

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, once again I listen with great interest to my friend from Texas, and so many folks on this side of the aisle, who once again are engaged in an active policy not of saving Medicare, but of Medicare.

Mr. Speaker, there is one lesson I learned since coming to this Congress. It is a sad lesson, but I have to tell it in all sincerity to the American people. So often what we see happen on this floor has absolutely nothing to do with policy and everything to do with politics.

Mr. Speaker, it is a sad day when the guardians of the old order, so jealous of the majority that they once used to possess, will do absolutely anything to scare America's seniors.

Here is the fact: Even if the budget were balanced today, we would still have problems with Medicare. It is the role of every American, Republican, Democrat, and Independent alike, to step forward to save the program.

Once again, friends on this side of the aisle, join with us. Join with us and save this program.

"DON'T ASK, WON'T TELL"

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

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, well, now we know what their plan is for Medicare. It is, "Don't ask, won't tell."

They tell us they are going to save it, but they will not tell us one detail as to how they are going to save it. If they have got such a harmless way of saving it, why do they not tell us?

Mr. Speaker, there was just a 4-hour Republican conference in which they were telling them all sorts of things, but we still do not have one detail.

What do we hear we will find out? There is going to be 1 day of hearings. My word, there were days and days and days of hearings when this was put together.

Yes, we have a way to save Medicare. We save it by not killing it. They do not want us to know it is going to be killed. But when we ask them, when we ask them for one detail about Medicare, do not ask, because they will not tell. They just come down and scream politics, old order, and throw names around, but they will not throw the first fact out.

Stop throwing names around. Stop calling names. Throw facts out. That is what we want.

WASHINGTON POST AND WALL STREET JOURNAL PRAISE REPUBLICAN PLAN FOR MEDICARE

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

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, we have had more than 2 dozen congressional hearings, thousands and thousands of pages of testimony, dozens of town meetings and open forums. Every Member on this side of the aisle has solicited the advice, the consent, the input of their constituents to find out what is the best way to go about this. This notion that somehow this has been done behind closed doors is so pathetic and misleading and is another one of their tactics.

Mr. Speaker, I want to ask today, what exactly is it that the Washington Post and the Wall Street Journal have in common? Well, they have both applauded congressional Republicans for having the courage of attacking the impending bankruptcy of Medicare.

As I reported yesterday, the Post wrote the Republicans have, "forcefully taken the right position on the basic issue of controlling costs."

Then the Wall Street Journal said "the emerging GOP plan—to save Medicare—so far looks like the best news for American health care in years."

There we have it. The most liberal paper in America and the most conservative paper in America both agree that the Republicans are on the right track and they both chide the Democrats for playing partisan political games with one of the most important issues in the land.

It is not too late for my Democrat colleagues to put aside the partisan rhetoric and join us in saving Medicare.

□ 1315

WHERE IS THE MEDICARE PLAN?

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, as the saying goes, the devil is in the details. Today was the day that the Republican leadership was supposed to reveal the details of their secret plan to cut \$270 billion in Medicare to pay for a tax cut for the wealthy. But they lost their nerve. And, I do not blame them.

You see, the Republican leadership wants to keep this plan under wraps for as long as possible, because they do not want America's seniors to see a plan that would double their copayments and force them to give up their doctors.

The House leadership has also announced that they will only allow 1 day of hearings on Medicare. One day. This amounts to a gag order on America's seniors.

Instead of a plan, we got platitudes today. Instead of revealing the details of the GOP plan to cut \$270 billion from Medicare, Speaker GINGRICH instead revealed his goal to, quote, "tell the truth." Well, Mr. Speaker, the truth is that 37 million Americans rely on Medicare for their health care. The truth is that they deserve to be heard. The

truth is that they deserve to know how your plan will impact their lives.

GET OUT OF BOSNIA NOW

(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, America is a great country because the Government is run by free people, bound by a great document, the Constitution.

Despite our overwhelming strength, our Nation walked softly and carried a big stick. But in Bosnia we changed all the rules. Lines were drawn creating a government which forced orthodox Serbians and Catholic Croats to live presumably under Moslem rule. Ethnic rivalries and hatreds were inflamed by the thought of 500-year-old villages being ruled by long-time enemies.

Our Government now is bombing our World War II allies, the Serbs, one of the belligerents in the civil war started by the drawing of these lines.

What right do we have to use our military might 6,000 miles away from home? Has Congress been consulted?

Since there is no NATO country involved, how can it legally be a NATO action? Is this another unauthorized U.N. action? Who will pay the \$5 billion for our involvement in this misguided war?

America will remain a free and great country only if we continue to live under our Constitution. Get out of Bosnia now.

SAVING MEDICARE: DO NOT HARM SENIOR CITIZENS

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

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I think we have to look at history when we are trying to examine a debate. Our friends on the Republican side of the aisle come today with a masked proposal, a hidden proposal to tell us they are going to save Medicare.

The Democrats over the years have repaired the Medicare system over and over again. This is not the first time the trust fund has had some problems. In the 1970's and 1980's, time and time again we repaired it. We started off from a position where we believed in Medicare. We wanted the system to serve our senior citizens.

Let us listen to the words of the gentleman from Texas [Mr. ARMEY], the majority leader. If he had his way, he would have no part in Medicare. If he had his way, I think what we would do is we would all have no Medicare.

