

of the American people, gave them the highest tax increase in the history of the world with the promise they would balance the budget in 5 years. But if you give a liberal a dollar, they will spend five. They did not keep their promise, so let us give the money back.

Madam Speaker, this debate over Medicare really boils down to two assumptions about government: Liberal Democrats believe a big spending, high tax government is good. Republicans do not.

AMERICAN PEOPLE CONCERNED ABOUT MEDICARE

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

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Madam Speaker, I am amazed that the other side stands up and says shame, shame, shame on this side. Now, let me tell you: That side has been waving around the trustees report saying we must cut Medicare, we must cut Medicare. We have been dealing with the trustees report every year. So they go out and they slash Medicare, and they will not let the trustees even see their plan nor come and testify on their plan, because they know the trustees said you only had to cut \$9 billion, and they cut \$270 billion.

Oh, what is happening with the change there? That is a chunk of change, and we think they are going to pocket it.

Thank goodness the American people are not asleep. Let me read a letter I got today from a Coloradan. "Today's Republican single-day hearing on Medicaid was one of the most shameful displays of naked arrogant power I have ever witnessed." It goes on to say, "Enough."

If they want to do that, they can at least let the trustees see if they have the right plan. And we know what they are going to say: They are giving a tax cut.

□ 1015

CHANTS OF TAX CUTS FOR THE WEALTHY USED AS DIVERSION- ARY TACTIC ON MEDICARE

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Madam Speaker, Democrats have accused Republicans of giving tax breaks to the rich. This is a blatant diversionary tactic. The Democrats have no plan to save Medicare. Rather than working to protect Medicare from bankruptcy, they would rather sling mud.

The Republican tax proposals have nothing to do with Medicare. Our cuts in discretionary spending alone will save \$151 billion. Savings in welfare and other mandatory spending programs will save \$171 billion. So just in

these two areas we save \$322 billion, far more than our tax cuts.

Democrats have got to realize that in most areas of government life it is time to tighten our belts. The American people mandated these changes in 1994. Now, it is up to us to see our promises will be kept. It is time to protect Medicare and assure beneficiaries that the program as they know it will continue to be available. It is not the time to scare our parents and grandparents into believing class warfare distortions.

TRIBUTE TO AMERICAN VISIONARY JAMES W. ROUSE

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

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in a tribute to an American visionary and native Marylander, James W. Rouse. Today James Rouse is receiving our Nation's highest civilian award, the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Mr. Rouse is best known as the creator of shopping malls and Columbia, MD, the largest planned city in America. However, in addition, James Rouse has devoted his life to implementing a vision that has transformed and improved the lives of millions of Americans.

Madam Speaker, many say that with developments such as the Inner Harbor in Baltimore, James Rouse is singularly responsible for saving American cities. His nonprofit Enterprise Foundation formed in 1981 helps low-income neighborhood groups in cities across America rebuild their housing.

Mr. Rouse's words should inspire us all. "A full life is not achieved through one's material well-being, but by dealing with the whole of life wherever one is. Circumstances have placed me in the life of the city. I see so many things that ought to be better."

Congratulations, Mr. Rouse.

REPUBLICANS ASSAULT ON WORKING FAMILIES

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

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express grave concern over the Republican assault on working families through their harmful Medicare and Medicaid proposals. Consider the way in which the Republican Medicaid legislation, which passed the Committee on Commerce, leaves the elderly and their families unprotected.

Madam Speaker, elderly people with incomes of less than \$625 per month would lose their guarantee to assistance in paying their monthly Medicare premiums. Five million women in America depend on Medicaid to pay their Medicare premiums each month.

In addition to this, there is the problem of nursing home care. In addition to lifting standards for nursing homes, there would be no more guarantee of coverage for nursing homes, there would be no more guarantee of coverage for nursing home care after an individual or family has spent all of its savings. There would be no more guarantee that spouses of nursing home residents would be able to retain enough monthly income to remain in the community.

Madam Speaker, States would be allowed to place liens on the homes, family homes and family farms. States would be allowed to require the adult children of nursing home residents to pay for their parents' nursing home care, about \$40,000 a year. And all of this in order to give a tax break to the wealthiest Americans.

DEMOCRATS PLANNING AN OCTOBER 5 TOUR AROUND THE COUNTRY

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

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, America should get ready. The Democrats are coming, and the date is October 5. This is their blueprint for coming into more than 50 districts around the country, not to talk about how to save Medicare, but to criticize Republicans.

We have a plan, Madam Speaker. We want to save, protect, and strengthen Medicare, but this is their blueprint. If America wants to know when they are going to be in your area, please call my office. It is October 5. They have no plan. All they want to do is come to these districts and scare Americans and scare senior citizens.

If America wants to know the truth, if they want solutions, if they want to know how we are going to strengthen and protect and save Medicare for our seniors, they should call my office and we will be happy to give them the details. This is the blueprint. They are coming October 5, so get ready.

DEMOCRATS NOT INCLUDED IN REFORMING MEDICARE OR MEDICAID

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

Mr. KLINK. Madam Speaker, I got a hoot out of hearing my colleagues talking about the Democrats having no plan. It is like a baseball game and it gets to be the bottom of the ninth inning, and they turn to our team and say, hey, do you want to go to bat? They have not included us in any of the plans, they have not included us in anything, and now they want to know if we can to join with them in the bottom of the ninth inning.

I got a great hoot today out of one of my colleagues talking about the Contract With America. The first Contract With America was the Constitution. It guaranteed life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Then in 1935 we made another contract with Americans. We said if Americans work hard and pay into Social Security, they will have a safety net. Then in 1965, when one-third of our seniors were living in poverty, we said we will make another contract with America, we will create Medicare and Medicaid.

