

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

HMO's, managed care, or high deductible insurance policies, they will have that choice.

The important thing to note is this: They will choose, not a bureaucrat, not a politician in power; they will choose.

REPUBLICANS AND DEMOCRATS CAN WORK IT OUT

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, news reports say that John Wayne Bobbitt, bearing roses and chocolates, went courting the same woman who tried to steal his family jewels once before. That is right. The same news sources say that ex-wife Lorena says, I quote, "As far as I am concerned, this matter is cut and dried."

Mr. Speaker, the reports say John Bobbitt is not discouraged. He said he will try again. Now, think about this. If the Bobbitts, John Bobbitt specifically, can set his pride aside on the side of the road and try and resolve differences, Democrats and Republicans can work out what differences exist with Medicare. Think about it. In fact, if this couple can resolve their differences, all of America can work out our problems. With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of any outstanding matter in this 1-minute.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFeree ON H.R. 4, PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 1995

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). Without objection, Mr. TANNER is appointed as a conferee on the bill (H.R. 4) to restore the American family, reduce illegitimacy, control welfare spending, and reduce welfare dependence.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will notify the Senate of the change in conferees.

PERMISSION FOR SUNDRY COMMITTEES AND THEIR SUBCOMMITTEES TO SIT TODAY DURING THE 5-MINUTE RULE

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the following committees and their subcommittees be permitted to sit today while the House is meeting in the Committee of the Whole House under the 5-minute rule: the Committee on Agriculture, the Committee on Banking and Financial Services, the Committee on Commerce, the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities, the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, the Committee on International Relations, the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Resources, the Committee on Science, the Committee on Small Business, and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

It is my understanding that the minority has been consulted and that there is no objection to these requests.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1996—VETO MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the further consideration of the veto message of the President on the bill (H.R. 1854) making appropriations for the legislative branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes.

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the message, together with the accompanying bill, H.R. 1854, be referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the veto message of the President on the bill, H.R. 1854, is referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

There was no objection.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the veto message of the President to the bill H.R. 1854, and that I may include tabular and extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1976, AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1996

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 235 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 235

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 1976) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived. The conference report shall be considered as read.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia [Mr. LINDER] is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the cus-

tomary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. HALL], pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 235 is a simple resolution providing for consideration of the conference report making appropriations for the Department of Agriculture, rural development, the Food and Drug Administration, and related agencies for fiscal year 1996. House Resolution 235 waives all points of order against the conference report and against its consideration. I am pleased that the rule was unanimously approved by the Rules Committee.

This was a productive conference and it is important to note that the conference report provides a total of \$63.2 billion, which is \$4.8 billion less than was appropriated last year. The conference report is also \$3.3 billion lower than the amount requested by the Clinton administration, and \$630 million lower than the Senate-passed bill.

It is clear that the appropriators have to balance an assortment of concerns and make difficult choices with limited funding at their disposal this year. I want to recognize Chairman BOB LIVINGSTON and Subcommittee Chairman JOE SKEEN for their efforts to keep the appropriations language as close as possible to the provisions included in the original House bill during the conference with the Senate.

The product of their work under extraordinarily tight fiscal constraints will help guarantee that the available funding is spent where it is needed most.

Among the notable appropriations and provisions in the conference report is funding for rural water and waste disposal grants and loan, funding for conservation programs to sustain agricultural productivity, the retention of a provision prohibiting the use of Market Promotion Program funds by the milk industry, and the establishment of priorities for the women, infants and children nutrition program. While the conference report makes its contribution to balance the budget and continue the consolidation of the Department of Agriculture, this bill also effectively maintains functions that are crucial to the health and safety of the American consumer and to the future success of this Nation's farming communities.

I am encouraged to note that the Clinton administration has indicated that it is supportive of this bill. In light of this support, I hope that the President will sign it. I urge my colleagues to support the rule so that we may proceed with debate and consideration of the underlying legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. HALL of Ohio asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)