

I still remember all the people on Social Security who call in and say, gee, I got a letter from a past Congressman and he thinks Social Security is going to be gutted, but if you will give \$10, \$20, \$30, \$40, \$50, we will save that legislation. I have not been around here as long as a lot of folks but 15 years, and I will tell you most of that legislation is saved right now.

Mr. Speaker, I have a lot more examples here, I can see I have used my 5 minutes, but I would surely hope that people are wise enough, prudent enough, and have enough judgment to realize when they get these letters, are they predicated and grounded in truth or are they just some way to pick up a fast buck for a lot of people?

MEDICARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. KIM] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KIM. Mr. Speaker, I hope all my California people right now are watching me and listening to me today, especially senior citizens, because I would like to talk about Medicare.

I am deeply concerned about all this rhetoric that is going on, frightening senior citizens by twisted information and disinformation. I would like to get the facts straight tonight.

I was an engineer all my life. I have been dealing with the facts, numbers. I used to get straight A's in all the math and physics. Tonight I am going to talk about facts again and perhaps dealing with the simple numbers.

All this rhetoric that is going on, saying that we give millions and millions of dollars tax credit to rich people at the expense of senior citizens by cutting Medicare spending. Let me get this straight. Give a tax credit to rich people? Let me get a little chart here.

The tax cut we are talking about is \$500 tax credit to the child support, \$2,000 for child adoption. That is what we are talking about. The tax credit is coming from a non-Medicare spending cut, roughly \$622 billion, the money is coming from this fund. Not the Medicare money, not the Medicare trust fund.

By doing this, we can save \$377 billion for deficit credit. By giving a tax credit to child support, we can stimulate the economy, thus create more jobs and more revenue to Government.

Besides, Congress passed an amendment to the Medicare bill to prohibit transferring any money from Medicare to other funds. It is illegal to transfer money from Medicare to other general funds. It cannot be done. So how can they say that we are giving all the million-dollar credit to rich taxpayers at the expense of a Medicare cut? That is absolutely false. It is not true.

The second argument is that we are cutting too fast too much. That is another rhetoric that I cannot accept. Let us talk about that quickly. Too fast. What do you mean by too fast?

Because according to the Medicare trust fund report, Medicare will be bankrupt in 7 years. We have got to save it.

Oh, yes, we have a plan, a counterplan to extend it out to 10 years, same general plan. But if Medicare is bankrupt in 7 years, how can you save it in 10 years? Let me show a little chart to show what we are doing.

We are talking about cutting too fast too much. Here it is.

□ 1915

Right now, the Medicare part A has been financed by payroll taxes. You pay half; your employer contributes the other half.

Is it fair to you that we have to raise the taxes so you can subsidize the existing Medicare plan? Of course not.

Let us take a look at the part B. This is what you are paying. The beneficiary only pays 31 percent. Other taxpayers are subsidizing by 68 percent. In other words, beneficiaries only pay one-third, and other taxpayers have to subsidize by two-thirds. It used to be half and half. It keeps going up. If you do nothing, within 7 years the beneficiary will only pay 18 percent; the other taxpayers have to subsidize by 82 percent. Is it fair, asking other taxpayers to pay almost 90 percent of the Medicare plan? Of course not.

All we are trying to do is maintain this relationship, one-third paid by the senior citizens, two-thirds paid by the other, younger taxpayers. We feel that is fair. We would like to maintain that same proportion, same 31, one-third, and two-thirds relationship.

They call that a cut. Is it really a cut, trying to maintain the same ratio of one-third, two-thirds? Is it really cutting too much to try to maintain the same ratio?

Right now, the Medicare price has gone up out of control. Part B last year alone has gone up 12 percent while the private plan only has gone up 1.5 percent. The price is out of control.

There is so much waste and fraud going on in the Medicare system. That is why we try to correct it, try to save the Medicare from bankruptcy. It is fair to everybody, fair to the younger generation as well.

Again, I would like to readdress again to my Democrat colleagues who argue \$270 billion Medicare savings is too much. They believe that \$90 billion is enough to save the system. Let me tell you, their plan would leave Medicare with a \$300 billion deficit just at the time the first wave of baby boomers reach retirement. This is going to be chaotic when the baby boomers decide to retire.

This Democrat plan will not work. We have got to do something now. Of course, it is better not to do anything and let it bankrupt it. But they are not going to get a quick decision.

I think that solving the Medicare problem is difficult now. But imagine when the baby boomers hit, it is going to be really chaotic.

