future.

They cut Head Start. They cut student loans. They cut bilingual education. They cut special education. They cut summer jobs for youth. They cut title I. They cut safe and drug-free schools. They cut education for homeless children and youth.

And, as long as they were cutting, they cut taxes for the rich, and the rich get richer, and the poor get poorer. Eventually, I believe, only the children of the rich will be able to attend college, to compete in the classroom, to get a job at a decent wage.

Mr. Speaker, that does not project the promise of a better tomorrow for anyone.

I have a question. Is that the real agenda?

SPEAKING TO SENIORS ABOUT MEDICARE

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am absolutely disgusted with the lies and misinformation coming from the Democrats about Medicare. This past weekend, Democrats held town meetings with seniors to spread fear about the Republican efforts to save Medicare. One was held in my hometown of Dallas.

I find it unconscionable that these Democrats can tell seniors that Republicans are cutting Medicare when our budget increases Medicare spending by 5.8 percent every year over the next 7 years. Yes, you heard me right. Medicare spending increases by 5.8 percent every year per patient. Spending will increase from \$4,800 in 1995 to \$6,700 in the year 2002; and that is more of an increase than your usual annual wage increase. It is not a cut, and anyone who says it is either needs to take math over again or try to lie better.

The worst part of this big lie campaign is that the news media has fallen right into their hands. The Dallas paper did not even bother to cover Medicare meetings that were held in Dallas earlier with over 300 seniors at each of three different meetings.

I was there. I held them. We discussed the problems with Medicare and talked openly about the possible solutions with seniors.

I know seniors have the experience with Medicare necessary to provide us with good ideas for reform. So instead of holding meetings to scare them about Medicare, I am making them part of the solution. And I think the seniors deserve that.

This newspaper chose to run an article which, as the reporter freely admit-

ted, was based almost solely on propaganda brochures passed out at the Democrats' big lie meeting. The paper never bothered to check the facts with any member of either one of the congressional committees with jurisdiction over Medicare or anyone else that might be able to clarify facts for this story.

This irresponsible journalism does a huge disservice to my constituents and others around the Nation and only makes the business of saving Medicare just that much harder.

But American seniors should not be as concerned with what the Democrats are telling them as what the Democrats are not telling them. Although it probably was not mentioned at this weekend's meeting, Medicare is facing an enormous crisis.

The Medicare Board of Trustees, which includes four Clinton-appointed Cabinet members, made it clear that Medicare is going broke and will be bankrupt in just 7 years. So unless Congress does something to help the system, there is not going to be any Medicare at all.

Democrats are not being honest with the seniors. They will throw out lies and use scare tactics, but when it comes to the facts, they have nothing to say.

Now I am going to turn 65 myself this year, and I am really worried that there are people like this in this Congress, people who would rather play partisan games than sit down with us and figure out how to help today's seniors and future seniors in America by saving Medicare.

So to the seniors in Dallas I say, I am sorry that you have been dragged into this political maneuvering. This issue is really too important to be left to politics as usual, and I assure you, with or without the Democrats, we are going to pass a bill this year that will protect, preserve, and strengthen Medicare for everyone in America.

SAFETY, EDUCATION, AND TRAINING FOR AMERICA'S WORK FORCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentlewoman from California [Ms. WOOLSEY] is recognized during morning business for 3 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, this HHS bill is worse than I ever thought possible. This bill will go down in history because it marks the beginning of the end of the Federal Government's role in education and training. It is sweeping and radical legislation which guts our education system, weakens workplace safety and makes a mockery of our efforts to get families off welfare. It makes college education almost impossible for not only the very poor, but also for the working poor and for middle-income families.

This bill ignores the Government's responsibility to educate our kids. It makes it impossible for mothers to get

off welfare and into jobs. It forces education and training to take a back seat to tax breaks for fat cats and special interests.

Mr. Speaker, with this bill, the new majority has declared war on our children and war on our workers. It must be defeated.

I have heard from workers across the country about the new majority's effort to weaken workplace health and safety rules. Over and over again, spouses, parents, and children tell me that they are willing to see some of their taxes go toward enforcing health and safety rules so that they can be assured that their loved ones will come home from their jobs in the mines and other dangerous jobs, so they come home at night safe and sound.

The majority, however, do not see it that way. The Labor-HHS appropriation bill makes it clear that the new majority would rather invest in a tax break for the wealthy few than in education, training, health, and safety for American workers.

In fact, if this HHS bill passes, they will be showing a triple feature down at our local theaters in the near future. It will be called "Dumb and Dumber" with "Sick and Sicker" and "Poor and Poorer." And let me say to my colleagues, it is not going to be a bargain matinee. No doubt about it. This sweeping and radical legislation is going to harm American workers and cost this Nation dearly in the long run.

