

attach their homes. We always felt that that was not fair either, that nobody wants to be dependent upon their children, and it also removed the standards that we fought so hard for in nursing homes.

Mr. Speaker, kennels will have more standards than we will have in nursing homes.

THE TRUTH

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

Mr. KIM. Mr. Speaker, I am really concerned about this assault and accusation that the Republicans are trying to give millions and millions of dollars' tax credit to rich people at the expense of poor, elderly people by cutting Medicare spending. I am really concerned. This is a bunch of lies.

Let me tell my colleagues exactly what happened.

Here is a tax credit; they are talking about tax cuts, which is \$500 tax credit for child support. That money does not come from Medicare spending. It comes from actually non-Medicare spending cut, which is about \$622 billion. None of those Medicare money going to tax cut.

The second lie: Republicans just passed amendment to Medicare bill which prohibits any money being transferred from Medicare fund to other, other account.

Come on, let us stop this rhetoric. No money shall be transferred for the Medicare to other funds except Medicare trust fund itself. That is the truth.

AMERICA'S SENIORS BEING SOLD UP THE RIVER

(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, back-room deals are becoming the standard for this new Congress. Last night, after a closed door meeting with Speaker GINGRICH the American Medical Association reversed its position and announced the association will now support the proposal.

According to the New York Times, a representative of the AMA reported that the organization reversed its position because "doctors would receive billions of dollars more than the Republicans had planned. But he and Mr. GINGRICH refused to give the details, nor would they specify which other groups might receive less money to make up the difference."

Well, why do we not make an educated guess? Medicare savings can only be achieved by cutting from providers or from beneficiaries. And, if the Republicans are not cutting from providers then guess who is making up the difference? America's seniors.

While Republicans buy off the special interests, it is America's seniors who are being sold up the river.

NO CONNECTION BETWEEN CUTTING TAXES AND MEDICARE

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

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, liberal Democrats are, I believe, at the end of their rope. They know that action must be taken to preserve Medicare for future generations. But they come to the well and spew the grossest class warfare slogans I have ever heard.

Democrats go on and on about tax cuts for the rich.

But, least we forget, to a Democrat, anyone who has a job is rich. Anyone who has children is rich. Anyone who pays taxes is rich.

Mr. Speaker, there really is no connection between cutting taxes and Medicare. Medicare is going bankrupt—period. That has nothing to do with tax rates, or capital gains tax rates, or what level of income pays the biggest share of the tax burden.

But one thing is clear—Medicare is going bankrupt. No matter how hard they cry and scream about tax cuts, Democrats have not lifted one finger to save Medicare. And that is wrong.

EXTREME CUTS NOT NEEDED IN ORDER TO SAVE MEDICARE

(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, just so my colleagues know that there are two sides to the debate, Medicare is not going bankrupt until, not going bankrupt until, the year 2002, and we can change Medicare by cutting over the next few years and increasing beneficiaries' costs may be \$90 billion, not \$270 billion. That is why the Republicans are scared, because the American people are not buying what they are trying to sell them. It is a tax cut of \$245 billion over that same 7 years and a Medicare cut of \$270 billion.

Mr. Speaker, the American College of Physicians and Surgeons, the AARP, finally came off of dead center and said it is wrong. We even have a freshman Republican doctor who has been quoted as saying, "I guarantee you that these reductions will be bad for quality health care, not just for our senior citizens, but also for working people."

Hello. Earth to the other side of the aisle. Listen to your own people. These extreme, and that is extreme, cuts do not need to be made to save Medicare, only \$90 billion, not \$270 billion.

PROUD TO BE A PART OF MEDICARE REFORM

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, let me correct the statement that was just made. It is not \$90 billion;

\$90 billion in the Democrat plan takes us out to the year 2006. Guess what? There are 4 more years before the baby boomers arrive, and that is where the real problem exists. Our reform takes us out to that point, and there is a \$300 billion difference in their plan and ours. They do not fund Medicare.