Again, we are not cutting Medicare to provide a tax cut for the rich. We are not cutting too much too fast. Instead we are trying to save the Medicare from bankruptcy to preserve fairness for the working families.

AMERICAN DIES IN CUSTODY OF PALESTINIANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Colorado [Mr. SKAGGS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. BURTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I hope all of my colleagues who are here will listen to what I am going to read to them. A man named Mohammed Rahim Mosleh, an American citizen, was picked up for questioning Wednesday at a cafe by plainclothesmen who identified themselves as agents of Jericho's preventive security police on the West Bank, now the new domicile of the Palestinian Liberation Organization.

He was picked up. He was dressed only in his trousers when his body was returned today at 2:00 a.m.

Now get this, my colleagues, his forehead was bruised blue, his lip was torn open, blood had flowed from one ear, and there were what appeared to be burn marks on his right foot, like cigarette burns, according to family members.

Palestinian security officials speaking on conditions of anonymity, said Mosleh was overcome by the 98 degree heat in Jericho and had a heart attack. Get that, he had a heart attack with his head smashed in, his lip bleeding, his blood coming out of his ear and burn marks on his feet.

A doctor at Jericho's hospital, where Mosleh was dead on arrival, refused to issue a death certificate. The certificate would normally include a cause of death.

Witnesses said Mosleh was playing cards at a village coffee shop when six men identifying themselves as preventive security agents for the PLO approached his table Wednesday and invited Mosleh outside. They said they were investigating a theft of gold from his sister and asked him to come with them to Jericho. When he did not return that night, his wife and two of his sons drove to Jericho on Thursday to ask about him. Preventive security agents twice told them to come back later, assuring them that Mosleh was there.

On the third trip, another agent said preventive security knew nothing about his whereabouts.

Now, I am for the peace process in the Middle East. We all want there to be peace in the Middle East, and we want it to work out between the Israeli Government and the PLO leader, Yasser Arafat, and the PLO forces. But

here is an American citizen that was tortured to death, and nobody is doing anything about it. This is an American citizen who had his head bashed in, his lip torn open, beaten in the ear so severely that blood came out of his ear, and burn marks on his feet. He was tortured to death, and nobody is doing anything about it.

To add insult to injury, we are going to give the PLO \$500 million over the next 5 years. Now, I am for the peace process. But this kind of baloney has to stop, and so I say to the State Department and to the President and anybody else who has any authority over this peace process over there, we want a full accounting of this man's death and those who perpetrated this atrocity must be brought to justice.

If we do not get justice, then we ought to cut off that \$500 million in aid we are giving them. There should be severe conditions, in any event, put on that aid.

[From the Washington Post, Sept. 30, 1995]
AMERICAN DIES IN CUSTODY OF PALESTINIANS
(By Barton Gellman)

EIN YABROUD, WEST BANK, Sept. 29.—A Palestinian American grocer on vacation from Dallas was returned dead to his wife and family here early today after about 36 hours in custody of security police in the Palestinian self-rule enclave of Jericho.

Members of his immediate family said Aram Mohammed Rabin Mosleh, 52, picked up for questioning Wednesday at an Ein Yabroud cafe by plainclothesmen who identified themselves as agents of Jericho's Preventive Security police. Mosleh was dressed only in trousers when his body was returned today at 2 a.m. His forehead was bruised blue, his lip was torn, blood had flowed from one ear, and there were what appeared to be burn marks on his right foot, according to family members who saw him.

Palestinian security officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Mosleh was overcome by the 98-degree weather in Jericho and had a heart attack. A doctor at Jericho's hospital, where Mosleh was dead on arrival, refused to issue a death certificate. The certificate would normally include a cause of death.

Mosleh is at least the fourth person—the first holding a U.S. passport—to die in suspicious circumstances in the hands of the Palestinian self-rule security establishment.

Although the time of death could not be pinned down precisely, Mosleh appears to have lost his life within hours of Thursday's White House appearance by Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat for the signing of an accord extending Palestinian rule in the West Bank. The Jericho forces are responsible to Arafat.

One American official said the U.S. consul general in Jerusalem would place "tremendous pressure" on the Jericho forces for an independent investigation into Mosleh's death, and said the FBI would take part, as it sometimes does in foreign cases involving Americans to establish if there was any political motivation against the United States.

"This will be an enormous embarrassment for Arafat in Washington," the official said.

