

the trust fund remains solvent. But that can be done with the Democratic proposal without the radical changes in Medicare that the Republican leadership is proposing.

SAVE MEDICARE

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, 5 short years. That is the amount of time that is remaining in the Medicare trust fund before it goes completely bankrupt. The trust fund already has started to lose billions, and unless we make some needed changes, Medicare will be completely bankrupt within 5 years. So the situation is even worse than was predicted by the Clinton administration last year.

Mr. Speaker, there are many, many people in my district who depend on Medicare and who expect to be around 5 years from now. My own parents are on Medicare. It would be an absolute outrage if political posturing and political games prevent us from saving a program that so many Americans depended upon.

Just as politics ought to stop at the water's edge, politics when it comes to Medicare absolutely should stop in this House. Even President Clinton admitted all those attack ads about Republicans alleging cutting Medicare are absolutely not true.

It is time that rather than everybody attacking everybody about who is cutting Medicare, Republicans and Democrats ought to work together to save Medicare.

TAXED OFF TO THE LIMIT

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, the IRS dropped in on Ed and Martha Collins of East Aurora, NY. The IRS demanded every single receipt on their 1993 return. Even though the Collinses had every single receipt to corroborate that 1993 return, the IRS was not satisfied and demanded \$540. And the reason they said was they had conducted an economic reality audit and the IRS determined that Collins Bed and Breakfast spent too much money on food, laundry, and cleaning services for their guests.

Unbelievable. Tell me, Mr. Speaker, what did the IRS expect? Weiners and beans? Paper towels? Porta potties? Beam me up. What is next. Will the IRS determine what the toilet tissue needs are of the American family? No wonder the American people are taxed off. Taxed off to the limit. Congress should do something about the IRS.

MEDICARE GOING BANKRUPT FASTER THAN EXPECTED

(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, the 1996 Medicare trustees' report is expected to be released today and all indications are the news will be worse than last year's report—Medicare is going bankrupt faster and sooner than expected.

In late April, the Congressional Budget Office released data that showed while the 1995 trustee's report predicted a \$5 billion surplus in 2002, the fund is now expected to be \$86 billion in the hole. The Republican majority passed a plan to simplify and strengthen Medicare and fight waste and fraud, all while increasing Medicare spending. But with the flash of his veto-happy pen, President Clinton killed these Medicare reforms.

In just a year's time, President Clinton's choice to mislead America's seniors through demagoguery and campaign scare tactics has resulted in a multibillion-dollar Medicare shortfall. Shame on him.

SENIOR CITIZENS SHOULD NOT PAY FOR SPECIAL INTEREST TAX BREAKS

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, why is Medicare running into financial trouble sooner than we thought? Because the new majority is more interested in raiding Medicare for special interest tax breaks than in buckling down and coming up with a bipartisan plan to keep Medicare solvent.

Instead of proposing changes in Medicare that would lead to greater solvency of the trust fund, the Gingrich-Dole majority proposed limiting physician choice, draining the system of healthy participants through medical savings accounts, and eliminating laws against fraud in the health care industry.

That is no way to save Medicare.

We can avoid the dire predictions of the Medicare trustees. We should work together.

Democrats proposed a plan to keep Medicare solvent while maintaining the guarantee of health care for older Americans.

Our plan keeps Medicare in the black for years to come without the devastating cuts that make seniors see red. What we need around here is the courage to do what's right. What we don't need are special interest tax breaks paid for by our Nation's seniors.

TRAVEL AND TOURISM IN AMERICA

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

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I want to remind this body that the travel and

tourism industry is the Nation's second largest employer, providing more than 14,000,000 jobs; the third largest retail sales industry, and in 1994, travel and tourism generated more than \$58 billion in tax revenues.

Mr. Speaker, dollars that tourists spend trickle down to local communities and benefit the whole U.S. economy. The travel and tourism industry is diverse and touches every sector of our society, from business to the arts to education.

While travel and tourism is growing throughout the world, the U.S. market share is on the decline. With the closing of the U.S. Travel and Tourism Administration [USTTA] in April, promotion of travel and tourism has dropped to zero.

We must revitalize this dynamic industry by passing H.R. 2579 during the 104th Congress. This important bill would merge the resources of the private sector and the Federal Government to improve the promotion of international travel and tourism to the United States. The legislation would provide the means to encourage international travelers to visit the United States.

Federal support for travel and tourism would protect jobs and promote a healthy American economy for the 21st century.

TOURISM VITAL TO GUAM'S CONTINUED ECONOMIC GROWTH

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

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for H.R. 2579, introduced by Congressman TOBY ROTH. I commend Representative ROTH for his work on this legislation and for improving the visibility and understanding of travel and tourism issues in this Congress.

The tourism industry is Guam's lifeblood and the engine of economic growth on our island. Last year, 1.3 million visitors came to Guam and 2 million are expected to arrive by the end of the decade. The visitor industry last year contributed to the employment of about 19,000 people on Guam and represented about 40 percent of the private sector work force. For an island of 140,000, our economy has grown to over \$3 billion. And the visitor industry is vital to our continued economic growth.

A Federal tourism strategy is the key to the long-term health of the tourist industry, and, with the closing of the U.S. Travel and Tourism Administration, there is currently a vacuum in this area. The National Tourism Organization established under H.R. 2579 would not only bring more visitors to the United States, but it would steer them toward American companies for every part of their trip. An aggressive plan to attract international tourists

is needed now, and I urge my colleagues to support Congressman ROTH's efforts to expediently pass H.R. 2579.

