

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.

□ 1015

#### 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?

First, this tax cut is spread over 7 years and averages about \$35 billion a year.

This is just 2 percent of Federal spending over that period. Federal spending has risen almost 300 percent over the last 15 years. Do you really think we cannot give just 2 percent back?

Second, some of this tax cut will go to upper income citizens—but most of it will go to lower and middle income people. Somehow, we never hear about that.

Third, DICK ARMEY, our Republican majority leader, has introduced a flat tax proposal that totally excludes from Federal income taxes the first \$26,000 of income for a single person and the first \$38,000 for a married couple.

This would do a whole lot more for poor people than all the political rhetoric coming from those who do not want to cut taxes at all.

The people of this Nation need some of their money back—the bureaucrats have taken too much for far too long.

#### TRUE INTENT OF THE REPUBLICANS' PLANS FOR MEDICARE

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

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, how can we preserve, protect, and save Medicare, as the Republicans claim to do, by cutting \$270 billion out of Medicare and drastically increasing premium fees and payroll taxes for 37 million elderly Americans? We cannot do it, and that is why Republicans are hiding the details of their Medicare plan and holding no hearings. I ask, can you blame them?

Mr. Speaker, they do not want to talk about it. They are setting up the American people and the Congress for a railroading of their plan in less than 10 days, hoping everyone will forget. They hope that no one will know the true intent of this plan, and that is to give a tax cut for America's wealthiest.

Mr. Speaker, that is not right. Let us be open. Let us see the light of day of this Medicare plan, and let us debate it openly.

Democrats have an alternative, and Democrats want to protect Medicare.

#### THE REPUBLICANS' IGNORANCE-IS-BLISS WAY OF MAKING DECISIONS ON HOUSING PROGRAMS

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

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, the House Committee on Banking and Financial Services cut \$2.4 billion in banking and housing services for poor and moderate-income Americans. These draconian cuts eliminated the RTC and FDIC affordable housing programs, the FHA Mortgage Assignment Program, the Multifamily Property

Disposition System, and neutralized the Community Redevelopment Agency, among others.

Mr. Speaker, these cuts were not based on facts and insights from expert testimony or those impacted by those decisions. Why? Because not one public hearing was held regarding these programs.

During the bill's markup, Mr. Speaker, Republicans and Democrats asked questions that could not be answered, forcing members to make decisions on communities and their housing needs with little understanding of their impact. With these cuts, Mr. Speaker, far too many will suffer before we all realize the painful consequences of the committee's actions.

It is tragic Republicans have applied the same ignorance-is-bliss in determining key policy issues for America.

#### RAMMING THE MEDICARE PLAN THROUGH CONGRESS REPRESENTS A NEW LOW

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I have said before that the new majority is going too far, too fast, and now I add the words, "too low." Yes, the way they are trying to ram their Medicare plan through the Congress represents a new low in backroom attacks on our seniors.

Let us make it clear; The new majority is allowing only 1 day of hearings on their Medicare plan. I repeat 1 day of hearings.

As a former city council member, I can tell you that we had more debate on sidewalk improvements than Speaker GINGRICH will allow on Medicare which affects millions of seniors and their families. But, you know, if I was in the new majority, I'd be hiding their Medicare plan, too, because it increases premiums on seniors and takes away their choice of doctor for one reason, and for one reason only: to pay for one of the most outrageous and unfair tax giveaways in American history.

Mr. Speaker, let us see the full details of your Medicare plan. Let us have public hearings. Let us get it out in the open, because as far as I am concerned, a plan that cannot withstand the bright light of day simply is not good enough for the seniors and families of this country.

#### THE DEMOCRATS' WAY TO ECONOMIC PROSPERITY IS NON-SENSE

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

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, it is fascinating to listen to the parade of people from the minority party come before this Congress and tell us why they are in the minority. They are in the minority in large part because they

hate the idea of tax cuts. Giving tax cuts to the middle class is an absolute anathema to them, and so, therefore, they come to the floor day after day and suggest that the idea of giving tax cuts to the middle class is exactly the wrong national policy and we ought to do nothing in terms of a budget that would get us to tax cuts for the middle class, because after all, they know that if we simply give a bigger and bigger Federal Government more money, that that is the way to economic prosperity.

Mr. Speaker, it is nonsense. The American people understand that their entire concept is nonsense.

Now they are talking about Medicare. We have a program to strengthen Medicare in a way to assure that Medicare is there for people in the future. Otherwise in 7 years it goes broke. The Democrats have nothing. They are coming to the floor, and they have nothing. They have offered nothing, they are willing to debate nothing, they have no plan whatsoever. They are willing to countenance bankruptcy.

So understand what their budget policy is. Their budget policy is bankrupt the American family by taxing them to death, and bankrupt the Medicare system so that nobody has medical care in the future.

#### CUBAN LIBERTY AND DEMOCRATIC SOLIDARITY ACT OF 1995

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HAYWORTH). Pursuant to House Resolution 225 and rule XXIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 927.

□ 1024

#### 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 further consideration of the bill (H.R. 927) to seek international sanctions against the Castro government in Cuba, to plan for support of a transition government leading to a democratically elected government in Cuba, and for other purposes, with Mr. DUNCAN in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Wednesday, September 20, 1995, all time for general debate had expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of H.R. 2347 is considered as an original bill for the purpose of amendment and is considered read.

The text of the amendment in the nature of a substitute is as follows:

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1995".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows: