

those agriculture products where methyl bromide is eliminated. It would destroy Florida agriculture; not just tomatoes but winter vegetables in general.

So it is very important to work with us on that issue. They have beat us up with the Mexican tomatoes, so why can they not allow us something to give the farmer. The minimum wage will hurt our tomato farmers, so we need to see what can be done.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I am glad the gentleman brought these points out because this is a half billion dollar industry for Florida and there are a lot of folks who have nothing else. This is what they do. They are small farms. They have been growing for years and generations, and they are being displaced and the administration is not keeping the promises it made to help in the enforcement and the side agreements on the NAFTA compact.

It is quite clear the Mexicans, indeed, are dumping. They are selling below cost. This is putting our farmers at an unfair disadvantage. And I believe if they comply with the laws of NAFTA that our farmers can beat the socks off the Mexicans, but they have both got to play by the same rules.

TIME TO DISCUSS TRULY CRITICAL EVENTS OF 104TH CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Connecticut [Ms. DELAURO] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I think that in these closing days of this Congress, it is particularly important that what we try to do is to organize the remaining time that we have to discuss the truly critical events of this 104th Congress. Quite honestly, that has not always been easy to do, and time and again in the Gingrich Congress Members have been gagged and have been unable to talk about truly critical events.

In fact, this week we mark an anniversary. A year ago, Democrats were forced to go out onto the lawn in front of the Capitol to hold a hearing on the cuts in Medicare that were proposed by Speaker GINGRICH and the House Republican leadership. We held these hearings out on the lawn, and my colleagues will recall that we did that because the committees of jurisdiction were only going to hold one hearing.

I repeat: One hearing on their proposal to devastate Medicare with a \$270 billion cut, a cut, I might add, that was going to be used to pay for something coined the crown jewel of the Contract With America. And that was a tax cut, as it turned out, where we saw a tax cut for the most privileged people in our country.

On that day, while we held these hearings on the lawn, to give a full airing to the impact of these cuts, we had a number of stalwart seniors who protested at the sham hearing that was

being held. Those seniors, and sometimes we forget past events, those seniors were arrested.

So, sadly, the history of this Congress has been a relentless attempt to keep the truth from coming out about the impact of some of these proposals.

It is particularly important to note and to talk about again because what we are seeing in a proposal that has been offered by the standard bearer for the Republican Party, by Bob Dole, his economic plan, which, if we take a hard look at it could have devastating impact on Medicare.

We also need in this context to recall what Senator Dole said about his own vote on Medicare, and I quote. Being only 1 of 12, proud to have been 1 of 12 who voted against the creation of Medicare because, he said, and again I quote, we knew it would not work. End quote.

So Senator Dole has a track record on Medicare that seniors need to be informed about. Their families need to be informed about this track record. And, frankly, they need to be concerned about it.

Under the Gingrich-Dole plan, Medicare could be cut by as much as \$300 billion by the year 2002, even more than what NEWT GINGRICH and this Republican Congress tried to cut in 1995. If my colleagues will recall, that number was \$270 billion, and no coincidence between the number 270 in Medicare cuts and the \$245 billion that they wanted to provide in tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans.

So if we take a look at what this \$300 billion means to seniors, it means even higher out-of-pocket costs and lower quality health care for seniors. These Medicare cuts would help to pay for a tax plan in which more than 40 percent of the benefits would go to the wealthiest 5 percent of Americans.

And the best evidence of how we would treat Medicare is what Republicans proposed to do to Medicare when they took over the Congress in 1995, and it is worth repeating.

First, they proposed cutting \$270 billion from Medicare to pay for a \$245 billion tax cut for the wealthy.

□ 2045

Second, they proposed policy changes that would have doubled premiums and would have reduced senior's choice of a doctor. Third, they proposed creating risky medical savings accounts that would skim the healthy and the wealthy out of traditional Medicare, thereby weakening the system and increasing premiums for those who remained in the program.

Let me quote to you Dr. Joseph White from the Brookings Institution, a nonpartisan Washington think tank. He said recently, "I have to look at the numbers, at the campaign statements and at what then Senator Dole and his colleagues supported in 1995 and I have to conclude that the risks to Medicare from candidate Dole's economic program are substantial."