Now, the Republicans, for the first time in 40 years, have control of the House, and they want to undo those safety nets. They want to say to these people we are going to save Medicare by bleeding \$270 billion out of it. We are going to save Medicaid by bleeding \$182 billion out of it. This is the same kind of medical care they used to give George Washington with leeches. I say this is the actually the biggest highway robbery since the James Gang rode the west. They should be ashamed.

SAVE MEDICARE FROM BANKRUPTCY

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

Mrs. SEASTRAND. Madam Speaker, here is a picture of the new symbol of the liberal Democrat Party. Yes, it is an ostrich with its head in the sand.

This symbolizes the Democrats response to saving Medicare from bankruptcy. When told back in April by their own Medicare trustees in the Clinton administration that Medicare would go bottom up in 7 years, Democrats buried their heads in the sand.

Madam Speaker, it really is a shame that the party that devised Medicare in the 1960's would abandon it in the 1990's. Democrats have not put forward one idea on how to preserve Medicare, not one. Where is their plan? This is irresponsible and, in the words of the Washington Post, "wrong."

Yesterday, former Democrat Congressman Tim Penny wrote that Democrats should be in the forefront of saving Medicare from bankruptcy. Instead, like this ostrich, they have buried their heads in the sand.

DO NOT CUT MEDICARE

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

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, the Republican plan to cut \$270 billion from Medicare in order to fund a tax cut for the wealthy is beginning to make members of their own party squeamish.

This week, three Republican members of the other body said they could not stand by a \$245 billion tax cut while cutting \$270 billion from Medi-

care. They think it is the wrong thing to do and they are right.

The Republican proposals to cut Medicare will mean that seniors will see their premiums double and their deductibles double. Senior citizens living on fixed incomes simply cannot afford to see their premiums go from \$45 a month to \$93 a month, or see their deductibles go from \$100 to \$200.

The three Republican Senators are right. It is wrong to ask 37 million American seniors to pay \$1,000 more for Medicare, so that the wealthiest Americans can get a \$20,000 tax cut.

SENIOR CITIZENS SHOULD HAVE RIGHT TO CHOOSE THEIR HEALTH PLAN

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

Mr. HOKE. Madam Speaker, did you see this? We just heard more of this.

Madam Speaker, one of the things that amazes me about this debate is that one of the options that individuals have, and the gentlewoman from Connecticut will be pleased to know this, is if a senior citizen chooses, chooses to stay in a 35-year-old plan, they may do that. If they choose to do that, they have that option. They have the option to do that if they want. They will have other choices that will give them far more flexibility, far more choice, et cetera, et cetera.

What is important about this is that in fact what we do know is that one of the choices that will exist is if a senior citizen wants to stay in the program exactly the way that it is today, they may do that. They may do that, but they will also be given other choices, better choices, newer choices.

DEMOCRATS SHOULD BE LEADERS, NOT OBSTRUCTIONISTS, DURING REFORM OF MEDICARE

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

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Madam Speaker, I do not expect the people on that side of the aisle necessarily to listen to us, but I would hope they would listen to one of their former colleagues and a Democrat who wrote the other day in the Washington Post. And, incidentally, he was my immediate predecessor, Tim Penny, who wrote a column entitled "Medicare Mistake."

In the column he says, "By politicizing the issue, Democrats threaten the viability of the very program they created." He goes on to say, "Democrats in Congress have not only opposed Republican reform initiatives, they have also refused to embrace the savings identified in President Clinton's plan. We cannot afford to ignore Medicare's shaky financial condition or put it off until after the next election. It is just too important. The Medicare trustees

have given us a 7-year warning. These 7 years should not be squandered in indecision, stall tactics and politicking. We should view this time as an opportunity to devise and employ creative solutions. Democrats should be the leaders in this debate, not the obstructionists."

□ 1030

APPOINT AN OUTSIDE COUNSEL AND BRING INVESTIGATION OF SPEAKER TO A CONCLUSION

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

Mr. MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, the lyrics to an old song say, "First you say you will, then you say you won't. You're undecided now, what are you going to do?"

This apparently has become the theme song for the chairman of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, the gentlewoman from Connecticut [Mrs. JOHNSON]. One minute she says she is going to have an outside counsel, then she is not going to have an outside counsel.

She said in 1988, the House should have an outside counsel when the committee investigated Speaker Wright, and now she is saying maybe she did not mean to sign that letter or agree with it at all. What is it?

The fact is that the only way this inquiry of Speaker GINGRICH can be brought to a conclusion is with an outside counsel. The press tells us, the Manchester Journal and Inquirer tells us, that when the chairman of the House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct visited with the Speaker to inform him that in all likelihood there would be an outside counsel, he hit the roof and said, "You are going to wreck the GOP revolution and you are going to bring me down."

Well, as he said to Speaker Wright, if you are innocent, you have nothing to fear from the outside counsel. Let us maintain the standard that the House has had since 1979 and appoint an outside counsel and let us get this investigation to a conclusion.

JUANITA MORGAN'S DEPARTURE FROM THE JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

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

Mr. SAXTON. Madam Speaker, as vice chairman of the Joint Economic Committee, I rise today to thank and wish the best of luck to Juanita Morgan, or Nita, as all her friends call her.

I have had the great pleasure of working with Nita, who after 16 years of loyal and dedicated service, is leaving the Joint Economic Committee to join the private sector.

During her tenure with the committee, Nita has worked in a variety of