

Permian Basin oil patch to the outdoor exhibit which consists of the world's largest collection of the antique drilling and production equipment. I congratulate the petroleum museum staff and volunteers on 20 wonderful years and look forward to their second 20 so our children and our children's children may continue to discover and explore the inspiring story of the domestic oil and gas industry. In my 10 years in Congress, I have worked consistently to make sure that evidence of the domestic oil and gas industry should not be found only in museums.

FIXING MEDICARE WITHOUT CUTTING BENEFITS

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

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, I rise because I think Americans are concerned that they need some straight talk on Medicare. The Medicare system is not bankrupt; do not be fooled. Yes, the Medicare system does need adjustment; that is what the trustees said in a Los Angeles Times article last week, and I think we on the Democratic side are willing to make adjustments.

Mr. Speaker, the point is we can make adjustments, we can even make reasonable cuts, without affecting benefits, but on the Republican side, however, they want to cut benefits, and the fact is that seniors will be harmed when we cut benefits, and they will be harmed not to save Medicare or not to reduce the deficit, but specifically to give a tax break to the wealthy.

Let us look at the figures. I say to my colleagues, "If you are wealthy and make \$300,000, you'll get a tax break of \$20,000. If you make \$200,000, you'll get a tax break of \$11,000. But if you're an average American and make about \$35,000 to \$50,000, you'll only get \$500. That's a tax break for the wealthy."

I will make a deal. Cut the tax break for the wealthy, and we can work out a reasonable Medicare Program.

THE CHOICE IS CLEAR

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

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I am holding in my left hand appropriately the Clinton Democrats' budget plan. Let us just take a look. As my colleagues know, there is nothing in here about balancing the budget, and there is nothing in here about saving Medicare either. Cutting taxes? Well, no, there is nothing in here about cutting taxes either. It kind of makes my wonder if my liberal friends got the message from the American people last September.

Please see the American people want a budget written for them, not for the liberal social engineers in the west wing of the White House. They want a

budget that our new majority is ready to approve, a balanced budget, a plan to save Medicare and tax cuts for the middle class along with genuine welfare reform.

Mr. Speaker, the choice is clear. This fall we can enact the agenda of the American people or we can follow the tired old remedies of the liberal do-nothing Democrats. I hope all of my colleagues in this Chamber will do the right thing, reject this plan and adopt a true rational budget plan for the American people.

REPUBLICAN BUDGET UNDERMINES SENIORS' ECONOMIC SECURITY

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

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I think what the American people want is economic opportunity and economic security. Let us just talk a minute about correct security. One of the things that the Republican budget does is to undermine one of the most effective aspects of that economic security that has been established in this country over the last 30 years. That is the Medicare Program. Speaker GINGRICH last Sunday would have us believe that his cuts amount to only \$7, but his own budget office tells us that those cuts, the amount of money coming out of seniors' pockets, will be as much as \$56 a month.

Mr. Speaker, we know what is going on here. They do not like the Medicare Program. They want to privatize it. They want to put it on vouchers and coupons so people will go back to the old days when they did not have any economic security, when they had to worry about health care and when families had to worry about their elderly parents and grandparents. Let us not do that. Let us not balance this budget on the backs of the senior citizens of this country in order to give a tax break to the wealthiest people who do not need it and most of whom have the good sense not to want it.

WHY LIBERALS ARE AN ENDANGERED SPECIES

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

Mr. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, back home, the crustiest old farmers, who are not as conservationist as our generation, deal with endangered predators the way liberals have dealt with Medicare.

Their expression for the easy way out is this: "Shoot, shovel, and shut up."

In the same way, Washington liberals—who tried to dismantle the health care system one short year ago—today are trying to bury the Medicare crisis for political reasons.

Here is the drill:

First of all, they shoot. On the air and on the floor, liberals attack those working to salvage Medicare, claiming the effort will require terrible, draconian measures.

Second, they shovel. My colleagues know what I mean.

Liberals float numbers with no basis. They spread misinformation and use scare tactics with the flimsiest of evidence.

Third, they shut up. They refuse to discuss the fact that Medicare is going broke.

The White House strategy of "Shoot, shovel and shut up" is backfiring as people who know Medicare is going broke see the plan to save it as responsible and sound.

Maybe that is why liberals are an endangered species around here.

DEMOCRATS CANNOT WAIT TO SEE THE REPUBLICANS' PLAN

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

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, let me just tell my colleagues what continues to be referred to here as somehow Democrats on my side of the aisle are concerned about what all my colleagues are about to do to Medicare. Well, we are, and the fact of the matter is we do not have the evidence about what our colleagues are going to do yet. Where is it? Our colleagues have been telling us now for months that they are going to fix it, they are going to cut it, they are going to cut its outlay problems and all the rest, and then they tell us, "But it is going to be an increase; we're going to increase Medicare by a couple of percent." Whatever it is; let us say it is 4 or 5, they are going to increase it. That sounds good. The problem is health care costs are going up at 9 or 10.

Well, some of us think back from third-grade math class that that is a cut of 4 or 5 percent. Now that is a cut unless we are going to freeze wages and prices. As my colleagues know, their party has done that before. Some of us remember when Dick Nixon did it. Is that the plan?

We are interested in knowing what the plan is. My colleagues are right. We do not have all the evidence. We are waiting. We cannot wait to see our colleagues' plan because I am afraid that what our colleagues are going to do is adversely affect all senior citizens in America.

