

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

friendly' has been battered around the Chamber like none other. But when it comes right down to it, being family friendly can only mean one thing: a vote for the balanced budget amendment.

Without passing a balanced budget amendment, American families lose out on lower interest rates, faster job growth and much needed relief from a debt amounting to more than 80 percent and a lifetime of taxes.

Keep in mind that in 1994, the Federal Government spent \$203 billion in interest on the national debt. That is more than it spent on education, job training, public works and children's nutrition programs combined.

Mr. Speaker, what could be more family friendly than relieving your children and their children of having to pay inflated taxes for years to come?

Pass the balanced budget amendment.

#### MEDICARE AND MEDICAID

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

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, we will soon consider a 1997 fiscal year budget resolution that slashes Medicare and Medicaid funding. The American people have given us a clear mandate. They have overwhelmingly told us time and time again to protect our neediest citizens, the disabled, the poor, our children and the elderly.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle have a different vision. Their priorities are jumbled, their budget reflects a flawed economic theory and confusion.

Two weeks ago I vote for a budget that reflected my district's and the country's priorities. I chose to vote for a 6-year balanced budget that proposed to increase the investments in education, job training, infrastructure, and at the same time protecting Medicare, Medicaid and not demolish it.

The recent report issued by the Medicare trustees that forecasts Medicare insolvency does not tell us anything new. We know that Medicare needs mending. Let us take the opportunity to roll up our sleeves and get to work. I sincerely hope that the speaker is sincere when he said he wants to work in a bipartisan way with the President to save Medicare for our parents and grandparents.

#### SUPPORT FOR H.R. 2579

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

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to express my support for H.R. 2579, legislation to promote international travel and tourism in the United States. This measure privatizes the functions of the U.S. Travel and Tourism Administration, an agency

which costs taxpayers \$16.7 million in 1995. The Congress correctly decided to zero out the USTTA. However, there is a role for a federally chartered, privately funded organization to promote travel to the United States.

I am an original cosponsor of the bill, and our Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade, and Hazardous Materials, which I chair, recently marked it up, where it was approved by voice vote. It will be taken up by the full Committee on Commerce in the very near future.

Travel and tourism is the Nation's leading export industry. As one example, in 1993, foreign visitors spent \$443 million in my home State of Ohio, which ranked 18th among the States.

Mr. Speaker, I want to pay particular tribute to our friend, the gentleman from Wisconsin, TOBY ROTH, who has led this effort on behalf of the travel and tourism industry and all Americans for this critical legislation. I am proud to be a cosponsor of this bill and look forward to the markup in the full Committee on Commerce.

#### THE STRAIGHT FACE TEST ON MEDICARE AND MEDICAID

(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, the words are flying again on Medicare and Medicaid. Here we go. It must be an election year. What do you think?

Look, the American people are pretty smart about this issue. When the leadership on the other side, one of them said he was proud he never voted for it, another one said he hoped it would wither on the vine, another leader on that side said that they were trying to make cuts like no one had ever seen before, but now all of a sudden, as we get near to the election year, everybody is trying to rewrite history and suddenly say, no, we have come to save it, come to save it, somehow that does not pass the straight face test.

Last year we had an attempt to try and put Medicare on the right path so that the report that we are going to be getting would not be coming, had we done that. Yet the other side rejected it because they did not want to do that. They wanted to cut Medicare and put it into tax cuts for the people who need tax cuts the least, the ones who have the most get more. I do not understand that. I do not understand that at all.

So we are at a point of do we mend it or do we mash it. The mashers are trying to say they want to mend. We want so say, it is time to deal with it straightforwardly.

#### WARNING SIGNALS ON MEDICARE

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

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I take the well today to remind my colleagues that you and I were not here in the

House when the warning signals were up about the S&L debacle back in the early 1980's. Those scoundrels from Texas and California, Florida and Illinois took the taxpayers for \$150 billion, and it was wrong. Congress should have acted in the early 1980's, and they did not.

Mr. Speaker, we have a great program that seniors in this country love called Medicare. The warning signals were out there a year ago that it was going to go belly up by the year 2002. This body did nothing. We tried to get bipartisan cooperation and nothing happened.

Today a report is coming out saying that it is a year worse. Instead of going belly up in 2002, it is going to go belly up in 2001, \$90 billion worse than it was last year. Three cabinet members are going to sign that report as they did last year.

Yet we read in the CQ facts record for Monday, Laura Tyson says that the trust fund is solvent. Bills will be paid and the administration's plan would assure solvency for a decade.

Let us walk the walk instead of talk the talk. It is going bankrupt. We need to do something about it.

#### ANNUAL REPORT ON STATE OF SMALL BUSINESS—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HEFLEY) laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Small Business:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

I am pleased to transmit to you my annual report on the state of small business, and to report that small businesses are doing exceptionally well. In the year covered by this report, a record 807,000 new firms reported initial employment. Firms in industries dominated by small businesses created almost 60 percent of the nearly 3.3 million new jobs. Business failures and bankruptcies declined at some of the sharpest rates in a decade.

Small businesses have both contributed to and benefited from the recent strength of the economy. The deficit reduction plan I initiated in 1993 has cut the budget deficit in half. The economy has created 8.5 million new jobs since January 1993—almost all of them in the private sector. The combined rate of unemployment and inflation is at its lowest level in more than 25 years.

A major success story has been in the women-owned business sector. Women are creating new businesses and new jobs at double the national rate. Today, women own one-third of all businesses in the United States. Clearly, there is no stopping this fast-growing segment of the economy.

Last June I met in Washington with nearly 2,000 small business owners—