

not have the guarantee of most of the Medicare benefits. For the first time in the history of the Medicare program, some senior citizens will have the guarantee of all their Medicare benefits and others will not because they opt for catastrophic coverage and will not necessarily know what they are getting into.

So beware, seniors, of what the Republicans are doing in this budget.

NOW TO ACHIEVE GENUINE WELFARE REFORM

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

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, some things are totally predictable in this Chamber and nationwide. Just as the swallows return to Capistrano and the buzzards go back to Hinckley, so, too, does my good friend from New Jersey come to the well day after day with what I will diplomatically call deliberate disinformation, what the media has called Mediscare.

Here we have it once again. We have gotten the same thing from the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue. Again, the President says he want to end welfare as we know it. Well, perhaps the President and some of my friends on this side of the aisle need to have a little refresher course because, Mr. Speaker, we live in the United States of America, not the centralized bureaucracy of America.

The first meaningful step toward genuine welfare reform is to give the States the true flexibility to solve problems, not with Washington having the States coming on bended knee to ask for waivers, not with a centralized bureaucracy. Mr. Speaker, it is time to replace the counterfeit compassion of Uncle Sam and big brother with a genuine compassion of local people solving local problems.

REPUBLICAN CUTS IN MEDICARE AND MEDICAID WILL CLOSE HOSPITALS

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

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, the radical right of the Republicans under Speaker GINGRICH are at it again. Last year the Democrats and the minority brought to the attention of the people of this country that the radical Republicans under Speaker GINGRICH were going to cut, under their budget and under their Balanced Budget Act, Medicare and Medicaid. They were going to make senior citizens pay more for it. They were going to close hospitals before that bill ended this 4, 5, 6, and 7 years, hospitals all across this Nation.

Well, we, as the minority, along with the President, by vetoing the legislation, we stopped that. Well, guess what, folks? Look at this year's budget

by the Republicans again. They are at it again.

I will have, if that comes true, I will have at least four hospitals in my district that will have to be closed. That ends medical care not only for the elderly but for everybody else. I will have senior citizens that have to pay more.

I want to tell the gentleman from Arizona that spoke before, why does he want to cut Medicare and Medicaid?

PRESIDENT CLINTON HAS BECOME THE "MAYBE MAN"

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

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, President Clinton has become the maybe man. Maybe he will end welfare as we know it, and maybe he will not. Maybe he will sign the waiver for Wisconsin's welfare reforms and maybe he will not.

Should we trust what Clinton says or should we judge Clinton by what he does: Delay, waffle, and when inaction is not an option, veto.

The President has vetoed national welfare reform not once but twice. Congress has introduced new welfare reforms based on the unanimous recommendations of the National Governors' Association. These reforms have tough work requirements, have real time limits and end Washington's grip on the power, money and influence to block innovative reforms by the States.

Considering welfare reform and President Clinton, will the third time prove the charm or will the President strike out?

REPUBLICANS STILL RELYING ON MEDICARE CUTS TO PAY FOR TAX BREAKS

(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, the Republican majority is still relying on Medicare cuts to pay for its tax breaks and its special deals for its friends. They have wisely come down from their demands of last year in cutting Medicare \$270 billion and last year they offered a \$245 billion tax break.

Their plan now for the next 6 years still contains Medicare cuts. These cuts would allow health care plans to charge seniors substantially more and reduce the seniors' choice of health care plans by pushing more seniors into managed care. Costs for seniors in the traditional Medicare would increase.

We need to reform Medicare but the Republicans take too much bite out of the apple. We need to reform the program by investing more into the waste, fraud and abuse investigations. Nearly

\$40 million has been recouped by the Medicare trust fund because of actions of this administration.

We need to fully fund waste, fraud and abuse investigations and reform the trust fund along the lines recommended by the trustees. We do not need to cut Medicare just to pay for tax breaks.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLOTTE FULLER CLONTS

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

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, one of the most wonderful things about our community is that so many of its citizens give to the community despite their own challenges. Charlotte Fuller Clonts is one of those special citizens. Though she faces tough personal battles, Charlotte constantly and selflessly gives of herself to her community.

Charlotte resides in the Ridge Road community with her loving husband of 45 years and is well-known throughout Paulding County for her tireless efforts for the Veterans Memorial.

Since July 1995, Charlotte has served as publicity chairwoman for the memorial fund. Working bedridden much of the time, gathering information and writing during countless sleepless nights, Charlotte has helped to raise over \$50,000 to construct the memorial in record time.

She was recognized for her hard work just a few years ago when she was named "Citizen of the Year." Charlotte has been involved in many other organizations as well, including: the Paulding County Chamber of Commerce, the Paulding County Planning Commission, the Paulding County Division March of Dimes, and many others. On behalf of Paulding County and the entire seventh district, I thank Charlotte for her loyalty to our community and to our country, and commend her to us all as an outstanding community citizen.

GINGRICH-LED CONGRESS STILL DESIROUS OF CUTTING MEDICARE TO FUND TAX BREAKS

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, our fellow citizens know this Gingrich Congress by its deeds, and first among these is its continuing desire to cut Medicare in order to fund the tax breaks for our most wealthy citizens.

We saw a great deal of that last year as they proposed cuts of \$270 billion in a pay more, get less Medicare plan. And this year they have not given up on that determination, as the Speaker says, to let Medicare wither on the vine. They have just regrouped and are coming at it from another angle.

