

Seniors simply cannot afford these additional expenses. The average senior citizen makes only \$25,000 a year. How can we expect them to pay more, while we give out tax breaks to the wealthiest of Americans.

I realize the Medicare system of yesterday does not meet the needs of the Medicare population today. It needs improvement. It needs reform. But simply forcing seniors into HMO's and cutting benefits to seniors is not the answer.

Seniors will pay more for less. Our aging population is growing, and growing faster than the money put into the Medicare system in the Republican budget. I worry about the families that have elderly parents, like I do. This so-called sandwich generation takes care of their own children and their elderly parents at the same time. They will feel the pain as their parents are unable to pay for their health care. The middle class will feel the squeeze.

My question is this: What will this secret plan the Republicans are proposing do to the seniors of this country? Why will they not make the details public?

As we near the 30th anniversary of Medicare, let us fix what is broken in the system. Let us get rid of the waste, fraud, and abuse in the system. And let us be honest and sincere with the American people. They understand sacrifice. What they do not understand is secret tactics, and bearing an undue portion of that sacrifice. We need to give some hope back to middle-income, working families in this Nation. Let us strengthen the program our predecessors rightly worked so hard for.●

MEDICARE'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY

● Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, today, we celebrate the 30th anniversary of the passage of Medicare by the Congress. Thirty years ago, Members of this body took a courageous step and guaranteed health insurance coverage to seniors and the disabled—regardless of a person's income, regardless of a person's illness.

The struggle was not an easy one. In fact, it took 30 years of struggle by Democrats to pass Medicare. Through the unwavering leadership from Presidents Roosevelt, Truman, Kennedy, and Johnson, Medicare was finally signed into law.

What does Medicare mean to the seniors of Maryland and this country? Let me tell you.

Earlier this week, I visited senior centers in Maryland. I talked about the 30th anniversary of Medicare. And I listened to the seniors—who told me what it means to them to have Medicare coverage and of their concerns about the proposed cuts to Medicare.

Mr. President, who is going to speak for the senior couple in Catonsville, MD, who do not know if they will be able to afford higher Medicare premiums, particularly given all the out-of-pocket expenses like for prescription

drugs that Medicare doesn't even cover?

Who is going to speak for the widow I met at the Liberty Road Senior Center in Baltimore County that needs cataract surgery that can save her eyesight and doesn't know if Medicare will be there to pay for it?

And, Mr. President, who is going to speak for the sons and daughters of these seniors who after these cuts may be forced to balance the financial demands of helping their parents pay deductibles and copayments for necessary lab and screenings and the financial needs of their own children?

Mr. President, I am going to speak out—and speak out loudly and forcibly—for these seniors, their families, and their health care.

Medicare is a unique American success story. Let us not turn back the clock on this success. We should not be talking about downsizing and degrading Medicare.

On this 30th anniversary, we should be talking about innovations and improvements. I, personally, would like to see a prescription drug benefit and coverage for prostate cancer screenings, and we desperately need a long-term care policy.

Instead we are facing cuts that mean seniors will pay significantly more for the privilege of keeping their own doctor or going to the hospital of their choice. That is no choice at all. That is not the American way and that is not what Medicare is about.

Medicare is a commitment to America's seniors. Medicare says that in America, if you are over 65 or disabled, no matter what your income, we will stand by your side and you will get the health care you need. I intend to fight to keep this commitment. I intend to keep the "care" in Medicare.

This year, we are not only celebrating the 30th anniversary of Medicare, but we are also celebrating the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II. Fifty years ago, the Medicare generation organized, mobilized, and saved Western civilization. Now is the time once again, for all of us to organize, mobilize, and save health care for our seniors. Just as in the days of World War II, the GI Joe generation—the current Medicare generation—hunkered down and was committed to the cause. So must we.

I am here on the floor today to tell you that I am committed to the mission and meaning of Medicare. I am ready to fight the good fight. And I am prepared to do whatever is necessary to preserve and protect the health care benefits of seniors in Maryland and throughout this Nation.●

REMARKS OF THE HONORABLE JOHN DALTON, SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

● Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I want to take a moment to draw the attention of my colleagues to some very eloquent and pertinent words recently delivered

by the Secretary of the Navy John Dalton in my home State of Connecticut.

The text I am about to insert in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD is the speech delivered by Secretary Dalton at the christening of the first *Seawolf* submarine on June 24, 1995, in Groton, CT. I believe it speaks volumes about our country and our future.

Therefore, I now ask that the text be printed in the RECORD and I commend it to my colleagues.

The text follows:

FOR OUR CHILDREN'S FREEDOM

Thank you admiral Boorda for those very gracious and warm comments. And thank you even more for everything you said about Margaret. Let me say that I agree with every word.

One of my great privileges as Secretary of the Navy is to name ships and appoint sponsors of those ships. It is a responsibility I take very seriously. I chose a very special lady to be the sponsor of this most special ship.

