

men they died in the service of the United Nations. Mr. Speaker, I cannot think of a more outrageous statement made by any American official in years.

The Clinton administration now has struck again. This time they are considering prosecuting a young American soldier, Specialist Michael New, who refused to put on the blue uniform of the United Nations, and refused to serve in Macedonia under a general from Finland.

Specialist New understands his soldier's oath. He pledged to wear the American uniform and to lay down his life for our country and our Constitution. Nowhere did he swear allegiance to the United Nations Charter or promise to obey the orders of his superiors in the United Nations high command.

Mr. Speaker, I hope they understand that down at the White House before they tell another American family that its husband, father, son, or brother died in the service of the United Nations. I do not believe any American soldier should serve under U.N. command.

TOP 10 REASONS WHY REPUBLICANS REFUSE TO HOLD HEARINGS ON THEIR MEDICARE CUTS

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, from the home office in Bronx, NY, the top ten reasons why Republicans refuse to hold hearings on their Medicare cuts:

No. 10. Republicans figure seniors can't hear, so why bother holding hearings?

No. 9. It might interfere with the O.J. press coverage.

No. 8. It's easier to arrest seniors than to listen to them. (At least they can get health care in jail, not under the Republican plan.)

No. 7. The more you know about their plan the sicker you'll get.

No. 6. Republicans would rather give tax cuts to the wealthy than health care to Grandma.

No. 5. They want to keep seniors in the rocking chair, not in the witness chair.

No. 4. Republicans saw a product in the National Enquirer that makes Medicare obsolete.

No. 3. Why hold hearings when a tax break for the rich can buy diamond earrings?

No. 2. Mugging Medicare recipients is easier if you do it in the dark.

No. 1. Ah, who needs a second opinion. There's one side to every story.

NOW WE KNOW WHO IS LYING ABOUT MEDICARE REFORM

(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, yesterday the Republicans fi-

nally conceded that their so-called Medicare reform plan would extend the Medicare trust fund only to the year 2006 instead of 2010, as they have been claiming. In fact, they claimed on this floor yesterday early in the morning that their plan would extend the Medicare trust fund until the year 2010. Now the Republican majority realizes they only need \$90 billion to stabilize the trust fund until the year 2006 and not \$270 billion to stabilize to the exact same year.

It is very interesting to note that the Democrats have an alternative plan that would assure the solvency to 2006 by only cutting the necessary \$90 billion. What we need is to be asking our friends on the other side, Why are you cutting three times more than you need to stabilize the fund, and you are only stabilizing it to 2006? Be honest about it, it is going to tax cuts. At this point I suppose we should ask the Republican majority, Why are you increasing premiums, deductibles, copayments, and making extreme reductions in payments to hospitals to provide a budget-busting tax cut?

There is a country western song in Texas that is popular now. It is called "I Let Her Lie." The people know now who is the one that is doing the lying.

AMERICANS WANT THE WASTE CUT OUT OF MEDICARE

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, as we press ahead with the most important business before this Congress, strengthening Medicare, the American people need to understand just how much waste can be cut out of this program for senior citizens. Last Thursday I was home in my district for a series of town meetings with seniors to discuss the Medicare plan.

At one of these meetings I had a constituent, Mrs. Hill of Ocala, stand to her feet to offer one example of the waste in the system. This is it, right here in my hand. It seems Medicare part B reimbursed beneficiaries no matter how small the cost, in this case 1 cent. What is Mrs. Hill going to do with the check for 1 cent? The time she spent opening the envelope was worth 1 cent. The postage alone to send this check is worth 32 cents, or 32 times its value. I bet the paper and ink used to print this check cost more than 1 cent.

Mr. Speaker, conservative estimates put the amount of waste, fraud, and abuse in Medicare at \$20 billion. With stories like Mrs. Hill's it is little surprise. Our seniors demand and deserve that we root out waste, fraud, and abuse for Medicare. They are right, and we should.

ARRESTS ON CAPITOL HILL MAKE A SAD DAY FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I was astonished yesterday, as a member of the Committee on Commerce, to watch while a group of about 15 or 20 senior citizens came into the room, asked to speak, were denied the opportunity to speak or say anything about Medicare which is going to affect them so greatly, and then were told that they were going to be arrested, were actually arrested, handcuffed, put into a paddy wagon, and taken down to the Capitol Police to be booked or whatever.

I know the charges were eventually dropped, but it was a very sad day to know there was really no opportunity for these seniors and for America's seniors in general to be heard on an issue so important as Medicare. Then I watched as the Republican leadership on the committee proceeded to mark up a Medicare bill that essentially destroyed Medicare as we know it. What that bill will do is to force most seniors into HMO's or managed care. It will make those who would like to continue to be able to choose their hospital, their doctor, in a traditional fee-for-service program more and more be squeezed out of that program where they have no choice. It is a sad day for America.

REPUBLICANS WILL PRESERVE AND PROTECT MEDICARE

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about a credibility gap and a short history lesson. Many remember last spring, right here on the floor of the House, they talked about nutrition programs, and how the Republicans were going to slash nutrition programs and case children to starve.

I was in the Dodge Edison Elementary School this Monday, and Dr. Larry Reynolds is doing a very fine job of running that institution. None of the children were starving, not one was reported. In fact, ask yourselves, have you heard of any children all across this Nation in public schools starving? The answer is no. That is the credibility problem.

Those who were telling us that there were going to be starving children were wrong, absolutely wrong. Now we hear things like "The Republican plan is going to kill Medicare. There are sweetheart deals, disastrous cuts. Savings are going to pay for tax cuts." The credibility gap rises again. We are going to preserve and protect Medicare for our parents and for our grandparents. We have a specific plan. It is realistic. It is in plain English. It is up front.