Finally I want to point out that this assault on Medicare is part of a larger attack on America's retirement security. Think about it. When Americans look forward to retirement, the three pillars of a secure retirement that they can count on are Medicare, private pensions and nursing home care. These were all under attack in 1995.

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

[Mr. WOLF addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

TRIBUTE TO WALTER "CHICK" HOLTkamp

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

MEDICARE

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, before I begin, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. KINGSTON].

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Ohio. I wanted to show this chart, which apparently the previous speaker might not have read the bill, but it does show clearly that the Republican plan, which is a reaction to the Clinton trustees saying that Medicare is going bankrupt, our plan to strengthen, save, and preserve Medicare is very much on target and increases the amount per recipient from about \$5,200 to over \$7,000. In my neck of the woods and I think in Ohio that is not considered a cut. I know here in Lala land, Washington, DC, you can call anything a cut, just as you can call Clinton a conservative.

Mr. HOKE. Is there a rule that you have to be truthful on the floor in what is said.

Mr. KINGSTON. Not that I know of. But the fact is that this is available publicly. What is very important is that we do Medicare on a bipartisan basis. It is not time to scare the seniors. It is not time to bring out all the demagoguery and partisan politics. It is time only to save the program for your mom and dad.

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Georgia for pointing that out.

I rise, Mr. Speaker, tonight to recognize one of northeast Ohio's leading citizens, Mr. Walter "Chick" Holtkamp. Chick is the retiring CEO of the Holtkamp Organ Co., our Nation's leading manufacturer of pipe organs. It is my purpose tonight to pay tribute to the all-inspiring contributions that he has made to his craft. On October 28, 1996, in Cleveland, OH, a gala in Chick Holtkamp's honor aptly dubbed chickfest is bringing together the world's foremost organists, composers, and artisans of the trade to recognize Chick Holtkamp and his remarkable career.

A fixture in the northeast Ohio community for over 40 years, Chick has continuously crafted organs which have earned him the reputation of premier craftsman in his trade.

Chick Holtkamp has strived and succeeded in producing organs which sustain the original musicality of classical organs. Turned off by synthesized and modern sounds, Chick gains his inspiration from the musical eras of days past. His approach to organ building is from the perspective of the musician and the organist so as to produce the most pleasing and melodic tones. A master organ builder, Chick has built more than 400 organs in his lifetime. Chick takes his place in a distinguished Holtkamp family tradition begun 141 years ago, which, remarkable in itself, makes the Holtkamp Organ Co., Cleveland, OH's oldest company.

The company, now headed by Chick's son Chris, is a benchmark for organ quality throughout the country and the world. The company's work is of such high quality and the family reputation so well known that the Encyclopedia Britannica cites Chick's father, Walter, as a world leader in an organ building revolution that began in the 1930's.

It was at that time that standard organ builders had decided that the pipes of an organ should be hidden behind screens. Why? Because the pipes were simply thought to be too unattractive and needed to be concealed. Walter Holtkamp pioneered changes both to improve the sound and the appearance of the pipes and to expose them, thus realizing the great beauty that they could add to the architectural esthetics of any building. Holtkamp organs are distinguished by their magnificent brushed stainless steel pipes and by the simplicity and beauty of their consoles.

Chick continued his father's tradition of ingenuity with his organ building, deciding to work closely with organists to maintain the historical significance of the organ while developing and tailoring a modern instrument which could play a new repertoire of modern music. In doing this, Chick freed the organ of earlier stereotypes and permitted organists to compose new modern works for this dynamic instrument.

These organs are a unique treasure to all because be they organist, composer, or the individual who has the privilege of seeing and hearing a Holtkamp organ personally, they are enriched. While there is no set formula for the specificities of a Holtkamp organ, indeed Holtkamp organs have been made in the entire spectrum of sizes and styles. One mainstay has been the strong and steady demand for these very special instruments.

Holtkamp organs already grace such fine institutions as the Juilliard School of Music, Yale University, Notre Dame University, Western Reserve Academy, and Cleveland's own Museum of Art. The tradition of excellence will no

doubt continue as Holtkamp organs are still commissioned today, making the Holtkamp Organ Co. the sole organ builder in the country in demand today.