Let me give you an example of what kind of sponsor Margaret will be. She knew that today would be a day filled with such activity that she wouldn't be able to meet every member of the crew, and she wanted to know every member of the *Seawolf* crew.

So last week she got up in the middle of the night and caught the 4:30AM train to Groton and spent the day and evening with the Sailors of this ship. She will be your sponsor and champion for the life of this ship over the next thirty-five years.

It is said that a ship is imbued with the spirit of its sponsor and that indeed is a blessing for *Seawolf*. Through the course of its life this ship will have many fine commanding officers, and many outstanding Sailors in its crew. But throughout the life of this ship their will be but one sponsor. *Seawolf* and the United States Navy are very fortunate to have Margaret.

This is indeed a historic day, and I want to thank everyone who is here, I am told there is some twelve to thirteen thousand strong in number. I would like to make each and everyone of you an honorary *Seawolf* sailor.

I am also very proud to have some people who are special to me here today. It is rare that I have the opportunity to have close members of my family around, but my sons John Jr. and Chris are here today. I would like for them to please stand. My brother and my sister, Margaret's brother and her parents. We have lots of family and friends from Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas and Virginia. I would like for all of you to stand and be recognized.

Obviously, Margaret and I are very proud to be here. . . . But not simply because of the honor of participating in the christening of this submarine—the finest submarine in the world. . . . Not simply to applaud the men and women of the shipbuilding trades here at Electric Boat and the many contractors who contribute to the building of this ship. . . . Not just to honor the brave officers and sailors who will serve through the life of this vessel. But to also take an opportunity to recognize why we are building this submarine and why we need to build more.

A number of years ago, a public official—entrusted with the best interests of the citizens of his nation—reflected his personal judgement and the common wisdom with the following words:

"There is no excuse for [building] submarines . . . So far as naval armament is concerned, it will not be long until [we] recognize that the torpedo is obsolescent; the submarine out of date; and the seaplane of so limited utility that expenditure [should] not

be enlarged by any useless absurdities as aircraft carriers . . ."

Historians record that quite a few people applauded that particular speech. In fact, it was published in the most prestigious journal of the day. And why shouldn't those words have been applauded and accepted? Most nations of the world were at peace. An "evil empire" had been previously defeated. There was no apparent threat. Government was moving to reduce its budget. There were more important social and economic challenges. Freedom was a given.

Ten years later, a crisis threatened that nation and the entire world. . . . A crisis of such magnitude that many apparently wise men chose to sacrifice their very principles to avoid war, a war they were unprepared to fight.

Well, war came anyway—perhaps even sooner because of their lack of readiness . . . their lack of such "absurdities" as enough capable submarines or aircraft carriers. The war broke with a fury that destroyed their budget plans, their economic strength, their position of world leadership, and the very lives of a great many of the citizens of that democratic nation—whose freedom was ultimately saved through the intervention of its Allies.

When that war ended, fifty years ago this year . . . the men and women of that nation—and many nations—would somberly ask themselves: "why were we so unprepared?"

I am talking, of course, about World War Two . . . the war our parents or grandparents had to fight. The public official who made those unfortunate remarks belonged to one of our Allies. But there were many in the United States who had echoed the same sentiments for the same reasons. The irony is that the submarine and the aircraft carrier—absurd and expensive in the perspective of their critics—were the two weapons that proved most effective in winning the naval war.

Today, we face a situation not too much unlike the past. A few years ago we won a war—a Cold War to be sure—but one that nevertheless required a great deal of military expenditure. We are now in the process of reducing our budget deficit and tackling many challenges—economic and social—that are very worthy of our attention. There is no longer a threat of global war. Many nations—though not all—are at peace. Freedom seems secure. And like their predecessors, some people think they can predict the future.

I don't claim to predict the future. And I am not, by training, a professional historian. But I do know what history teaches. I do know that freedom is not free—it is purchased by heroism and sacrifice in war, and by good judgment and preparedness in peace. In a high-tech world . . . the world of today . . . it is purchased by remaining first-rate in technology and innovation.

Having served as a naval officer and a submariner, I know what it is like to go down to the sea—to face potential enemies—in the most capable ship, and what it is like to go down in a ship that would be considered second rate.

As Secretary of the Navy, I am committed to ensuring that the tools we give our Sailors and Marines—that their lives depend on—remain first rate.

As a businessman, I know false economy when I see it.

And as a citizen, with two fine sons—and maybe to be blessed someday with grandchildren—I am not willing to gamble their future, their freedom on the chance that there will be no war, or that, if it comes, we will be suddenly able to build tomorrow what some proposed to throw away today.

How do you preserve freedom? Do you preserve it by letting an entire industry go out of business in the name of false economy? Do you preserve it by allowing partisan politics to blind your judgement? Do you do it by giving a pink slip to men and women who have labored for many years to produce the finest tools for our defense? Do you do it by creating monopolies in the name of competition? Do you do it by declaring new technology unnecessary . . . and the status quo "good enough."