SERIOUS DISCUSSION ABOUT SAVING MEDICARE HAS BEEN POISONED BY LIBERALS

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

Mr. FUNDERBURK. Mr. Speaker, it is shameful that the liberal Democrats in Congress and the White House have chosen to demagog Medicare instead of joining with those of us on this side of the aisle in rescuing Medicare and making sure it exists well into the next century.

A good example is the gentleman from Missouri, Representative GEPHARDT, whose statement has been that it is a big lie to say Medicare is in trouble. This is what they have been saying all day today. But, Mr. Speaker, the Board of Medicare Trustees will release their annual report on the financial condition of the Medicare trust fund. It is now 2 months overdue. It is expected that the report will show Medicare is going bankrupt faster and sooner than anyone predicted.

It is a shame that any serious discussion about saving Medicare has been poisoned by narrow-minded liberals bent on scoring cheap political points.

DEMOCRATS' PROPOSAL TO SAVE MEDICARE WOULD NOT FUND TAX CUTS OR PENTAGON INCREASES

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

Ms. FURSE. Mr. Speaker, I want to take a moment to talk about Medicare. I am very disappointed that we still have that same old, same old when it comes to the priorities of the majority party.

When I talk to the people in my district, they think it is absolutely crazy to ask seniors to pay more for Medicare while we increase spending on the Pentagon and hand out tax cuts. Moreover, people get very concerned when they hear about the way in which the Republicans want to save Medicare.

The Republicans would allow doctors to charge whatever they want by eliminating protections on balance billing; they would allow cutting fees to doctors and hospitals through budget gimmicks; and they would force seniors into plans which restrict their choices.

It is no wonder that this Congress held more hearings on Waco and sports franchise relocation than we did on Medicare reform. In fact, there has been so much secrecy that, in my committee last year, when a group of seniors came to ask, "Please give us some answers" they were arrested.

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MEDAGOGUES

(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, it is very interesting once again to return to the well and see the same rhetorical tactics utilized so desperately by the other side, so desperate in fact that a liberal newspaper in this town, the Washington Post, has talked about it now on two occasions.

Members may recall last year the editorial entitled "Medagogues," quoting now,

If the Medicare program won't become less generous over time, how do the Democrats propose to finance it and continue the rest of the Federal activities they espouse? That is the question. You listen in vain for a real response. It is irresponsible.

Now comes another Post editorial, entitled "Medagogues Continued," quoting again from the Washington Post,

The Democrats have fabricated the Medicare tax cut connection because it is useful politically. It allows them to attack and to duck responsibility both at the same time. We think it is wrong.

Medicare is going bankrupt. That is what should scare all Americans. We have a solution. They have nothing but complaints.

REPUBLICANS AND MEDICARE

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, despite what my Republican colleagues are saying this morning, in October 1995, last October, 233 House Republicans voted against a bill which contained \$90 billion in Medicare reforms over 7 years which would have extended the solvency of the Medicare Program to the year 2006. Let me just tell my colleagues that their new plan will cut \$168 billion from Medicare over a 6-year period of time, and what they will do with that by their own words is pay for a \$176 to \$180 billion tax break for the richest Americans.

Speaker GINGRICH has said that these are not cuts. He said this on Sunday on "Meet the Press." But let me inform my colleagues what his colleague, the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. KASICH] the budget chairman has said in 1995. I quote: "Their budget would require Medicare cuts unlike any this town has ever seen before."

Indeed, that is what they are about. Do not be fooled, American people. Speaker GINGRICH has said in the past he wants Medicare to wither on the vine. We must not let him do it.

LET'S PROMOTE AMERICA'S TOURISM INDUSTRY

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

Mr. ROTH. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring a positive message here to the House this morning. I want to thank all of my colleagues for supporting travel and tourism because travel and tourism basically is a small business operation.

Mr. Speaker, since this is Small Business Week, it is a perfect time to talk about travel and tourism. Ninety-nine percent of all of travel and tourism in the United States is small business. These are people, men and women, who work day in and day out for their country and who pay the taxes that we the politicians all too often spend.

Tourism supports over 14 million jobs, as the gentlewoman from Maryland said this morning, and is the largest employer in 44 of the 50 States. Yet hardly ever is a word spoken for travel and tourism. Do you want to know why? Because the people involved in travel and tourism are at home working in the small communities throughout America day in and day out trying to raise a family, trying to keep their bills paid. They do not have a lot of time come and lobby Congress. But the small business people who really run travel and tourism run this country and make it possible for us to have the strong economy we do have.

SUPPORT TRAVEL AND TOURISM

(Mrs. MEEK of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am a member of the travel and tourism caucus under the leadership of the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. ROTH]. I just wanted to say this to America, that tourism and related travel supported 644,500 jobs. We are talking about jobs, so why do we not work harder to be sure we already have the base for these jobs. In my home State of Florida, they generated more than \$5 billion in taxes for the State and local governments and more than \$11 billion in payrolls. No wonder tourism and related travel is the largest employer in Florida, the largest employer in 44 of the 50 States and the second largest employer in the Nation. Why should we not continue very hard to push travel and tourism? Nationally, the travel and tourism industry accounts for more than 14 million jobs and an annual payroll of more than \$110 billion.

To all of my colleagues I say, Mr. Speaker, travel and tourism is America's leading export. In 1995, 44.7 million visitors generated \$76.7 billion. Please support the Travel and Tourism Caucus.

IN SUPPORT OF THE BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

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

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, over the last year and a half the phrase "family