

## TOP 10

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

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, we have been desperately trying to find out what the Democrat plan to save Medicare was. I have it in my hands here. I have discovered it, the 10 top ways the Democrats plan to save Medicare.

First of all, No. 10: Blame it on the Republicans. No. 9: If at first you don't succeed, raise taxes. No. 8: Medicare and don't worry about the truth while you are doing it. No. 7: Don't ask, don't tell. No. 6: Blame Ken Starr. No. 5: Deny, deny, deny. No. 4: Check the fingerprints on the trustees' report. No. 3: Blame the rich. No. 2: Charge it. And the No. 1 solution of the Democrats to saving Medicare is: Let it go broke, no one will notice.

CUTS IN MEDICARE FOR TAX  
BREAK FOR THE WEALTHY

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

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, we have seen the Republicans do everything they can to divert the public's attention for what their plan would do to Medicare. In order to save Medicare, the Republicans tell us they have to take away senior citizens' choice of doctors; they have to force them into managed care, where they do not want to go, where they lose control of their health care for themselves and for their spouse. They want them to pay the overcharges for doctors who charge them too much for medical procedures. They want to take away their right to have a Medigap insurance policy so they will not have to pay out-of-pocket charges to those same doctors and hospitals, maybe now forcing them to pay as much as 40 percent in out-of-pocket charges.

And they want to do all that for simply one reason, and that is to gather up the resources of Medicare and give a tax break to the wealthy, not gathering up the resources of Medicare to shore up the system, to bolster the system, to make it solvent, but to take away these resources, to take away the money of the senior citizens, to charge them more, to simply transfer that to a tax cut.

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There is another way. The other way is the way President Clinton proposed, which is to shore this system up for 10 years.

## MEDICARE TRUSTEES REPORT

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

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, the Medicare trustees, including three Clinton Cab-

net officials, have released their annual report. It is 3 months late and the diagnosis is not good. The part A trust fund is going to be bankrupt in 2001, a full year earlier than was reported last year. Those are the facts. Interestingly enough, this report came just days after the Senate minority leader and a top Clinton Cabinet official accused Republicans of playing politics with Medicare.

It is serious, folks. We have a problem. Mr. Speaker, during my work on the Kerry commission I saw firsthand the consequences of failing to reform Medicare. I was also pleased to work in a bipartisan fashion with colleagues on both sides of the aisle trying to find a long-term solution for this problem. Responsible people did.

Last year Congress sent that responsible solution of real Medicare reform to the President, and the President vetoed it. I say that it is time for the President to stop the medicare, stop the medigogery, encourage the people in his party on that side of the aisle to stop doing it and get to responsible solutions. We have one. We need to identify it and we need it now.

## DEGRADING ACCUSATION

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

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, we should be discussing Medicare, but sometimes decency requires us to deal with unpleasantness. The unpleasantness in this case is an outrageous, inaccurate, degrading accusation by Speaker GINGRICH about the late Ron Brown. Speaker GINGRICH, in what is apparently an organized Republican effort to divert this campaign from discussing the real issues into the kind of negative attacks that maybe they think is the only way they can win, outrageously suggested to a Republican campaign gathering that the President and others delayed the announcement of Secretary Brown's death so that they could engage in some manipulations at his office. It is a lie. The Speaker, when asked, could provide no justification for it.

In fact, we are told in today's paper by the Speaker's press secretary that the justification is that there might be subsequent facts. That is a fairly outrageous standard. Make a terrible accusation and then look and hope for subsequent facts.

Mr. Speaker, I know it is a tough year for the Republican Party. But nothing justifies libeling the dead. Please apologize to the Ron Brown family.

## MEDICARE TRUSTEES REPORT

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

Mr. BAKER of California. Mr. Speaker, in this fantasy land known as Washington, the truth is rarely heard. As

the little rabbit said in "Alice in Wonderland," things are not as they appear. So when the Medicare trustees, these well-known conservatives such as Labor Secretary Reich, Health Secretary Shalala and Treasury Secretary Rubin got up and said Medicare is going broke, an advanced copy went to the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. GEPHARDT]. He stood up and said, it is all the Republicans' fault. How could that be? How could that possibly be when we have not passed it?

One of the speakers earlier said today hospitals in my area are closing, in anticipation of our plan which has not even gotten out of the House and has not been signed by the President.

What does Medicare really need? This is the Medicare report from the trustees. One year ago they said it was going to go broke in 2002. The top line. Now they are saying it is going to go broke in 2000. Folks, by the year 2001, it will be \$85 billion under water. That is not because somebody has given somebody a tax break.

What does the Republican plan do? It allows doctors and hospitals to directly provide services. It allows HMO's to provide services, allows people to have a medical savings account. It eliminates waste, fraud, and abuse through tort reform and allows seniors to stay where it is. Let us pass reform. Let us stop blaming each other. Let us save Medicare.

ACCUSATIONS AGAINST THE LATE  
RON BROWN

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

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, it was 2 months ago this week that Ron Brown and 34 others were killed in a tragic plane crash in Bosnia. For 2 awful days the world waited to hear the word of their fate. Most of us spent that time praying for a miracle. When word of the tragedy came, the outpouring of love and affection across this country was absolutely breathtaking.

But now the Speaker of the House has weighed in with words of venom. Where most people see tragedy, the Speaker sees only coverup. His press secretary backed his words up by calling for an investigation. During times of tragedy, we should respect each other, not tear each other apart. Only someone who loses the public debate would stoop to desperation tactics like this. This is beneath the dignity of the House and the dignity of this great country.