A report last month by the Israeli human rights group B'T Selem found a "greatly disturbing picture" of "gross human rights violations" by the Jericho-based security police. Some of those interrogated and released have told of being beaten and tortured with electric prods, hit cigarettes and burning plastic.

John Barger, deputy consul general in Jerusalem, was said to be planning a trip to

Jericho on Saturday to meet with the chief of Palestinian forces there. He planned to ask about unconfirmed reports that another Palestinian American had been arrested with Mosleh and remained in custody.

This village near Ramallah, about 12 miles north of Jerusalem, has an unusually large number of American citizens. Many of the men, like Mosleh, live and work in the United States. They send money to their families here and return for one or two months a year.

Mosleh was no stranger to controversy. Two years ago, Israeli police arrested him on suspicion that he had killed two Palestinians in the West Bank. They held him eight months, according to U.S. diplomatic officials and Asid Mosleh, his oldest son. The Israelis released him without charge.

Mosleh then returned to Dallas, where he owns a grocery store. The business made him wealthy by the standards of Ein Yabroud, where he was nicknamed "the millionaire," the Associated Press reported. He arrived here for a visit last month at his fortress-like and palatial family * * *.

"Anybody can have a heart attack," said Wahid Hussein Mosleh's brother-in-law, who said the family did not want further trouble with Preventive Security.

Witnesses said Mosleh was playing cards at a village coffee shop when six men identifying themselves as Preventive Security agents approached his table Wednesday and invited Mosleh outside. They said they were investigating a theft of gold from his sister and asked him to come with them to Jericho.

When he did not return that night, his wife and two of his sons drove to Jericho on Thursday to ask about him. A Preventive Security agent twice told them to come back later, assuring them that Mosleh was there.

One their third trip another agent said Preventive Security knew nothing about Mosleh.

A preliminary investigation by U.S. diplomats suggested today that Mosleh was handed over by Preventive Security to the Mukhabarat. One Preventive Security representative told a U.S. field investigator that his service had obtained a "receipt" for the prisoner.

PLO VIOLATIONS OF THE PEACE ACCORDS

1. The PLO does not halt terrorist attacks by PLO members.
2. The PLO has not disciplined PLO members who engage in terrorism.
3. The PLO continues to preach hostile propaganda against Israel.
4. The PLO still has not changed the PLO Covenant, which denies Israel's right to exist and calls for its destruction.
5. The PLO has failed to urge Palestinian Arabs to reject anti-Israel Violence and terrorism.
6. The PLO has failed to honor Israel's requests for the extradition of terrorist suspects.
7. The PLO hires fugitive terrorists for its police force. (More than 20 fugitive terrorists have been hired by the PLO police force.)
8. The PLO has not adhered to the agreed upon limits concerning sovereignty issues.
9. The PLO fails to condemn terrorist attacks. (Between June and November 1994, there were at least 72 Arab terrorist attacks on Israelis. Arafat did not explicitly condemn any of these attacks.)
10. The PLO does not respect human rights in Gaza and Jericho.
11. The PLO operates in Jerusalem in direct violation of the accords.
12. The PLO fails to prevent incitement by organizations within its jurisdiction. It has not banned Hamas or Islamic Jihad.

IS THE PLO REALLY BROKE?

("The conglomeration of Palestinian movements under the umbrella of the Palestine Liberation Organization are the richest of all terrorist groups. It is estimated that they have worldwide assets approaching 10 billion U.S. dollars and an annual income of about 1½ to 2 billion U.S. dollars."—report by the United Kingdom's National Criminal Intelligence Service (NCIS)).

A FEW OF THE PLO'S HOLDINGS

The PLO has bank accounts around the world.

The PLO has a partnership in Nigeria Airways.

The PLO owns the duty-free shop at Nurata Mohammed International Airport in Lagos.

The PLO controls Air Zimbabwe.

The PLO controls Kenya Airways.

The PLO owns the duty-free shop at Jomo Kenyatta Airport in Nairobi.

In Nicaragua, 25% of the national airline Aeronica is PLO owned.

The PLO owns a substantial share of the duty-free store at Nicaragua's "Aeropuerto Internacional Las Mercedes."

Mr. Arafat, a billionaire, owns twelve homes and three airplanes.

PLO COMPLIANCE AND FINANCING

The Clinton administration is providing \$500 million to the PLO.

This funding has to be authorized by Congress.

The Senate, under pressure from the Clinton administration, is preparing a long-term authorization of this funding, with almost no strings attached.

This is a scandal of major proportions; as conservatives, we must do something to stop it.