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They have taken it step by step. Since it is an election year, they want to provide the tax break this year, hand out candy before the election, and next year come back with the full dimension of the Medicare cuts that will be necessary to pay for these election eve political tax breaks for the wealthy. The good indication that they still have their plan to cut Medicare on track is the budget resolution we have up tomorrow as they propose to have seniors pay for bills that they get from doctors above what Medicare pays.

THE PRESIDENT AND WELFARE

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

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, you will remember that during his Presidential campaign, Bill Clinton promised to end welfare as we know it. But when he was elected, he vetoed welfare reform twice.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans take a different view. We do not view welfare as a political football. We want to give the States greater flexibility. We want tough work requirements. We want a 5-year limit on benefits. We want to lift people out of poverty and despair.

There is a huge difference between Bill Clinton's view on welfare reform and the Republican view of welfare reform. Bill Clinton wants to demagog. He wants to protect Washington bureaucracy and Washington spending.

Republicans want to actually keep our promises and actually do something to make a difference in the lives of those caught in the grasp of the welfare state.

Mr. Speaker, we can only hope that Bill Clinton will honor his word and help us reform welfare.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CHAMBLISS). The Chair would remind the Member not to refer to the President in personal terms.

IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE OF UNION PACIFIC-SOUTHERN PACIFIC MERGER

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

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my deep concern regarding the proposed merger between the Union Pacific and Southern Pacific Railroads which is under consideration by the Surface Transportation Board.

If approved, this merger would be the largest rail merger in the history of the United States. It will result in only two railroads controlling the entire western half of the Nation. This mas-

sive consolidation of rail transportation could hurt competition in the rail industry, and ultimately, hurt farmers, ranchers, and shippers in the agriculture industry.

It is no secret that rail service is critical to the economic well-being of this Nation's agricultural and rural economies. Nearly half of all grain produced in the United States moves to market by rail. In fact, in 1995, grain, grain mill products, and other farm products accounted for more than 2.14 million rail loadings.

The very survival of farmers and ranchers depends on their ability to ship commodities at a competitive price and in a timely fashion. Access to reliable, cost-effective rail transportation is the only way they can remain competitive in markets here and overseas. With this proposed merger, they may not have that critical access.

With this merger, competition for rail transportation of agricultural products will be eliminated in some areas. With reduced competitive transportation options, agricultural shippers could be faced with higher rates and prices for rail services.

Farmers and local shippers in many rural areas will become captive customers, totally dependent on only one carrier to supply grain cars and ship to distant markets.

The proposed merger seems to be on a dangerous fast track. As the Surface Transportation Board considers this merger, we must urge them to consider all alternatives to monopoly and duopoly.

CHILDREN NEED PARENTS, NOT GOVERNMENT EXPERTS

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

Mr. LARGENT. Mr. Speaker, in the next few days, we will be hearing a lot about the plight of children. The Stand for Children rally, scheduled for Saturday, will urge government to do more for children. The best protectors of children, the event organizers claim, are government bureaucrats and children's advocates.

I disagree. The best advocates for children today—and the most unappreciated—are moms and dads standing together for their children. The best thing we could do as a society and for children is not pour more money into marginal programs, but affirm and support families and parents.

H.R. 1946, the Parental Rights and Responsibilities Act, promotes the idea that family is key to providing for children. Parents are in the best position to protect and provide for their children. And the PRRA protects families from the harmful actions of government bureaucrats.

If the actions of the East Stroudsburg, PA, school officials who conducted genital exams on 11-year-old girls, without informing the girls or re-

ceiving explicit parental approval, is any indication of what it means to stand for children, Congress should quickly vote on and pass the PRRA. Because when it comes to children, what they need are moms and dads—not government experts.

TEENAGE PREGNANCY PREVENTION MONTH

(Mrs. CLAYTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, both President Clinton and Governor Hunt of my State have declared May as Teenager Pregnancy Prevention Month.

Many are observing National Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month because it has been shown that many more teenagers become pregnant during May than in any other month.

This is attributed to the many special events that occur in May such as proms, graduations, field trips, and other social outings.

The goal of teen pregnancy prevention efforts should be to assist teens to achieve social responsibility and long-term economic self-sufficiency.

To achieve this goal we must have a combined effort between the public and the private sectors.

Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month provides an opportunity to recognize existing teen pregnancy prevention programs.

Over the days and weeks to follow, I will share with our colleagues information about a variety of teenage pregnancy prevention programs that are underway.

It is time for all of us to join in this effort.

SPENDING ON CHILD CARE

(Ms. DUNN of Washington asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DUNN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, last week the White House rapid response team got another one wrong. Clinton adviser George Stephanopolous actually said that the administration opposed the Republican bill in Congress because it cuts too deeply into child care. "We've been willing to have flexibility," he said, "but we cannot agree to cuts in child care."

Mr. Speaker, are Republicans cutting child care? Well, to borrow a phrase from John McLaughlin: wrong. Let us talk reality. The current Republican welfare plan based on the bipartisan Governors' proposal calls for \$4.5 billion more in mandatory and discretionary child care spending than the Clinton plan.

Here is the bottom line, Mr. Speaker: Republicans provide more funding for child care in our welfare plan than does the President in his, and making up excuses to oppose welfare reform does not help a single child escape the welfare