

But when it comes to the special interest money trees here in Washington, he says, water them, fertilize them. Give them lots of fertilizer. Give them tender loving care.

He is all green thumbs for special interest campaign money, for, despite his handshake with President Clinton last year and a very pleasant smile in New Hampshire, he did nothing for months on the issue of campaign finance reform so that nothing would occur in this 1996 election. Then when he finally spoke, his view was that the independent organizations who demanded real reform of our election system, they had it all wrong. What America needs is not less campaign spending but more, lots more campaign spending.

Mr. Speaker, when we look at the issue of reforming this Congress, he said, we will have a week next year and we will call it reform week. That was last week and now it has been canceled. America needs a new gardener.

#### TRAGEDY HIGHLIGHTS AMERICA'S STRENGTH

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

Mr. LAZIO of New York. Mr. Speaker, as I was leaving the memorial service for the families of the victims of TWA flight 800 yesterday, my heart was touched to see crowds of Long Islanders who could not attend the ceremony lining the roads with signs expressing love and support for those who lost loved ones in this terrible disaster.

The signs read: "We Are Praying for You." "Our Hearts Are With You."

If there is any solace in this calamity, it is that Americans from all walks of life have come together to share in this loss, to offer support, and to care for each other.

Coming together in times of need with a true sense of community is one of the great strengths of our Nation. I cannot help but think of the hundreds of people who went out on the dark ocean the night of the disaster to look for survivors and the thousands of people who have literally worked around the clock without much fanfare.

All these people, rescuers, Red Cross workers, FBI agents, NTSB officials, airline employees, local police, Coast Guard members, medical examiners, grief counselors, and citizens from all over the country who volunteer their time and energy have worked selflessly. Even though they have been burdened by very heavy hearts because of the grim work they are doing, they keep at the job.

I urge all Americans, Mr. Speaker, to acknowledge these continuing efforts on Long Island and to express pride in the spirit that makes our country so great.

#### REPUBLICANS AND MEDICARE

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

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, last year NEWT GINGRICH said he wanted Medicare to wither on the vine. At the time, both Mr. GINGRICH and his spokesperson, Tony Blankley, said he was referring to Medicare fee-for-service. But now the Republicans are trying to rewrite history. Thirteen separate times the Gingrich Republicans voted to cut Medicare for tax breaks for the wealthiest individuals and corporations in America. Now they are trying to run away from their record. I suppose next they will tell us that Bob Dole did vote for Medicare back in 1965.

This is one more attempt, I might add, Mr. Speaker, by the Republicans to shut down voices. When seniors tried to speak out against Medicare cuts, they were arrested. Now that the labor movement, which has been the champion of working people, has had the courage to tell the truth about the Gingrich agenda and speak out for working families most affected by these cuts, Republicans are trying to silence them.

Republicans can try to shut down voices all they want to, because they are never going to be able to shut down the truth.

#### INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO USE CECIL FIELD AS A SITE FOR A VA NATIONAL CEMETERY AND DEVELOPMENT OF A LONG TERM CARE FACILITY

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, the honorable minority whip knows that the Speaker was not talking about Medicare. He was talking about the Health Care Financing Administration. And in the book "Putting People First," by Mr. GORE and President Clinton, they talked about scrapping the Health Care Financing Administration just as the Speaker did. Now they are accusing the Speaker of talking about Medicare when he was not.

Mr. Speaker, in 1993, Cecil Field Naval Air Station was approved for closure by the President and this Congress. The base has long served the military community of Jacksonville, FL, and its surrounding area.

In order to continue to serve our veterans, I am proposing a bill that would designate 1,500 acres of Cecil Field for a veterans cemetery as well as convert the current barracks into a veterans nursing home. Florida's total veterans population is the second largest in the country and it needs these facilities. So I hope my colleagues will help me to sponsor this new bill to help Cecil Field develop a cemetery for veterans.

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Cecil Field for a veterans cemetery, as well as convert the current barracks into a veterans nursing home. Florida's total veterans population is the second largest in the country, with over 274,000 veterans within a 100 mile radius of Cecil Field. The barracks are currently in use, housing naval officers and enlisted personnel, and could easily be converted to a nursing home facility for veterans. It is a tragedy that many veterans who fought to secure our freedom, have had to suffer and sometimes die at home because there was not enough room in the current VA facilities. Likewise, the cemetery would require very little money to start up, and would provide those who valiantly fought for this country with a proper burial. Please join me and support this bill to use our current resources for the good of our veterans.

#### CUTS IN MEDICARE

(Ms. MCCARTHY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, Congress must act to ensure that the Medicare Program remains solvent for current beneficiaries as well as future generations. Cuts in the House leadership Medicare proposal would result in reductions to our seniors by decreasing services and increasing costs.

The House leadership proposal includes provisions that would allow doctors to charge seniors more out-of-pocket costs and medical savings accounts which would further exacerbate the program's solvency. We must remain committed to ensuring that seniors have access to high quality, affordable health services. It is time for Congress to get serious about protecting Medicare. We should establish an independent bipartisan commission to analyze these issues and provide recommendations to Congress that would protect the long-term solvency of this program.

Let us solve the Medicare problem by working in a bipartisan method to get the job done, not have it wither on the vine as the Speaker would have it.

#### THE TRUTH ABOUT MEDICARE

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, there is an old saying that when you cannot dazzle people with your brilliance, you baffle them with your bull. Certainly that seems to be the theme of the Democrat Party today, . . . one after the other, saying that the Speaker said Medicare should wither on the vine.