REPUBLICANS GIVING THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WHAT THEY WANT

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

Mr. BAKER of California. Mr. Speaker, I think a short history lesson is in order, especially after the previous speeches. First of all, in the private

sector the cost-of-living increase in medicine is only going up 3½ to 4 percent, but in the Government sector Medicare is going up 10½ percent. We have to fix it.

I think a short history lesson is in order. Last November the American people staged a revolt. With one election the people changed its Government. The liberal philosophy of more and more government had been totally rejected. The people voted for less government, less taxes and regulation, and firm leadership from Congress. During the first 100 days House Republicans enacted the Contract With America in which we clearly stated that government had to take a back seat to common sense. Congress went on record for lower taxes, serious welfare reform, and a real balance budget.

Mr. Speaker, the next few weeks will be the fruition of that contract. We on this side of the aisle clearly heard the voices of the people on November 8. Republicans have the political courage to address the Medicare crisis. We will keep our promises to rein in Federal spending, we will eliminate the failed welfare state, and we are going to cut capital gains tax to create more jobs. In other words, the Republicans will give the American people what they want, limited government and more individual responsibility.

MEDISCARE

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

Mr. TATE. Mr. Speaker, the Clinton administration trustees have come out with a report that clearly states that Medicare is going broke, and that is a fact. That is why the Republicans have worked hard, get this, to increase the amount of money that we are spending on Medicare. If someone is on Medicare today, they will receive \$4,800 on average per beneficiary. Under our plan someone will receive \$6,700 if they are on Medicare per beneficiary. That is an increase.

But now the special-interest groups have targeted me as spending \$85,000 worth of television advertising in my district misrepresenting the truth, talking about cuts, talking about what I call Mediscare and scaring seniors, and that is despicable. But the calls to my office, over 90 percent of the calls, are saying to me, "RANDY, stay the course. Don't give up."

Well, the Republicans will not give up on Medicare. We will not give up on seniors. It is too bad the liberals have given up on the seniors of the United States.

THE DEMOCRATS ARE NOT EVEN TRYING

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

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, one of the things that has not been mentioned on the floor today is that the Democrats do not have a plan to deal with the Medicare crisis. The President's Commission on Medicare said that Medicare is going to go bankrupt in 7 years and they do not have a plan.

Now our plan will handle the crisis, increase Medicare spending, but not at the rate of growth we have had. Medicare has been growing at up to 16 percent a year, and that is intolerable. We cannot sustain that kind of growth rate.

So the bottom line is we are going to fix the Medicare problem. We are going to make sure that Medicare is there for seniors in the future. The Democrats do not have a plan. We are working on a plan right now. It is fiscally responsible. There is going to be more benefits, over the long term 40-percent growth in Medicare benefits for the next 7 years, but we are going to cut the rate of growth so we can balance the Medicare budget without having it having to go bankrupt, and that is one of the things that I think my colleagues on the other side of the aisle ought to pay attention to. We have a plan, we are working on it, we are going to solve it. They are not even trying.

INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1996

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DICKEY). Pursuant to House Resolution 216 and rule XXIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 1655.

□ 1043

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 1655) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1996 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the U.S. Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes, with Mr. BURTON of Indiana in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered as having been read the first time.

Under the rule, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. COMBEST] will be recognized for 30 minutes, and the gentleman from Washington [Mr. DICKS] will be recognized for 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas [Mr. COMBEST].

□ 1045

Mr. COMBEST. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, at the outset, I would like to compliment the Committee's

ranking Democrat, NORM DICKS, for his highly constructive role in the formulation of this legislation. He is a bona fide expert in many aspects of national security and intelligence, particularly in advanced technologies, and his influence is evident in many of our Committee's positions. I also would like to thank the other Democratic members of the Committee who have also joined in a spirit of nonpartisanship to craft this legislation. I also thank my fellow Republican Members who have worked hard in putting this bill together. In particular, I appreciate the fine work of JERRY LEWIS and BOB DORNAN, our subcommittee chairmen. Finally, the staff on both sides of the aisle deserve our thanks. They are a dedicated, talented group. This legislation is the product of a lot of work, intensive deliberation, and cooperation. The Committee held 11 full committee budget hearings, over 20 Member briefings, and over 200 staff briefings related to the budget. As a result, it is an act that our Committee reported out unanimously and in which we can all take no small measure of pride.

H.R. 1655 authorizes the funds for fiscal year 1996 for all of the intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the U.S. Government. The National Security Act requires that spending for intelligence be specifically authorized.

The intelligence budget has three major components—the national foreign intelligence program, known as the NFIP, the tactical intelligence and related activities program, known as TIARA, and—for the first time this year—a third program, the joint military intelligence program, known as JMIP.

NFIP funds activities providing intelligence to national policymakers and includes programs administered by such agencies as the Central Intelligence Agency, the National Security Agency and the Defense Intelligence Agency.

TARA, or tactical intelligence activities, reside exclusively in the Department of Defense. They consist, in large part, of numerous reconnaissance and target acquisition programs that are a functional part of the basic military force structure and provide direct information in support of military operations. Additionally, this year we have for the first time categorized some activities under the newly created joint military intelligence program, which provides military intelligence principally to defensewide or theater-level consumers.

This categorization of the intelligence budget into national, defense and tactical military intelligence programs facilitates our understanding of the diverse uses of intelligence. Additionally, it should increase the accountability and managerial control of intelligence programs.

From even the above thumbnail sketch of intelligence activities, it is obvious that, although our committee