According to the British National Criminal Intelligence Service [NCIS], the PLO is hiding assets of \$7 to \$10 billion.

The PLO is in major violation of their agreements with Israel—they continue to support terrorism. Arafat, in his speeches, continues to praise terrorists. The PLO refuses to hand murderers over to Israel, as they are obligated to do by the accords.

The PLO is misusing funds from foreign donors and is engaged in massive fraud. Authenticated documents proving that donor funds have been used for a host of illegal activities.

[From the Center for Security Policy, Sept. 27, 1995]

WE'RE "SHOCKED, SHOCKED": ARAFAT BITES THE HANDS TRYING TO FEED HIM \$500 MILLION IN U.S. FOREIGN AID

WASHINGTON, D.C.—In an extraordinary display of ingratitude, not to say intemperateness, Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority (PA) recently repudiated legislation aimed at ensuring its continued access to hundreds of millions in U.S. tax-dollars. On 23 September 1995, the PA's "Ministry of Information" issued a press release excoriating a legislative initiative sponsored by Sens. Jesse Helms and Claiborne Pell, the chairman and ranking member respectively of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. The Helms-Pell legislation was adopted last week by the United States Senate as an amendment to the Fiscal Year 1996 Foreign Operations appropriations bill.

Without mentioning the amendment by name, the Palestinian Authority heaped vitriol on the preconditions imposed by the Helms-Pell amendment on further disbursement of the \$500 million that president Clinton pledged to Arafat two years ago. Its release declared, in part:

"The American decision to extend financial assistance to the Palestinian National

Authority contradicts any accepted practice. This decision that was taken while handcuffed (sic) with heavy chains of conditions. It is provocative and insulting to the Palestinian national feelings. The decision is a flagrant intrusion in internal Palestinian matters. . . . The American Congress has placed at the very heart of its conditions the closing of Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem and the cessation of support by the Palestinian National Authority for these institutions. This exposes the true face of American policy towards the Holy City, a policy that supports and assists further Jewish occupation of Jerusalem, its annexation to Israel and it further confirms Israel's claims that Jerusalem is its united, everlasting capital. . . .

" . . . The American Congress has relinquished the American role as a sponsor of the Declaration of Principles and declared its absolute partiality in the interest of the worst and most damaging of Israeli interpretations, by rushing ahead more than the Israelis themselves have done when they [members of Congress] demanded the canceling of some articles in the Palestinian National charter and when they demanded Palestinian co-operation with Israel in surrendering wanted Palestinian citizens to it despite the fact that this demand violates the signed agreements between the PLO and the government of Israel. . . ."

"The conditions that the American Congress demanded will not find anyone to respond to them. The members of Congress, who do not respect international legitimacy, will not need to wait six long months because the Palestinian people will not barter their rights for all the money in the world." (Emphasis added.)

ARAFAT NEVER PROMISED YOU A ROSE GARDEN

What makes you such vitriolic attacks particularly stunning is the fact that they are basically directed at two senior Senators who have gone to great lengths to protect the PLO/PA from the sort of real conditions that many Americans believe are in order. In light of Arafat's continuing support for terrorism against Israel, his failure to comply with other commitments under the Declaration of Principles and his diversion of international aid to personal and political purposes inimical to real peace, a powerful case can be made for denying any further distribution of the roughly \$350 million yet to be disbursed to the PA.

Congressional leaders, and Senator Helms in particular, have come under enormous pressure from the Clinton Administration, the Israeli government of Yitzhak Rabin and the American Israel Public Affairs Committee to keep the aid flowing to Arafat, such problems notwithstanding. In the end, Senator Helms was induced to set aside his instinctive—and well-founded—opposition to undisciplined foreign aid and to those who support international terrorism. Instead, he lent his name to a foreign aid bill for the PLO/PA whose conditions were deliberately crafted with sufficient ambiguity and/or loop-holes to meet with Arafat's approval and to allow hundreds of millions of additional tax-dollars go to his organizations.

THE BOTTOM LINE

The simple truth is that two years after the Oslo I agreements were signed, efforts to moderate Yasser Arafat's behavior through financial, political (and, in the case of Israel, territorial) concessions have not had the desired effect. Instead, such concessions in the face of continued Palestinian gangsterism appear only to have encouraged more of the same. For example, last week, even as the Congress was considering the Helms-Pell legislation, Arafat used interviews with the Egyptian and Jordanian press to affirm that

the Oslo agreements are implementing the notorious "plan to phases" adopted by the PLO in 1974. Phase I involves obtaining territory from Israel via negotiation; Phase II will use that territory to launch a final campaign for the destruction of Israel.

