

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. BALLENGER] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BALLENGER 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 2017. An act to authorize an increased Federal share of the costs of certain transportation projects in the District of Columbia for fiscal years 1995 and 1996, and for other purposes.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain five 1-minutes per side.

REAL SAVINGS IN APPROPRIATIONS BILLS

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

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, we passed another appropriations bill last night, the VA-HUD bill. It saved \$10.5 billion. I am going to put the line here and we will fill it in with green later. What we can see so far is that we have now saved \$24 billion, approximately, in the appropriations bills this year.

The one thing I want to point out about this in our Sav-O-Meter is that these are real savings. These are not Washington, DC, inside-the-beltway savings. There are actual savings over what we spent last year, not against a baseline, not against some bureaucrat's projection of what we might spend next year, but this is actually money less than what we spent last year.

In the agriculture bill we will spend \$6.3 billion less in the appropriations for 1996. In Treasury, it will be \$1.4 billion less; in Interior, \$1.6 billion less; energy and water, \$1.6 billion less; and then last night, VA-HUD, \$10.5 billion less.

That is relief for the American taxpayer. That is getting close to a balanced budget. That means we are not going to be taxing our children, in the most immoral act that this Congress has ever done, for the debt that we throw on them.

LET US ACT TO GIVE BOSNIA A CHANCE: LIFT THE ARMS EMBARGO

(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, 31 years ago, Kitty Genovese cried out for help as she was raped in New York. Thirty-eight neighbors heard her cries, but out of fear or irresponsibility, not one went to her aid. The next morning, she was found dead.

Today, Bosnia cries out for help. She asks only that her neighbors allow her to defend herself.

Her women have been raped, her children orphaned, her homes stolen, and her men massacred. All this by men branded by our country and the international community as war criminals.

And she wonders why the mighty, moral West watches, and waits, and debates.

Kitty Genovese is not in Bosnia.

But, genocide resides there now.

Let us act today to lift the arms embargo to give beleaguered Bosnia a chance.

MEDICARE: AMERICAN SENIORS KNOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AN INCREASE AND A DECREASE

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

Mr. BILBRAY. Mr. Speaker, I am just a freshman. I grew up on the Mexican border. I thought I knew what bilingualism was. Now that I am here in these Chambers, I think we need to warn the American people that what we hear here in the House is not English, it is Washingtonese, when our colleagues on the other side of the aisle talk about cutting Medicare.

Mr. Speaker, it is absolutely absurd when we look at the numbers, in that what is being proposed by the Republican majority is for each recipient's Medicare funds to go from \$400 a month to \$561 a month. In plain English, that is an increase. Only in Washington and only with the Democratic minority could they call that a decrease.

Mr. Speaker, I think that seniors of the United States know an increase and know a decrease when they hear it. I just hope that when they hear the minority speaking on the other side of the aisle about a cut on Medicare that they start remembering that is Washingtonese for meaning that we are not going to spend three times the rate of inflation on providing health care. No consumer should allow his or her Medicare or health care to increase three times faster than inflation. What we are talking about, Mr. Speaker, is a commonsense approach to increasing our funding, but trying to control the overhead.

A 25-PERCENT REDUCTION IN OSHA BUDGET IS UNKIND AND DANGEROUS

(Mr. PAYNE of New Jersey asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PAYNE of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, among the unkindest cuts for working men and women was the 25-percent reduction to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. I suppose some Members have never heard of NIOSH. Neither has the Heritage Foundation which mistakenly reported that NIOSH duplicated the functions of OSHA—the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

NIOSH is the only Federal agency charged with conducting research to identify the causes of work injuries and diseases and develop approaches by which workers can be protected. OSHA does not conduct research, although they rely on it.

Every day 17 Americans die from work injuries and illnesses. Every week 67,000 workers are disabled by workplace injuries and illnesses.

What is more disappointing is the fact that most of these illnesses and injuries are preventable. Many problems still exist in the workplace and need to be researched.

In 1991, NIOSH eased public concern over an unknown hazard. At that time, there were over 7 million women operating video display terminals [VDT's] and there had been widespread concern that the cause of the highly publicized clusters of miscarriages among workers were caused because of exposure to VDT's.

But thanks to NIOSH, these stories have happy endings. NIOSH published the definitive report that found no connection between VDT's and miscarriages. The NIOSH relieved anxiety of both employers and workers.

DEMOCRATS IN DENIAL REGARDING MEDICARE

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, despite all their pious concern over Medicare, Democrats have chosen a path that most definitely will render Medicare bankrupt by the year 2002. Democrats have chosen the path of denial. They deny the existence of this report by three of Bill Clinton's own Cabinet Secretaries. They call for immediate action to save Medicare from bankruptcy.

But Democrats deny that Medicare is going bankrupt.

In fact, the minority leader himself has called this report a hoax. That's right. The Democrats don't even want to hear the advice and warnings from the people who run Medicare, who are themselves Democrats in the President's Cabinet.

Mr. Speaker, denial is a dangerous path to follow. Medicare is going bankrupt, the numbers are not lying, and we need to take action now to preserve Medicare for millions of seniors who depend on it. We simply cannot afford to ignore the warnings of this report.