To commemorate his unparalleled dedication to the organ, chickfest will feature a hymn festival and organ recital by premier organists and composers from as far away as Germany. Perhaps most impressive is the fact that five composers have actually written commissioned pieces specifically to honor Chick.

Mr. Speaker, all too often in our hurried lifestyles we forget the importance of art and music in our culture and the beauty that it creates and inspires. I have had the privilege of knowing the Holtkamp family, particularly Chick's nephew, Henry, who has been my best friend for the past 30 years, and I wish to personally thank Chick and his entire family for their dedication to preserving the extraordinary and magical craft of organ building that in their hands has indeed risen to the level of art itself.

I join countless other admirers of his work in sending my sincerest congratulations on a lifetime of superb achievement.

AMERICA LOSES UNDER DOLE ECONOMIC PLAN

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I have expressed my concerns several times in the House over the Republican cuts in their budgets in Medicare, Medicaid, education programs, environmental programs over the last 2 years.

But I am particularly concerned, and I wanted to express my concern tonight, that the Dole economic plan will have an even more negative impact on Medicare and Medicaid and some of these other programs than the Republican proposals that we have seen for the last 2 years. This includes the tools to fight crime effectively. I am very concerned about the fact that Mr. Dole's suggestions in terms of his economic plan will essentially cut money that is needed by our various States and municipalities to fight crime.

If you look at Mr. Dole's record, he talks about how he is tough on crime, but he has failed in his numerous speeches to admit that he voted against putting 100,000 policemen on the street and has repeatedly tried to cut funding for this program that was established by President Clinton. His economic plan would mean ending this program when clearly the evidence indicates that crime has come down in our cities and our towns.

In my New Jersey district alone, over \$6 million has been spent on hiring policemen, about 110 additional policemen. The overall crime rate has dropped in the district since President Clinton took office. But Mr. Dole has

threatened to kill the Violence Against Women Act which strengthened domestic violence laws, hired more prosecutors, and created a national domestic violence hotline.

In addition, Dole voted against the Safe and Drug-free Schools Act which enables communities to implement violence and drug prevention programs. The Dole-Gingrich Congress initially tried to cut nearly \$6 million from New Jersey alone for this vital program.

Mr. Dole may talk tough on crime, but his actions speak louder than his words. His economic plan will mean even more drastic cuts in the crime-fighting tools that have already brought the crime rate down.

Bob Dole has been in Congress now, until he resigned recently, for about 35 years. President Clinton has been the President for about 4 years. President Clinton and the Democrats passed a crime bill with teeth in it to put criminals behind bars, to increase the use of the death penalty, and create more jails. The Fraternal Order of Police has endorsed President Clinton, not Bob Dole.

Mr. Speaker, I have to say that after the Republicans gained control of the House and the Senate for the first time in 40 years, I expected that there would be radical changes. But looking back over the last 2 years, I could never have imagined the extremism that poured from Speaker GINGRICH and former Senator Dole. Most important, I could never imagine the cuts and radical changes in Medicare that they have proposed.

I know that my colleagues on the other side have talked about that, and so has Ms. DELAURO tonight, but the majority of Republicans in Congress opposed Medicare's initial enactment. That included staunch opposition from then Congressman Dole, who later recalled 30 years later, and I quote, "I was there, fighting the fight, voting against Medicare, because we knew it wouldn't work in 1965."

The fact is, last year Speaker GINGRICH said he wanted to see Medicare "wither on the vine." Initial Republican proposals included increased Medicare part B premiums, additional co-payments, increased deductibles, severe hospital reimbursement cuts, less services, elimination of doctor choice, and vouchers. Basically the Grand Old Party, or the GOP, wanted to get old people to pay for primarily a tax cut that would have benefited mostly rich people.

The Democrats in Congress fought these radical proposals which we think would have ended Medicare as we know it. President Clinton stood up to Republican demands to slash Medicare in last year's budget battles. Speaker GINGRICH and former Senator Dole were so intent on cutting Medicare that they held the Government hostage to their demands.

If you think about the Government shutdown that we witnessed in 1995, seniors and workers were unable to