As my colleagues know, today is an important day for me because I am 65 and I have got a Medicare card. Guess what? I worried about it because of the bankruptcy, so I have spent months working with doctors, hospitals, nursing homes, insurance companies, and seniors in my district, as have a lot of us around the country, to save Medicare and find a solution. As my colleagues know, we have come up with a smorgasbord of choices, and I am proud to have been a part of the reform effort, not only for myself, but for every American who depends on Medicare. I am proud knowing that Congress has not just looked toward the next election, but we have looked to the next generation to make a better America for our kids.

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HEALTH CARE IN RURAL AMERICA

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

Mr. DE LA GARZA. Mr. Speaker, I may be one of the few here that voted for Medicare, and the counterparts of the Members now that are complaining chastised me for having voted for Medicare when it was enacted in my first session of Congress.

I am concerned about rural America and health in rural America. The cuts proposed by our colleagues will increase the severe financial pressure on rural hospitals, and force some rural hospitals to close. Rural hospitals lose money on Medicare patients while urban hospitals make a small profit. Medicare accounts for almost 40 percent of the net patient revenue in the average rural hospital, as much as 80 percent in some rural hospitals. The Republican cut of \$58 billion over 7 years, a 20-percent cut in 2002 alone, will almost devastate most rural hospitals. We need to look at that.

I went throughout my country. I did not see what my colleagues were saying in their prepared speeches.

The Republican Medicare cuts will force 9.6 million older and disabled Americans in rural America to pay higher premiums and higher deductibles for a weakened second class Medicare Program.

Medicare spending for people in rural areas of America will be cut by \$58 billion over 7 years—a 20-percent cut in 2002 alone.

The Republican cuts will increase the severe financial pressure on rural hospitals in America and force some rural hospitals to close. Today, rural hospitals lose money on Medicare patients while urban hospitals make a small profit. Medicare accounts for almost

40 percent of net patient revenue in the average rural hospital, and as much as 80 percent in some rural hospitals.

According to the American Hospital Association, under the Republican cuts, the typical rural hospital will lose \$5 million in Medicare funding over 7 years.

Rural Medicare recipients would lose much-needed doctors. America's rural Medicare recipients would need 5,084 more primary care physicians to have the same doctor to population ratio as the Nation as a whole. Yet the American Medical Association has stated that the cuts in Medicare are so severe that they "will unquestionably cause some physicians to leave Medicare." [New York Times, October 10, 1995.]

THE CLEVELAND INDIANS—A TEAM OF DESTINY

(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, I thank my friend, the gentleman from Washington [Mr. METCALF], from the great apple- and fish-producing State, for his friendly wager on the outcome of the American League Baseball Championship series between the mighty Cleveland Indians and a team from Washington. I am sorry that I was not here yesterday to accept his bet immediately, but consider it done.

Mr. Speaker, I will wager an assortment of high-pressure hose fittings, high-quality roller bearings, and of course as much slab steel as the gentleman from Washington [Mr. METCALF] thinks that he can use. Cleveland, after all, is a working man's city, and we make stuff, we do not pick it off trees or pull it out of rivers.

However, since I am not sure how well industrial products are appreciated in the more agrarian regions of our great and vast country, I will also throw in a case of beer from our Great Lakes Brewing Co. and an assortment of Polish pierogies, German bratwurst, and Hungarian paprikash.

I do not mean to predict an outcome or want to sound overconfident, but just for the sake of clarification, I think the gentleman from Washington should know that I like my apples green and my salmon smoked.

The Indians are a team of destiny. No one knows more about overcoming adversity than the Cleveland Indians, except maybe House Republicans, and it is no coincidence that the last time the Indians won the pennant was the last time the Republicans controlled the House in sweeping proportions, just like the Indians will take the pennant this year.

THE LOCKBOX IS A SHAM

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

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, all along, the Republican Medicare plan

has been nothing but a shell game to design to hide that they are cutting Medicare to pay for tax cuts for the rich. The American people were not fooled, and they quickly caught on that Medicare would have to be cut by \$270 billion if the Republicans were not also trying to cut taxes by \$245 billion.

