

□ 1245

You will notice I did not say cuts, cutbacks, because when you add more population to it and you do not plan for that increase, it is a cutback.

Ms. Chater made an interesting point during her visit. I would like to reiterate it. We have all heard the word "bankrupt" a lot. All by friends on the other side of the aisle stand up and wave the Medicare Trustees' report and explain how they are trying to save the system from going bankrupt. Ms. Chater is not only Social Security Administrator, but she is also one of the trustees of the Medicare trust fund, and she pointed out to the seniors in Houston, TX that the system really is not going bankrupt. It may have problems that need to be addressed, like it has eight times or nine times in its history over the last 30 years, but as long as people paid into the trust fund, those of us who are earning now, it is not going bankrupt as long as we plan for the future.

My friends on the other side of the aisle say we are scaring seniors. Seniors ought to be scared. I think the polls show they are getting scared by what they hear. In fact, they should be the ones that should quit scaring seniors into thinking they are going to cut \$270 million out of Medicare and it will not be around next year unless they do that, because that is what the fear is: Unless we cut \$270 million out of the growth over 7 years we will not have Medicare next year.

We will have Medicare next year, we will have it the year after that, but we need to have a reasonable plan to get its policies on expenditures in line like we do every Federal program; but not \$270 billion, more like \$90 billion. It is not true, and it is wrong to scare the people into thinking that.

Let us be honest with the American people. They need \$270 billion to meet their tax cut goals. I have heard those goals were met with the appropriation bills. But, Mr. Speaker, we have only passed one appropriation bill here on this floor that went to the President, and was vetoed last week, so those cuts are not in place.

Now they are talking about cutting Medicare. There are no ifs, ands, or buts; the seniors in this country will have to bear the brunt of the pain to balance that budget to give that tax break. That is the truth, and even the Republican Members of our other body have expressed strong opposition to cutting taxes while simultaneously slashing Medicare.

These Senate Republicans are beginning to say, as our Democrat leader, the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. GEPHARDT], has said for months, in fact the gentleman from Missouri was in Houston at another senior citizen site a few months ago, and said that before we start talking about reforming Medicare, let us sit down and look at the whole budget, but let us take off this tax cut of \$247 billion.

I was in Houston for over a week, and I have talked to hundreds of seniors. Several have asked me to outline what the plan entailed. I have briefly explained \$110 billion will come from health care providers, 80 billion from the beneficiaries and their increase in Medicare part B, and \$80 billion from future unspecified cuts will be decided by some bureaucrat here in Washington, DC. Of course, that begged the question: Who is going to make that decision? Will these unspecified cuts be out of providers, or will they come from increased beneficiaries' cuts? We do not know, but that is the only place this can come out of, unless we take more out of the Federal budget.

The translation is, I tell the seniors in my district, to expect more direct hits down the road if this plan passes. My constituents asked me, "It's kind of sketchy to us. Why don't we get some more detail?" I said, "Okay, that is what I will do." I am waiting, because I know the Committee on Ways and Means is still meeting, to see what their plan will do on these unspecified cuts.

Mr. Speaker, I know I have exhausted my time, and my colleague, the gentleman from Arizona [Mr. HAYWORTH], has left. But I know that I join with a lot of people, the AARP, the American Medical Association, and a lot of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle who question what may be happening to Medicare if we do not do something reasonable instead of cutting \$270 billion.

THE UPCOMING WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON TRAVEL AND TOURISM

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. EVERETT). Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. ROTH] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROTH. Mr. Speaker, I want to say something today about a worldwide phenomenon that is taking place that we seem to be oblivious to, and we should be aware of. That is what is taking place in travel and tourism. If you take a look at the jobs, not only in our congressional districts but around the country and around the world, there is no industry like travel and tourism that is creating jobs and meaningful employment for people.