Our mothers and fathers and grandparents worked hard, fought in the wars to protect this country. We now need to keep the contract with them, not put them into bankruptcy, not raid the Medicare system, but fix the program to make sure that it is there for

future generations. We know there is a health care crisis in this country.

The good news has been seniors have not been part of it. The Republicans are going to put seniors in that crisis.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION INCORPORATING THE BUDGET RESOLUTION INTO LAW

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

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I wonder how many Americans feel that there is fraud and abuse, wasteful spending, that there is fat in this Federal Government, that the overspending of the Federal Government is leading us into a debt situation that is going to be intolerable for our kids and our grandkids.

Over the last couple of months, as Republicans have tried to cut spending, in every occasion the other side of the aisle says, "Well, you are cruel and mean-spirited." I am afraid that we are not going to reach a balanced budget; I think we need more legislative determination to assure that we do that.

I have introduced a bill called H.R. 2295 that incorporates the budget resolution that we passed, in the House and the Senate, into law. It changes the 1974 Budget Act to incorporate into law those spending caps that will last until 2002. That legislation is going to help give politicians the intestinal fortitude to do what we should do, and that is balance the budget.

THE REPUBLICAN STUDENT LOAN PLAN

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

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, I could not believe what I heard from my colleagues on the other side of the aisle the other day. They were saying that the Republicans are wrecking education and destroying millions of Americans' future. This is an issue very near and dear to my heart. Both my wife and daughter are public school teachers, my children grew up in public schools, and I know how important education is to future generations.

The problem is that President Clinton does not want to balance the budget. If he did, he would stop coming to Congress with his plans that only increase Government taking and Government spending. President Clinton believes in big government. In fact, he thinks the solution to our student loan problems is to convert the Department of Education into one of America's largest banks and the IRS into a loan collection agency. One thing I have come to learn in my short time in Washington is that the Federal Government has failed miserably as a lender of money.

The Republicans balanced budget proposal does not cut a single student loan. In fact, more loans will be available next year than ever in the history of the program. This can be accomplished, not in the public, but the private sector.

What is the Democrat alternative? Well, as usual, big Government.

TAX CUT FINANCED BY MEDICARE CUT

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

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. Speaker, during the closing weeks of this legislative debate, the people of the United States should focus on two numbers, 270 and 235. Keep those numbers in mind during the course of this debate about balancing the budget and the future of Medicare.

You see, the Republicans have proposed \$270 billion in cuts in Medicare over the next 7 years, cuts which will raise the cost of Medicare for seniors, limit the medical procedures that are covered, reduce the opportunity for a senior citizen to choose his or her own doctor, reduce provider payments to hospitals and doctors, \$270 billion in cuts. They tell us we need it to balance the budget.

Do not forget the other number, 245, \$245 billion tax cut which the Republicans are proposing while we are trying to balance the budget. Is it not amazing how close those two numbers are, 270 and 245? If the Republicans would give up on the \$245 billion tax cut, we would not have to cut Medicare.

THE REAL QUESTIONS ABOUT MEDICARE

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

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Mr. Speaker, my colleague on the other side of the aisle asked if we who have spoken about this very important issue of Medicare would simply join him in trying to fix it.

Let me share just a portion of the letters that I have gotten from senior citizens who say, "Yes, fix it, but save Medicare," and the real questions begin to come out, and those questions are, in fact, what the real issues are about Medicare's survival.

No, it is not bankrupt. Yes, we need to fix fraud and abuse. The real question is the \$245 billion cut in Medicare that is being proposed to pay for tax cuts for the wealthy.

What are the other questions? No. 1, the increased premium costs that will go to your seniors and those working-class Americans who have to take care of their parents. The other question? The lack of choice by seniors and whether or not HMO's will be willing to take the least healthy of our seniors,

those who are the most sick, and whether or not in rural and urban centers in America, those seniors will fall either upon you the taxpayer or fall upon hard times because of an inability to get proper health care. Those are the real questions I ask my colleagues on the other side of the aisle. Let us fix it for the seniors. Save Medicare the right way.

SENIORS CANNOT AFFORD INCREASED MEDICARE COSTS

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I listened this morning to what the Speaker said about the Medicare issue. I was very upset because of this suggestion that somehow this is all politics, and I assure you it is not about politics.

If you talk to seniors in my district, they are very concerned because they do not have the extra money to spend for an increased premium in Medicare part B. They are concerned because they have had the same doctor or they have been able to go to a hospital that is close by for a number of years, and now all of a sudden they are hearing that they may have to go into an HMO or a managed care system where they will not have the choice of the doctor that they have had for years or the hospital that is close by. They cannot afford it. They have a budget, some of them, where \$10 or \$15 a month makes all the difference in the world because that is all they have to spend after they have figured out their budget for a month, and whether we talk about a \$7 increase or a \$30 increase or a \$50 increase in Medicare part B, they cannot afford that difference, because they simply do not have the money on the fixed income they are living on.

I also have to tell you about the hospitals and providers.

PERMISSION FOR CERTAIN COM- MITTEES AND THEIR SUB- COMMITTEES TO SIT TODAY DURING 5-MINUTE RULE

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the following committees and their subcommittees be permitted to sit today while the House is meeting in the Committee of the Whole House under the 5-minute rule: The Committee on Commerce, the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Science, and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

It is my understanding that the minority has been consulted and that there is no objection to these requests.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RADANOVICH). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.