They know, as do their AFL-CIO comrades, that the statement was that HCFA, the Health Care Financing Administration, would wither on the vine. This thing is so important that even television stations have taken this AFL-CIO-Democrat ad off the air because it is a lie.

It is amazing, when they speak with such forked tongue, that they come up here and ask for bipartisanship . . .

The other thing that they are saying is that the Republican plan cuts Medicare. The Republican plan goes from \$190 to \$304 billion. I wish that my Democrat friends would join me in increasing Medicare from \$5,000 to \$7,000 per person. It would be great if they would like to join us in increasing and protecting and preserving Medicare. I ask them to . . . join us in true reform.

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, I demand that the gentleman's words be taken down.

□ 1030

#### PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore [Mr. HAYWORTH]. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Is the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. KINGSTON] required to be seated during this time?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is correct. The gentleman from Georgia will be seated.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw any reference from my speech to lying.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

The demand was withdrawn.

#### SAY "NO" TO PAYOFFS FOR LAYOFFS

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

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, in a time when this Congress is proposing huge cuts in Medicare, and Medicaid, and education, environmental protection, veterans programs, it is absolutely insane that we continue to provide \$125 billion a year in corporate welfare, tax breaks and subsidies which go to some of the largest, the most profitable corporations in America, and that is why I am delighted that last month legislation which I offered with the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. SMITH] passed this body and would take a major bite out of one of the most outrageous examples of corporate welfare, and that is the billions of dollars in Pentagon subsidies which taxpayers are providing to huge defense contractors, subsidies which, if my colleagues can believe it, are providing incentives to merge their companies and in the process lay off tens of thousands of American workers.

Yes, that is what we are doing: Taxpayer subsidies are going for payoffs for layoffs, to lay off tens of thousands of American workers.

Mr. Speaker, while this important legislation passed the House unfortunately it did not pass the Senate, and it will be going to conference commit-

tee. My hope is that this body will urge our conferees to say no to payoffs, for layoffs.

#### REPUBLICANS WANT COMMON-SENSE REFORM OF THE WELFARE SYSTEM

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

Mrs. SEASTRAND. Mr. Speaker, most people probably think that welfare is temporary, that people are on it for a few months and then move on to a job. This is not the case. The average stay on welfare is 13 years.

Mr. Speaker, that is plainly unacceptable. When we place people on welfare for year after year after year, you are not helping them you are hurting them. If a person is healthy and is able to work, they should work, period. It is reprehensible that our Government has devised a welfare system that pays people not to work.

Republicans have made it very clear that we want serious, commonsense reform of the welfare system. We want to emphasize work, we want to restore power to the States, and we want to encourage personal responsibility. President Bill Clinton says he wants the very same things.

I hope the President joins us in reforming welfare so that it does not become a way of life and people are not trapped on it for 13 years.

#### WHICH STATEMENT OF THE SPEAKER'S ARE WE TO BELIEVE?

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

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, let me just refer again, since we have had some dispute as to who is being truthful and who is misrepresenting the truth, the exact quote from Speaker GINGRICH, who said:

We don't get rid of it in round one because we don't think that's politically smart and we don't think that's the right way to go through a transition period, but we believe it's going to wither on the vine because we think people are voluntarily going to leave it.

My colleagues on the Republican side would now say that he was referring to the Health Care Finance Administration. Who is going to voluntarily leave the Health Care Finance Administration except maybe a handful of disgruntled bureaucratic employees who do not want to work there any more?

When they talk about leaving it, the it is Medicare. We are talking about fee-for-service Medicare, indeed.

The Speaker himself, quoted in the Atlanta Journal and Constitution 3 days after this quote was in the Washington Post, said that he was in fact referring to fee-for-service Medicare which he believed seniors would leave if they will have managed care.

We have to wonder which statement of the Speaker's we are to believe.

#### CONGRESS IS NOT GOING TO CUT MEDICARE NO MATTER WHAT ANYBODY SAYS

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

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Speaker, to those thousands of American senior citizens around the country that might be watching this today, I want to tell them that we are having a lot of fun seemingly at their expense. We have some people who are more interested in the Presidential race or in their own congressional races. We have some people that are using these props and some people even making up things. But to alleviate any fears that may he had in the future about this Congress cutting Medicare, I am a member of the Committee on Appropriations, and I have spoken to Democrats and Republicans on the committee, and I will guarantee everyone that we are not going to cut Medicare under any circumstance.

So listen to the debate, listen to what they have to say, keep in mind what they are saying. But if Americans want to go visit their grandchildren today, then they should go visit their grandchildren because SONNY CALLAHAN can say unequivocally that this Congress, the next Congress, or the following Congress is not going to cut Medicare no matter what anybody says.

#### SUPPORT INCREASED FUNDING FOR THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

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

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my strong support for the Legal Services Corp. The funding cuts contained in the Commerce-Justice-State appropriations bill that we are considering today will force the Legal Services Corp. to abandon many of the critical legal services that it provides to poor women, particularly victims of domestic violence.

In 1995, legal services programs handled over 59,000 cases in which clients sought legal protection from abusive spouses and over 9,300 cases involving neglected, abused, and dependent juveniles. In fact, family law—which includes domestic violence cases—makes up one-third of the 1.7 million cases handled by legal services programs each year.

Let me tell my colleagues the story of one woman who received help from a legal services program. To escape an abusive husband, this woman took her three children and fled to Texas. The husband followed her, beat her up, and held a gun to her head and threatened to kill her.