On October 30 and 31, let me repeat that, on October 30 and 31 of this year, of this month, we are going to be convening here in Washington the biggest White House conference on travel and tourism ever. As chairman of the Travel and Tourism Caucus here in Congress, the largest caucus here in Congress, I can vouch for the fact that we have not given enough recognition to travel and tourism. Travel and tourism does not ask anything from the Government, it just gives to the Government. It is the biggest tax producer in America. Tourism in the United States

is a \$360 billion business. It is the Nation's second largest employer.

Travel and tourism is a worldwide phenomenon. Do you know that 10 percent of all the jobs throughout the world come from the area of travel and tourism? It is also the largest producer of taxes in the world. Jobs and taxes translate into travel and tourism. This is true globally, but it is also true locally for all of us. In every single one of the 435 congressional districts, travel and tourism has a preponderant, overwhelming influence.

For example, in my own district in Wisconsin, tourism brought in more than \$6 billion in States' revenue. That is more than \$17 million a day, and it puts bread on the table of some 128,000 workers just in our State. Just in my district alone, people vacationing and traveling for business spend over \$700 million every year, and 18,000 new jobs are created as a result.

That is why I want all of our Congressmen to focus in on this conference on the 30th and 31st of this month, because it is the first time we have had a conference like this. If we want good-paying jobs for our people, if we are concerned about what is happening for senior citizens and Medicare and Medicaid and so on, we have to have dollars to fund those programs. Those dollars come basically from travel and tourism. All of us rely on the travel and tourism dollar.

We in Congress must recognize that industry for the jobs and prosperity it creates in our towns, cities, and throughout America, and quite frankly throughout the world. I want to do something positive here to help our working people. Therefore, I encourage all of you to become involved in the Travel and Tourism Caucus. We have some 280 members in our Travel and Tourism Caucus, but we have 435 Congressmen, so in this interim period, between now and the conference, the White House conference, I am asking every Member of Congress to join, to become a Member of the travel and tourist industry, because we have to high-profile this industry.

It is time for us to get involved. Travel and tourism is the incoming economic tide of the future. In every one of our congressional districts, in every part of America, in every part of the world, the global economy is being influenced by travel and tourism. October 30 and 31 is when the conference will be held, when we give recognition to the men and women who make travel and tourism such a wonderful benefit to our districts, our country, and the world.

CALLING FOR TIME FOR CONSIDERATION AND PUBLIC SCRUTINY ON PROPOSED MEDICARE REFORMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May

12, 1995, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PALLONE] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. I am very concerned, Mr. Speaker, that the Speaker, the gentleman from Georgia, NEWT GINGRICH, and the Republican leadership are basically moving forward with this Medicare plan that they have proposed much too fast and without any real opportunity for public scrutiny. I am a member of the Committee on Commerce, and not yesterday but the Monday previous, on October 2, we received a copy for the first time of the 421-page House Medicare restructuring legislation proposed by the Republican leadership. Later that same day, on Monday, October 2, our Committee on Commerce was expected to mark up the bill, without any opportunity for a hearing, without any opportunity, really, to even have looked at the legislation.

At the time, I proposed an amendment to postpone voting until hearings were held to review the impact of the legislation on senior citizens and the health care industry. All but one Republican voted against the measure, voted against the effort to postpone until we had hearings, and, of course, the amendment failed. Because of that, many members, the Democratic members of the Committee on Commerce, including myself, felt we really were just witnessing a railroad job, and there was no point in staying at the markup anymore.

Instead, on the next day, Tuesday, October 3, a week ago, the Democratic members of the Committee on Commerce called our own hearing to begin discussing the ramifications of this bill. I learned a number of things in the course of those hearings on the Republican Medicare proposal. First, I learned that of the \$270 billion proposed for reductions in Medicare, nearly half would not even go to shoring up the Medicare Hospital Trust Fund, known as Medicare part A, which the Republicans, and I believe falsely, are suggesting faces insolvency.

