

American people can find out what the Republican plan is for cutting Medicare and Medicaid, how they are going to implement it, and how they are going to figure out what they are going to do to prevent the fact, to prevent all the tax cuts for Medicare cuts.

SPEAK OUT AGAINST VIOLENCE

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

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I could not let another day go by without commenting on two senseless incidents that have happened in the last week that are very, very frustrating to me.

One of them was in my own home city of Charlotte, where a teenager, a high school student, was senselessly gunned down in a drive-by shooting. It was not the first time it has happened, there or in other parts of the country.

Last week there was an incident in Los Angeles where a young couple made a wrong turn. When they tried to turn around, they were stopped by a gang of youths who literally fired into their car, killed a 2-year-old, injured a 2-year-old and an adult.

I just ask: What has happened in America, and how long are we going to stand back and allow this to go on without us as a people speaking up? I mean, it is just like it has become so common and everyday what we do, feel, or say, that is just the way it is. We ignore it.

I implore everybody, no matter where you live in this country, to start to speak out, to let your voice be heard and to say we are not going to tolerate this type of behavior in this great land of the United States any longer.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gallery is reminded they must refrain from applause or other editorial comments during the course of proceedings.

MEDICARE IS THE REAL CONTRACT WITH AMERICA

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

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, the Republican plan to cut Medicare by \$270 billion strikes a mortal blow to health security for all senior citizens. Their plan to hold just 1 day of hearings is an insult to democracy.

We had 28 days of hearings for Whitewater, 10 days for Waco, 8 days for Ruby Ridge, and we are having 1 day only, only 1 day, for Medicare. I defy anyone to find an American anywhere in this country outside of Washington, DC, who agrees with that legislative agenda.

They are cutting \$270 billion to preserve corporate welfare, extravagant defense spending, and tax cuts. The result for senior citizens is higher premiums, less access, low-quality health care, and, in many cases, poverty.

The \$270 billion cut is far in excess of what is needed to keep Medicare solvent, yet Republicans have the gall to say they are saving Medicare.

They will save Medicare, all right. It will be a classic case of the operation was a success, but the patient died.

Let us have real hearings. Medicare is the real contract with the American people.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MEDICARE PRESERVATION ACT

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

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, today being introduced in the House of Representatives is the Medicare Preservation Act, a comprehensive plan for a better Medicare.

What you have heard from the other side and what you hear repeatedly is this notion there have not been hearings or there will not be hearings. It is simply not true.

The fact is, and everybody knows it, that we have been dealing with this problem now for at least 3 years, that it is clear the trustees of the Medicare trust fund have said the trust fund is going broke. We have to do something about it. We have to do something about it now.

There has been voluminous testimony, numerous, innumerable hearings, tens of thousands of pages of evidence that has been given, and that somehow this subject that has been aired as exhaustively as any subject has been in the United States in the past 3 years has not gotten hearings is absolutely ridiculous. It is untrue.

What we will do, and what we are going to do, and what the American people expect us to do, is to preserve, protect, and strengthen the Medicare Program.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE NEED JOBS, NOT DEBATE

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, AT&T, after having already laid off 20,000 American workers, announced it will lay off another 8,500, including 1,000 workers in Dayton, OH. AT&T said through a spokesman they are restructuring because our economy is so strong.

Some economy, folks. Check it out. Westinghouse cut 6,000 jobs, United Technologies 11,000, McDonnell Douglas 9,000, IBM 50,000, General Motors 100,000, Xerox, Eastman Kodak 40,000.

Truth is, ladies and gentlemen, while Congress fights over partisan politics,

America is becoming a colony once again. The American workers are fighting for their very jobs. The American people need jobs, not debate.

THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

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

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, last week, by voting to terminate the Legal Services Corporation, Republicans committed one of the most shameful attacks on the working poor that I have ever witnessed.

In my own community, Brooklyn Legal Services is there day after day, whether it is intervening to save an elderly woman from eviction or helping tenants receive fair treatment from their landlord. Legal Services is there fighting for their forgotten people.

Mr. Speaker, the Constitution says that we are all entitled to equal protection under the law, but in today's society, some of us are ore equal than others. In this country, if you have the money to hire a good lawyer, you can make your way through our legal system. But if you are poor, you will lose regardless of whether you are right or wrong.

Nothing should come at the price of denying individuals their constitutional rights.

I urge my colleagues to support the Legal Services Corporation. Let us show the American people there are still Members in this House willing to fight for those in need of a helping hand.

Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to express my outrage over last week's move by House Republicans to terminate the Legal Services Corporation. These actions represent a shameful attack on the poor of this country.

Mr. Speaker, many of my colleagues will argue that we cannot afford programs like the Legal Services Corporation in this time of fiscal constraint. But I challenge them, and I ask, "How can we not?"

Let me tell you about a life that the Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation saved. An 86-year-old latino woman—one of my community's abuelitas—who was to be evicted from her home. It seems the landlord wanted this elderly woman's apartment for his own use, and decided to solve the problem by throwing her out on the street. What he did not tell her, and what she did not know, was that under the law senior citizens are protected from such evictions. The landlord was maliciously tricking this woman into—literally—signing away her right to this apartment. Then, Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation stepped in. They assessed the woman of her rights, and halted an injustice that would have condemned her to a certain death on the streets.

This is not an occasional happening. Recently, a landlord in my district decided that because he was going to sell his apartment building he no longer needed to bother with its maintenance and upkeep, so he left the families living there to fend for themselves. The building deteriorated, and it became a place

unfit to live in—let alone raise a family. Once again, Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation intervened, and worked to get the building updated. Today, these families have a clean and safe building.