Mr. Speaker, like I said earlier, the faults of this bill are much too numerous to mention. I urge all Americans who care about the health and safety and the education and training of workers and for all of their loved ones to tell their representatives to oppose this dangerous bill.

PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF WORKERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentlewoman from Hawaii [Mrs. MINK] is recognized during morning business for 3 minutes.

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I join today in decrying the Labor, Health, Human Services, and Education appropriations bill. We will be funding the Labor Department, and in what the bill provides, it is an outright attack on working men and women throughout this country. The Republican majority is using this appropriations bill to circumvent the appropriate legislative process in order to push through an antiworker agenda.

The 30-percent cut in funding of the National Labor Relations Board and language restricting the Board's authority to use its enforcement tools is a direct attack on the basic rights of employees to organize unions.

The right of workers to join together as one unit and bargain collectively for better wages, health care, and other benefits and safe working conditions has been an integral part of American

law for more than a half a century. The National Labor Relations Board protects this right and resolves disputes between employers and employees.

Even without 1 hour of hearing, this appropriations bill, by cutting funds, undermines the ability of the National Labor Relations Board to protect the rights of working men and women and by legislative proviso ties their hands regarding enforcement. Unfair labor practices brought to the Board will languish, violations of law will go unchecked, and labor disputes will be prolonged.

Anyone with experience in business knows that timeliness is crucial to both employers and employees in the resolution of labor disputes. When disputes linger, productivity suffers, workers suffer, and families suffer.

This is not about protecting a bureaucracy. It is about protecting working people, people who get up every morning and go to work to face hazardous working conditions or unfair treatment. It is about protecting their ability to band together and petition for decent working conditions and decent wages.

The Republican bill is a blatant attempt to get rid of longstanding protections for working men and women in this country. I urge my colleagues to vote against this repudiation of the rights of working people.

MEDICARE RHETORIC

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. HOKE] is recognized during morning business for 3 minutes.

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, I was appalled this weekend when, having thought that perhaps we were going to bring a lowered style of rhetoric to the debate on Medicare, in fact, what happened is that the administration brought out, along with some of the liberal Democratic leaders of the Congress, they trotted out the big lie again for the centerpiece of their campaign to save Medicare, or is it the centerpiece of their campaign to smear and attack Republicans?

It seems to me that what has happened here is we have gotten into an incredibly demagogic style of rhetoric regarding Medicare, and it is just not right. It simply is not fair to senior citizens that we should be dealing in a partisan way with what is clearly a policy problem. It is a problem for everybody who is 65 or older, or whoever thinks that they might be 65 or older, because it is a problem with the fundamental question of whether or not we are going to be able to pay for the Medicare program based on the way that it is projected to go forward at this time.

It is very clear from this summary, which is a status report; what it is is a summary of an annual report that has to be made to the President and to Congress as a matter of law.

Every single year, the trustees of the different trust funds have got to make a report, and this is their report, and it is not just the Medicare trust fund. It is also the Social Security trust fund and the disability insurance trust fund.

The one that is the most telling and problematic is the Medicare trust fund, and it is absolutely the job of every responsible legislator in this body to both read this, take it seriously, and do something about it.

This is also not a partisan issue. It is not a partisan document. This is a document that was signed by three members of the President's Cabinet, Secretaries of Labor, HHS, and Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. Rubin, and it was also signed by Shirley Chater, who is the Commissioner of Social Security, also another Presidential appointee.

If it is a partisan document, then it is a Democrat partisan document. It is certainly not a Republican partisan document, and it says very clearly, in plain language that every American should read, the Medicare trust fund is going broke. It is going to be without money. It is bankrupt next year. It is without any money in 7 years. It is spending more than it takes in next year. It is exhausted in 7 years.

That is under not the worst-case scenario, according to the trustees. That is under the middle scenario, and it does not take into account the real problem that comes forward in about the year 2020 when people of my age, baby boomers, become eligible for Social Security and Medicare.

EFFECT OF PROPOSED OSHA CUTS

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 5 minutes.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, the war on workers and families in America will be escalated this week when the Health and Human Services and Education appropriations bill reaches the floor of the House.

For all matters concerned with workplace protections, this Republican appropriations bill is not focused on appropriations. This is, instead, a stampede into radical authorizing legislation. The authorizing Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities is rendered obsolete by what the Committee on Appropriations is doing. The antiworker, antiunion Republican overlords have chosen to bypass the authorizing process and implement their war against the workers by cutting the funds for OSHA, MSHA, and NIOSH.

We have also provisions which require that OSHA cannot use but two-thirds of its funds, present funds, for enforcement activities, cuts the enforcement budget by 33 percent. It also cuts out economically targeted investments. It bans the use of such funds from the pension funds for economically targeted investments.

It allows 14 year olds to load bailers and compactors, although as recently