Fortunately, Congress has an alternative at hand to such appeasement. Legislation has been introduced in both the Senate and House that would mandate a complete cut-off of funding for the PLO/PA. This bill, known as the Middle East Peace Compliance Act and sponsored in the Senate by Sens. Alfonse D'Amato, Richard Shelby and Larry Graig and in the House by Reps. Michael Forbes, Jim Saxton and Tom DeLay, would allow continued aid to go toward legitimate, monitorable and private humanitarian projects in Palestinian-controlled areas—provided the PLO honors its commitments.

The Center for Security Policy urges Senator Helms and others affronted by Yasser Arafat's imperiousness to substitute the real conditions called for by the D'Amato-Forbes bill for the ersatz conditions of the Helms-Pell legislation. As the attached op.ed by Center for Security Policy director Frank J. Gaffney, Jr. published in today's Newsday makes clear, Israel is not the only nation with stake in the quality of such conditionality. America's not vital interests dictate that the United States must make every effort to avoid rewarding PLO support for terrorism and other non-compliance.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from West Virginia [Mr. WISE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today at the Nation celebrates Fire Prevention Week to speak about a fire cause that affects every American no matter where they live. I am referring to the act of arson.

The United States Fire Administration's Annual Report to Congress states that in 1994 arson continued to be the second leading cause of fire deaths in residences and the leading cause of dollar loss from fire. Each year 1,000 people die from an estimated 332,000 arson fires. Direct property loss is in excess of \$1.6 billion. Since 1984 arson fire deaths have increased 33 percent.

Unfortunately, West Virginians were not spared from the scourge of arson. That same report indicated that 18.4 percent of all reported fires in West Virginia were caused by arson, with losses exceeding \$1.6 million.

As a member of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus, I was proud to support the Arson Prevention Act of 1994 which passed the 103d Congress and was signed into law by President Clinton. This legislation enable States to conduct meaningful programs to combat arson.

During Fire Prevention Week we must pause to consider how all of us, not just the fire service, can work toward making all Americans safer from the ravages of fire.

The American people should be enraged about the tragic cost to lives and property from this preventable cause of fire.

I am pleased to report, Mr. Speaker, that the International Association of Arson Investigators is working tirelessly to combat this crime in all its forms. I am especially proud of the West Virginian Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators. This dedicated group provides training to police, fire, and insurance investigators on how to better detect arson in our state. They also work to educate our citizens about how arson hurts everyone.

Let us then pause, Mr. Speaker, during Fire Prevention Week to honor all those men and women dedicated to fighting the war against arson and urge all Americans to support their efforts.

TAXES AND MEDICARE

Mr. Speaker, turning to another topic, I would like to talk a little bit about taxes and the sleeper issue that is coming up in the next couple of weeks.

What I want to do is to talk about we hear a lot about Medicare and Medicaid, but it is taxes that are also very important for West Virginians, where we are finding out more and more as we analyze the budget proposals that will be coming in the next couple of weeks in the Republican leadership's proposals. We are seeing there is a tax increase for thousands of working West Virginia families, middle-income and lower-income working families.

First, Mr. Speaker, it may be difficult for you to see this chart, but if you look, what this says is who benefits from the GOP tax cut. That is my first chart. If you can see the red, the red says that people, and this is people earning over \$100,000 or more, this is the percentage that they get from the tax cut where they get over 52 percent of the tax cut that goes to those earning over \$100,000 or more. The little blue sliver are those people earning \$30,000 or less. Those people, incidentally, get 3 percent of the benefits of the tax package. So these are the folks over \$100,000 a year, they get 52 percent of the total package; \$30,000 or below, they get 3 percent.

Now let us flip it and see what happens to West Virginia taxpayers. Here we have the people making the blue portion, the people making \$30,000 or less comprise 68 percent of our State's population. So this blue portion, which is almost 70 percent of our State's population, gets less, gets about 3 percent of the total tax package. This little red sliver, and I know you probably cannot see it because it is almost infinitesimal, that is the 1.5 percent in our State that earn over \$100,000 a year. Mr. Speaker, they are going to get 52 percent of the tax package. It is totally skewed, as you can see.

Mr. Speaker, I would also point out that because of the rollbacks in the earned income tax credit that goes to working families under \$24,000 a year, that in West Virginia someone making under \$10,000 a year, basically working at minimum wage, will actually see a