Mr. Speaker, the Constitution says we are all entitled to equal protection under the law, but in today's society some of us seem to be more equal than others. You see, in this country if you have the money to hire a good lawyer, you can make your way through our legal system. If you are poor, new to this country, or don't understand the legal system, however, you will lose regardless of whether you are right or wrong. That's why the efforts of the Legal Services Corporation are so important. They are in over 900 communities, working to make sure that those who need help have a fighting chance.

I urge my colleagues to support the efforts of the LSC. Let us show the American people that there are still Members in Congress willing to fight for those in need of a helping hand.

DEAL WITH THE FACTS ABOUT MEDICARE

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

Mr. RIGGS. Mr. Speaker, our liberal colleagues on the other side of the aisle have a very distorted view of politics. They equate leadership with scaring people, and they figure the only way they can shape events is by fear, by intimidation, and by denying reality.

This has had a fraudulent approach to politics, and it ultimately cheats the American people out of good government, does a disservice to our whole country.

Let us look at Medicare. We have been hearing these constant complaints. We saw this ranting and raving yesterday in the Halls of Congress regarding our proposal to protect and save and strengthen Medicare.

Where is the Democratic plan? One can only deduce by the lack of any plan from the Democrats they are prepared to vote for a drastic increase in payroll taxes or to ration health care benefits or even worse, to bankrupt Medicare.

Mr. Speaker, saving Medicare means dealing with the facts and leading, not denying the facts and scaring Americans.

SLOW DOWN ON MEDICARE

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

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, with all the changes the Republicans are making, we should put some new signs to warn everybody.

Like the new highway bill, your State could have a new speed limit, not 65 miles an hour, but 65 plus.

There is another new limit that people should know about. Take a look, it is the Republican health care limit, 65 years old. That is right. When the Republicans raid Medicare, there is going

to be a limit on affordable health care for every senior citizen, so if you depend on your car, you are going over 65, do not worry about it, you are safe.

But if you depend on Medicare and you are over 65, watch out, the GOP has its sights on you. They are going to pull you over, hand you a big ticket, just so that they can pay out the powerful few who paid for this victory last November. That is why there is a new health limit in America, but there is no limit on how low the Republicans will stoop. They will add to the wealth of the upper class and destroy the health of the middle class.

So, slow down, Mr. Speaker, because you are going too fast.

SAY IT AGAIN, SAM

(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, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. GIBBONS] is one of the authentic heroes of this body. This man was a paratrooper in World War II. He reclaimed Europe from the Nazi blitzkrieg. He has served the public interest from the day he was old enough to do anything. He loves that flag more than anyone.

As ranking member on the Committee on Ways and Means, he has served there longer and knows more about Medicaid and Medicare than anyone in this body, and yesterday he had every right to blow up because he found there were no facts, there was no plan, there were no details, and that is very troubling.

We are being accused of trying to scare senior citizens. Well, if their plan is so non-scary, why can they not show it? The best assurance he got was if they ever get a plan, they will give 1 whole day of hearings to that plan. That is wrong.

Say it again, SAM; say it again, SAM; and say it again, SAM.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CONGRESSIONAL PAY ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 1995

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

Mr. BUNN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, as we come to the end of the fiscal year, many of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle seem more concerned about their salaries rather than the important issue of balancing the budget.

My Republican colleagues and I are committed to delivering on our promise of balancing the budget, and now is the time to show how serious we are.

That is why I introduced H.R. 2351, the Congressional Pay Accountability Act. This bill will show the American people that we are serious. H.R. 2351 requires that Congress return to appropriating Members of Congress each

year just as they used to do. It is simple. If the appropriations bills do not pass, we do not get paid.

Yesterday, I met with Federal employees from my district who said, "We are scared. We have to pay rent. We have car payments to pay. We have food to buy for our families, and Congress is playing with our lives." I said, no; we are going to put ourselves in the same position that you are in and expect the same kind of treatment that you receive. We have to get behind balancing the budget. We have to take it seriously. We have to show that we are serious and will not get paid until the job is done.

My bill will prove just how serious we are.

I ask my colleagues to join me by cosponsoring this important piece of legislation to show the American people that we are willing to put our money where our mouth is.

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ONLY 1 DAY

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

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, no wonder there are brawls in the House of Congress. It turns out that the Republican plan to raid Medicare of \$270 billion to pay for \$245 billion in tax cuts. By a party-line vote the Republicans delayed the release of their plan and only committed to 1 day of hearings, maybe tomorrow.

We had 28 days of hearings on Whitewater, 10 days on hearings on Waco, and 8 days of hearings on Ruby Ridge, and I did not object to any of those hearings. That is what Congress is supposed to do, is to have hearings. But this shows the hypocrisy of the Republicans when they are taking only 1 day to hold hearings on their plan they are so proud of.

Why is the majority rushing the Medicare reform bill to the House floor for a vote before the 37 million elderly Americans and their families have time to review the plan? I think the answer is clear. The Republican majority, they do not want the American people to know what is in their Medicare reform bill because it does major surgery when only minor surgery is needed. The \$270 billion cut for Medicare and the \$245 billion cut in tax cuts, we can cure Medicare by cutting fraud, waste, and abuse, but not major surgery.

WHY ALL THE CRITICISM ON THE PROPOSED \$245 BILLION TAX CUT

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, there has been so much political criticism of the proposed \$245 billion tax cut—but what are the facts?