Parents will have the right to choose what kind of health care. They will

have the right to stay with their current doctor and their hospital. There is no credibility gap in the Republican plan. We delivered growth for nutrition programs. We will preserve and protect Medicare.

HOW MANY SENIOR CITIZENS WILL THE REPUBLICANS ARREST TODAY?

(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, after watching what happened in this House yesterday, I feel like taking this well and yelling at the other side: "Hey, hey, what do you say, how many seniors are you Republicans going to arrest today?"

This is supposed to be the people's House. I was totally outraged that people in wheelchairs, that seniors who were frail, that are absolutely no physical threat to anyone, are arrested and taken away because they are asking questions of the people's representatives; imagine, how dare they? That is wrong.

I hope the leadership on the other side of the aisle apologizes to parents. I stand here in the name of my parents, my grandparents, and everyone else. That is not the America they fought for. I think we all ought to stand firm and say, "We want an apology, and we want the elderly of America to know they are welcome here, and they are able to ask questions of elected leaders here, and they should be able to get answers from elected leaders here about this wonderful thing they are supposedly doing for them, not to them."

□ 1030

MEDICARE SHIM-SHAM

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

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I have sat here this morning and listened to Member after Member on the other side trying to shim-sham the American people of what happened as far as Medicare. Well, I guess when you do not have a Medicare plan, I guess when you do not have an idea, you try to distort the issue. As a matter of fact, what you try to do is take some poor, innocent, old people and use them as your sham to bring them as a stage prop, to use the director of Information Services for the National Council of Senior Citizens, who gets almost \$70 million of their \$74 million budget out of the taxpayers' pocket. I guess that is what you do to misinform the American people, to try to distort the issues.

Mr. Speaker, what we are trying to do in Medicare is to preserve the Medicare system that the President's own trust fund said is going broke. What we are trying to do is give the people of

this country a choice and to preserve a system, because they deserve a better way.

REPUBLICANS RAMMING THROUGH MEDICARE PLAN

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

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, three decades ago the Democrats gave American seniors peace of mind when they created Medicare. Medicare led to a 50-percent drop in the number of seniors living at the poverty level. It led to a 50-percent increase in the number of seniors that have health care. While in control of Congress for 30 years, the Democrats gave life and protection to Medicare.

Yesterday the Republicans arrested seniors that wanted to listen and learn more about Medicare at some of the hearings and meetings that are taking place here. The Democrats giveth, and the Republicans taketh away.

The new majority is ramming through a plan that needlessly slashes \$270 billion and doubles Medicare premiums, and those additional premiums are not even going into the Medicare trust fund. The Republicans say they are saving Medicare because it is in a crisis. I say, the only crisis to Medicare is that the Republicans are in power.

TAX AND SPEND OUTDATED

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

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I stand here this morning in shocked amazement when I ponder the word "responsibility." I have just listened to most of the people on that side of the aisle stand up here and speak. As I look through this National Taxpayers Union Foundation rating of those that spend, spend, spend, and tax, tax, tax, almost every one of those on the other side who have stood up to speak appear on this list as the biggest taxers, the biggest spenders in this Congress.

Mr. Speaker, when I came to this Congress 18 years ago, I came here as a small businessman with the responsibility to meet a payroll for 100 different families. I still have this perspective. I received a phone call sitting in my office at 6:30 this morning from a senior citizen from my district and she said, "JERRY, you have a responsibility to do what is right, to protect the Medicare system."

That is what we are here today to do, to keep it from going bankrupt. My colleagues know it is going bankrupt under its present course. We need to be responsible on this floor. We need to give people the freedom to choose their own doctors, and not to force some bureaucratically approved HMO down on them. Our program gives Americans this choice and saves the system from

bankruptcy. My colleagues better start thinking about the word, "responsibility" because people are not going to continue to buy this tax, tax, tax, spend, spend, spend attitude around here any longer.

BACK ROOM DEALS FOR THE WEALTHY

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, 2 days ago the American Medical Association cut a back room deal with Speaker GINGRICH for them for \$15 billion out of the Medicare fund because the AMA contributes \$1 million to Republican political campaigns. Yesterday an elderly woman came into the Committee on Commerce on which I sit and simply stepped forward, said she wanted to talk about Medicare and was told she could not speak and then she was arrested, taken out of the room with a dozen other senior citizens, handcuffed, fingerprinted at the police station and booked.

Think about it. Lobbyists in the back room cutting a deal with NEWT GINGRICH, senior citizens not even allowed in the committee room simply because they want to talk about Medicare, and they are arrested. Lobbyists in the back room cutting deals with the Speaker, multi-billion-dollar deals, senior citizens in the hearing room arrested because they wanted to talk about something that mattered every day in their lives, all in the name of tax cuts for the wealthy. It is wrong, Mr. Speaker.

THE POWER TO CHOOSE

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

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I cannot help but respond to the comments of the gentleman who just spoke before me because I happened to be in that room two nights ago and what he said was simply wrong. I know it is against the rules to call people liars in here, so I shall not do that. I will just say that everything he said is wrong.

Doctors in this country under the new Medicare plan are going to give back in lost revenues about \$26.1 billion. They are not happy with that, but they are happy with the overall thrust of the bill, which will, for the first time in 30 years, bring market forces to play for seniors just as well as it has for other people in the health care arena. People who want to keep their own system in Medicare as they have right now have that right. No one is going to be forced to change. But if you want to try something different, something that all the rest of America has been using in the last 20 years in changes in health care delivery, whether it is