In fact, \$150 billion of the Medicare cuts the Republicans propose having nothing to do with the insolvency proposed in part A, so the Republicans have now introduced a new gimmick: the so-called Medicare lockbox.

Each new explanation only makes the Republicans look more and more like a kid caught with his hand in the cookie jar. The fact is we have a single Federal budget with a single bottom line. Tax cuts and Medicare expenditures are both part of that bottom line. If you cut taxes by \$245 billion, then you have to make up the lost revenues in order to balance the budget by 2002. The Republicans make up that lost revenue by cutting Medicare.

To claim that tax cuts are paid for from other cuts is absurd. The lockbox is a sham. Democrats want to fix Medicare as we always have, and the Republicans are not being honest about their intentions to raid Medicare to pay for tax cuts for the rich.

WE MUST LISTEN TO OUR CONSTITUENTS ON THE MEDICARE ISSUE

(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, I wonder whether anyone reads their mail. I take time to do it, and I think it is important as we debate this matter, since we are only having about half a second of hearings on Medicare, to really listen to the constituents.

I can tell you I am getting a lot of mail. From Sister Jane Abell of the Dominican Sisters:

I am opposed to the proposed Medicare and Medicaid cuts, especially when the Congress wants to give the Pentagon \$7 billion more than they requested. In my view it is unjust to make the most vulnerable people in our society bear the brunt of needed cuts. I hope this issue will be more fully debated and more humane compromises reached.

Yes, Sister, I am going to be working on that and so are the Democrats.

Two senior citizens say:

My wife and I have had total of 14 operations. We spend \$650 per 3 months for Medicare Plus insurance. About one-third of our retirement goes for medical. We do not need cuts, we need to clean up what we have and cut the waste.

That is what we are saying to the Republicans: Cut the waste and the fraud and abuse, do not take \$270 billion out of Medicare just to give tax increases to those who well can afford it. Let me tell you something. If you listen to our hospitals, Texas Children's, our local community hospitals, they are saying, "Do not cut Medicare and Medicaid, do

not cut services." Let us be rational, let us be real. Let us do something right for Medicare and for our senior citizens.

MEDICARE CUTS HURT

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

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, last week I got a check in the mail.

At first I thought it was a check for having a flag flown over the Capitol.

But it wasn't.

Then I thought maybe it was a misdirected campaign contribution.

But it wasn't.

Then I looked again.

It was a check from a senior citizen in my district who is so scared she will lose her Medicare benefits, she wanted to contribute \$10 to the government to make the system whole again.

She thought that if enough people contributed \$10, everything would be all right and she could rest easy about the state of her health care.

Mr. Speaker, I wish I could give her that reassurance.

Not only did I send the check back to her, I had to tell her that the outlook was bleak for protecting her health care under current proposals now making their way through the reconciliation process.

It's a sad day in America that we've come to this point; that our senior citizens are so scared of our actions that they are begging us not to take away their health care.

I sent the check back but, unfortunately, it won't even begin to cover her Medicare cuts.

My constituent is going to need that \$10 check. Actually, she's going to need a whole lot more.

TOO MUCH MONEY IN HEALTH CARE CUTS AND TOO MUCH MONEY TO THE AMA

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

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, a lot of talk has been had today on Medicare. Let me make two quick points. No. 1, there is a solvency problem of Part A, the hospital trust fund, and we are told to extend the solvency to the year 2006 it will take \$90 billion. In about 10 minutes the Democrats on the Committee on Ways and Means will produce their bill to save the Medicare trust fund, but although it takes \$90 billion to save the trust fund, the Republicans are cutting \$270 billion. I ask, why are they cutting three times as much as necessary, and after they cut \$270 billion, they resolve the trust fund to the year 2006 also? Because the balance is going for tax cuts.

We had a committee meeting marking up the Medicare bill yesterday. There was an amendment to provide