If NEWT GINGRICH has even a shred of decency left, he should apologize not only to the friends and family of those who were killed but to the American people.

## MEDICARE IS GOING BROKE

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

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, here we go again. Absolutely amazing. Medicare is going bankrupt, and the Democrats are doing absolutely nothing about it. They come up behind the podium just like they did last year, telling us that the Republicans are cutting Medicare when they know it is not the truth. The Washington Post spells it out. Last year during the demagoguery, the Washington Post accused the Democrats of shameless demagoguery to try to scare seniors because "they know that is where the votes are."

Then, Washington Post columnist Robert Samuelson took it a step forward and called the President of the United States and the Democrats liars on Medicare. Why? Because it is clear. Medicare is going bankrupt and the Democrats are doing nothing about it.

They do not care about my 93-year-old grandmother. They do not care about my parents. They do not care about the millions of seniors who will be without Medicare in 5 years if we do not do something about it today.

They do not care. John Lennon wrote a song called "How Do You Sleep at Night." I think it should be their theme song for the 1996 election.

#### LEGISLATION OF THE 104TH CONGRESS

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, this House Republican leadership has turned over the job of writing much of our legislation to special interest lobbyists. They gather here at the Capitol weekly to write the Nation's business. So, it is little wonder that now with the election approaching, they have begun a corruption search to cover their own misdeeds.

The latest chapter in this is this callous act of raising these accusations about the death of Ron Brown at the very time his family still grieves. The Speaker said yesterday, Reagan was teflon, Clinton is flypaper, this stuff is going to start to stick.

The only thing stuck around here is this Republican leadership. It is stuck in the gutter because of its own misdeeds and now these callous accusations.

#### WELFARE REFORM

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, today, once again, we will try to take the President at his word on welfare reform. Only 3 weeks ago President Clinton endorsed the Wisconsin works plan which substitutes work and responsibility for dependence and despair. It was adopted by sweeping bipartisan majorities in the Wisconsin State Legislature. Yet Federal roadblocks still prevent that plan from going into effect.

President Clinton said he endorsed the plan just a couple of weeks ago. He said we should get it done. Now we get hemming and hawing from the administration. In fact, some administration officials signaled that the President did not mean what he said. But maybe they are not being fair to their boss.

The cynics point this out, after saying that he wanted to end welfare as we know it, remember that, the President vetoed welfare reform. Then he vetoed it again. The cynics say that we have to be a bit skeptical of the President's words. But heck with those cynics.

Mr. Speaker, let us give the President what he says he wants and what the people of Wisconsin really do want. To quote the President, "We should get it done."

Let us overhaul the terrible welfare system that we have in this country and let us do it in Wisconsin for the folks there who want to overhaul the welfare system.

#### COMMERCE SECRETARY RON BROWN

(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, once again House Speaker NEWT GINGRICH has gone too far. He is alleging that the Commerce Department workers might have shredded documents after Secretary Brown's fatal crash in Croatia and that the staff delayed reporting this airplane crash with 26 incredible Americans on board. According to Gingrich's staff, the Speaker is, and I quote, "Suggesting there might have been a coverup to get rid of Brown's papers after he died."

This is extreme. It is irresponsible. It is not the behavior of a congressional leader.

When questioned about it, the Speaker's office responded, and I again quote, "I think they are serious allegations, if subsequent facts support them, if subsequent facts support them, I think it is something other news outlets ought to look at and other agencies."

In other words, we are going to make an outrageous allegation and then we are going to hope that eventually someone comes up with the facts to support it.

Has not the family of Commerce Secretary Ron Brown suffered enough? Speaker GINGRICH, who did not even attend the funeral, owes the Brown family a public apology for making this irresponsible and fictional allegation.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina). The Chair admonishes Members not to refer to the President in terms personally offensive, as occurred during the remarks of the gentleman from Florida.

#### A BALANCED BUDGET

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

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, the last 20 minutes discussion on Medicare is only a symbol of what has been wrong in this town for 30 years. This body and the other has been voting benefits to America's citizens and said do not worry, you are not going to have to pay for them. We are going to pass this bill on to your grandchildren. That is why we must have a balanced budget and a balanced budget amendment and it makes sense.

But more than just common sense. It is a promise to our children and grandchildren that we will not continue runaway government spending at their expense. When my grandsons are old enough to ask me, I do not want to have to explain to them why they are paying \$3,500 every year in taxes just for interest on the national debt and why over their lifetime they will pay \$187,000 in taxes just to pay interest on the debt.

I refuse to say to them, your future is mortgaged and your country is bankrupt. That is why House Republicans have kept their promise to the American people and passed the balanced budget amendment. Now the Senate can do the same. All we need is for President Clinton to keep his word.

Governor Clinton supported a balanced budget, but last year President Clinton persuaded six Democrat Senators to change their vote and defeat the amendment. I hope the President will begin to get his actions in step with his words.

#### BASELESS ALLEGATIONS

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

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I read with disbelief an article in the Washington Post this morning. It reported that the Speaker of this House has made baseless, unsubstantiated allegations about our late Secretary of Commerce, Ron Brown.

Ron Brown died in service to his country just 2 short months ago when his plane crashed during a trade mission to Bosnia. The Brown family is still in mourning, but for the Speaker of the House the death of this great man is something to be exploited for political gain.

Mr. Speaker, how low will you go? Is there a shred of decency left in your body? Is there anything you would not say for partisan political gain. You bring disrespect to yourself and to this institution by making such outrageous and baseless charges.

You owe us all an apology. You owe the Brown family an apology. You owe this Congress an apology and you owe this Nation an apology.

Mr. Speaker, you might not be the most unpopular public figure in history