Instead, the seniors would be asked to pay more for physicians' and outpatient services under what is known as Medicare part B, and premiums would double from \$46.10 per month over the next 7 years to over \$90 a month. I make this distinction between part A and part B again because the Republicans keep talking about the insolvency, which is not really true, of part A, which is the hospital trust fund. Medicare part B, though, the fund which pays for physicians' care, and where the seniors are being asked now to pay twice as much for their premiums, that Medicare part B comes out of the same fund as would \$245 billion in tax cuts proposed by the Republican leadership.

I would maintain that since any changes to Medicare part B do not really impact part A, they are separate funds, it is highly likely that the part B cuts would be used for tax cuts, and

most of those, of course, much of that to the wealthiest of Americans. Do not let the Republican leadership fool you. Most of the money that they are talking about cutting is, in effect, going to be used for a tax cut. The amount of the cut in Medicare is almost equivalent to the \$245 billion tax cut they are proposing.

The other thing that I learned about this Medicare plan is that it essentially seeks to lure seniors into HMO's and other managed care programs with no choice of doctors. This is the main way that the Republican leadership proposes to save a lot of money, if seniors do not move into managed care plans. There are budgetary gimmicks in this legislation that would kick in and take even more money out of the Medicare system.

Previous to having received this Medicare legislation, I had talked on the House floor about the Republican proposals for a voucher system, where they would simply give a senior a voucher or a coupon for a certain amount of money and say, that is all we can afford. That is all we are going to give you for your Medicare. Of course, the Republican leadership said that is not what they had proposed as part of their Medicare program, but if you look at the details of the Medicare program, you can see that is exactly what it is. It is a voucher system, because essentially what they are doing is giving the HMO and the managed care system a certain set amount of money, and if a senior wants a better system, or if the HMO or managed care system wants to charge seniors more for a better quality health care system, then the senior has to pay for it. That is another thing that are not brought out, but if you look at the legislation, it is exactly true.

Then, beyond that, if over the next 7 years or over the next 5 years we find out that not enough money is saved because not enough seniors are going into the voucher system or into the HMO or the managed care system, then all the cutbacks, the so-called failsafe, where if they do not save enough money they are going to cut back more on the reimbursement to doctors, hospitals, and health care providers, all those cuts come in the fee-for-service system, the current system where seniors choose their own doctor or their own hospital.

What is effect you are going here with this Medicare legislation is saying, you either go into a voucher system, or if you do not, we are going to force you into one, because the cuts are going to come on the fee-for-service side. Mr. Speaker, I would like to talk about this more. Maybe there will be more of an opportunity later this afternoon.

THE SEATTLE MARINERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Washing-

ton [Mr. METCALF] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, I just have to say it, how about those Seattle Mariners? The whole Nation saw the playoff as they swept the Yankees in Seattle to win the divisional series.

To recap, in the bottom of the 11th inning, Joey Cora bunted to get to first base, then Ken Griffey, Jr. followed with a great single which moved Cora all the way to third, as we watched. Then as the American League's batting champion, Edgar Martinez, hit a ball to deep left field, we knew Cora was home. But did you see Ken Griffey, Jr. really hustle all the way from first base to score the winning run? What a finish.

I would like to place a friendly challenge to my colleague, the gentleman from Cleveland, OH. If the Mariners lose the American League series, I will send a box of Washington apples and a salmon to him. I look forward to what my colleague would risk on this wager.

Seriously, Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Mariners and Lou Piniella for their outstanding season, and it is not over yet. The Mariners just refuse to lose.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12, rule I, the House will stand in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 59 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. EVERETT) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

May the beauty of the day not be lost in our sight, may the majesty of Your many graces be known in our hearts, may the splendor of Your love ever live in our souls, and may Your hand of forgiveness lift us up and point us in the way. O gracious God, from whom comes every good gift and all abundant blessing so fill our minds and hearts and souls that the presence of Your spirit is real to us beginning this day and for eternity. In Your name, we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.