You know that's not how you preserve freedom. We all know that. So why are some ready to sacrifice an entire defense industry and are willing to throw away hundreds of millions of dollars to stop building capable submarines? How much would we pay to start building them again when the next crisis comes?

This *Seawolf* is the finest submarine in the world. It will regain the American lead in quietness and stealth. The second *Seawolf* will be better still. And the third *Seawolf* which we need will be the bridge that preserves this industry to build a more affordable, littoral warfare-oriented New Attack Submarine.

You can't get across a chasm without a bridge. There is a chasm in our defense industrial strength. If Congress does not authorize and fund the third *Seawolf*, the depth of this chasm will not simply be measured in lost jobs . . . or dollars wasted in higher overhead and contracting fees . . . but in the potential breakup of a defense industry that has always served our best interest in preserving the peace. I shudder at the thought that someday historians will say: the United States was once the best builder of submarines.

I do not predict that a global crisis is coming. I do not claim that we are in danger today. I hate war. Every night before I sleep, I pray that war never again occurs. I pray that throughout their lifetimes, my sons will be blessed with the gift of peace. But I know that—to paraphrase President John F. Kennedy—God's work on earth must truly be our own. We are the ones who are responsible for peace. We are the ones who are responsible for freedom. The steps that we take today will be the ones that may determine the freedom of our children.

The builders of this submarine . . . this mighty *Seawolf* . . . are a national treasure in knowledge and skills. The nuclear submarine-building industry represents an investment we have spent over forty years to develop. We are gambling with a national treasure if we do not take steps to preserve it. That's why I want to take this opportunity to ask each one of you in the audience—and all Americans—to urge Congress to fund the third and final *Seawolf* as a bridge to the submarine capabilities we will need in the future.

Just before I left Washington to come to this ceremony, I received a letter that I would like to read to you. The letter is dated 22 June.

"Greetings to all those gathered for the christening of *Seawolf*.

Seawolf will strengthen and sustain the invaluable contributions the Navy makes to America's leadership in global affairs. Ready for any contingency, her combat power, mobility, and flexibility will help to promote the cause of liberty and protect our national security. This fine submarine will stand as a reminder of our steadfast commitment to maintaining a democratic world for the generations to come.

As we celebrate the christening of *Seawolf*, I want to reemphasize my continuing support for the completion of the third and final *Seawolf*-class submarine SSN-23. The Armed Forces of the United States and our civilian

defense industries share an effective partnership; proceeding with the construction of SSN-23 is the most cost-effective method of retaining the vitality of these industries while bridging the gap to the future New Attack Submarine.

On behalf of all Americans, I want to thank those who design and build the *Seawolf* submarines, as well as those who will serve in them. Best wishes for a wonderful ceremony."

The letter is signed by President Bill Clinton.

This is a wonderful occasion—this christening of a *Seawolf*-class submarine. This is a great day for Margaret and me, for the United States Navy, for all America. But—as President Clinton says—we need to do it twice more—not once more—if we are to guarantee that—as concerns the deterrence of global war . . . as concerns war undersea or elsewhere—there will always be great days of peace, and freedom from fear, for our children.

No one can predict the future. But we can prepare. To stay prepared, America requires a healthy nuclear submarine-building industry. Our Commander-in-Chief knows that. And Secretary of Defense Bill Perry, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, the CNO, these distinguished members of Congress and I are convinced of that. We are convinced that we need to build a third *Seawolf* to preserve this industry's health. And to preserve this vital resource . . . to let everyone know the real risks we take by gambling it away for false economy. To reply to those who say a third *Seawolf* is not necessary, to those who oppose our submarine program—my response is the words of our founding father, John Paul Jones, "We have not yet begun to fight."

Thank you very much. God bless you.●

FOOD STAMP FRAUD REDUCTION

● Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am convinced that the single most important thing we can do to reduce fraud in the Food Stamp Program is to eliminate the use of paper coupons—and shift to electronic benefits transfer systems, also known as "EBT."

I made that same point to this body on November 8, 1993. That was when I first introduced legislation to eliminate food stamp coupons in favor of EBT.

I will introduce an updated version of that bill—which I hope can pass with the support of every Member of the Senate.

I know that Senator SANTORUM recently spoke of the benefits of EBT, as demonstrated in a pilot project in Berks County, PA.

The Majority Leader, Senator DOLE, and I supported pilot testing EBT systems for food stamps in 1982.

My bill eliminates the coupon system in 3 to 5 years. The present system is a clumsy dinosaur in need of overhauling by modern technology.

By the year 2000, those paper coupons—which now cost the Government \$50 million to \$60 million a year to print and process—will be history.

We will reduce fraud and save the Government money.

My bill empowers retail stores, financial institutions, and the States to figure out the best way to move to an EBT system.