



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 104th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 142

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, JULY 24, 1996

No. 110

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. EVERETT].

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 24, 1996.

I hereby designate the Honorable TERRY EVERETT to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

Help us, O gracious God, to see more clearly a vision of life where good triumphs over evil, where health conquers sickness, where reconciliation prevails over intolerance, and where justice overcomes inequity. Too often we strain with our minds and struggle with ideas seeking that vision and we can be overwhelmed. So we pray, O God, that Your spirit will so abide with us and Your grace will forgive all that is past so that we cannot only see that vision where life is truly lived, but also walk in that good path prepared for us. Bless us this day and every day, we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. ANDREWS] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. ANDREWS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain ten 1-minutes on each side.

IN MEMORY OF KYLE AND AMY MILLER, PASSENGERS ON TWA FLIGHT 800

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

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me for a moment in memory of Kyle and Amy Miller of Tamaqua, PA.

Kyle and Amy were among the passengers on the TWA Flight 800 which crashed on route from New York to Paris last Wednesday night. They were on their way to Paris to celebrate their fifth wedding anniversary. Their loss, and the loss of all of the passengers and crew on the plane, was a horrible tragedy.

Kyle and Amy symbolized the American spirit and were outstanding members of their community. Kyle was a small businessman and owned part of his family hardware and plumbing businesses. Amy worked at the hardware store and was a member of the Tamaqua Area School Board. Her work in local education programs was out-

standing and she was the top vote-getter in both the primary and general election.

Both Amy and Kyle were well liked and well respected in the community. I would like to offer my condolences to their families. Amy and Kyle were very special young people and they will be missed greatly.

SHEDDING CROCODILE TEARS FOR AUSTRALIAN TAXPAYERS

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I thought only American families spent an average of \$6,000 a year on burdensome regulations, but I guess Australia has come forward spending millions of dollars on a study to determine the dangers of crocodiles. And after millions, here is what they have determined.

First, never put your hand in a crocodile's mouth.

Second, never ride a crocodile. They can really hurt you.

Third, never try to collect crocodile eggs or baby crocs. Mama crocodiles get real mad.

And, finally, never ever attempt to capture a crocodile, especially if it is bigger than your boat.

Beam me up, Mr. Speaker. This is a crock of what? One thing for sure, America is not the only government that wastes money. But evidently the bureaucrat training school for meaningless redtape and regulations in America is now open to all of the government workers of the world, especially Australia.

I yield back the balance of all those crocodile tears for those Australian taxpayers.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper containing 100% post consumer waste

H8251

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, the American people have a right to know where their elected officials stand on issues. And America's seniors have a right to know what their elected officials want to do to Medicare. House Speaker NEWT GINGRICH has been quoted as saying that he wants Medicare to "wither on the vine." Now the Republicans are saying he did not mean that. They are trying to get an ad that uses Speaker GINGRICH's quote off the air.

Well, Mr. Speaker, the Republicans are trying to rewrite history, claiming that Speaker GINGRICH meant that the Health Care Financing Administration would wither on the vine not Medicare. But as the New York Times pointed out on Saturday "Not only is it hard to imagine how individuals—except perhaps its employees—could leave the agency, this is only one of the explanations Mr. GINGRICH gave at the time."

The Republican budget proposes \$168 billion in Medicare cuts over the next 6 years. All to pay for tax breaks for the wealthy. Truth in advertising—it is what the American people demand and what they need to hear.

MEDICARE

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

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, it seems as though in the heat of the campaign season, some people just do not like to face the truth. The Republicans right now are running away from their record in the 104th Congress, a report where they are going after Medicare to fund tax breaks for the very rich.

Just think about their budget. They ran on deficit reduction, but what did they do when they came here? They want to cut taxes \$245 billion over 7 years. Better than half of that money goes to individuals and families earning over \$100,000. What are they going to do to pay for this big tax cut? Well, they are going to cut \$270 billion from the Medicare Program. What is that going to mean to senior citizens? It is going to mean out-of-pocket expenses that are going to grow for them.

Mr. Speaker, NEWT GINGRICH said we are not going to kill it right away because that would not be politically popular. We are going to let it die on the vine.

Now what do the Republicans want to do? They want to run away from their record of this statement. They want to say, cut off all advertising that tells the truth about what the Republicans intend to do with Medicare.

MEDICARE: SENIORS BEWARE

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, NEWT GINGRICH is now running away from this quote and saying that he did not mean to say that Medicare would wither on the vine, but the bottom line is that the Republican leadership's actions and the legislation that they pass in this House would accomplish that goal.

By cutting Medicare by \$270 billion in order to finance tax breaks for the wealthy, essentially what happens is that the Medicare Program will not have enough money to finance quality health care for seniors and the level of services for seniors. In addition, the Republican Medicare plan would have doubled premiums and forced seniors out of traditional Medicare because they would no longer have their choice of doctors. That is what the Republican Party is all about.

Lest anybody think that they were not going to continue this policy, they voted on another budget this year in this House of Representatives that again would slash Medicare in order to finance tax breaks to the wealthy. Today was the day when they were supposed to report back on how they were going to destroy and change Medicare structurally so that it would basically wither on the vine. Well, that deadline is passed. But I would still like to know what the Republican leadership has in mind for Medicare in this Congress. We still do not know, but one thing is for sure: The seniors should beware.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair appreciates the cooperation of Members in listening to the Chair when he advises the Members after they have spoken for 1 minute that their time is up.

ROADBLOCK CONGRESS

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, we have a town down there in Texas called Wink and a number spread out across the State that are so small they could be called Blink because you would blink and miss them.

That is the way it is with Reform Week here in this Congress. You blink and you miss it because they just abandoned it. Instead of the reform Congress, this has become the roadblock Congress and so much of the roadblock that they would throw up is to our seniors on Medicare. Because if they are ultimately successful with their plan to erect roadblocks to access to care, as Speaker NEWT GINGRICH said with pride last year and with shame this

year, "Medicare will wither on the vine."

You see, it was not just one comment. It was the similar comment of Majority Leader ARMEY that he views Medicare as an imposition on his freedom and more than the comments is the action. Instead of reforming this Congress and changing business as usual, they concentrate their efforts on weakening and dismantling the Medicare system that is serving so many of our Nation's seniors. Let us reject their Medicare approach and hold them accountable for their outrageous comments.

THE REAL GINGRICH AGENDA

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

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, Republicans are trying to tell us today that NEWT GINGRICH did not say he wants Medicare to wither on the vine. But the record suggests otherwise.

Thirteen separate times, this Gingrich Congress voted to cut Medicare to pay for tax breaks for the wealthy.

Bob Dole brags about his 1965 vote against Medicare. DICK ARMEY says Medicare is a program he would have no part of in a free world. BILL THOMAS calls Medicare "socialism." And last February, NEWT GINGRICH's own think tank ran this editorial in their newsletter with this headline: "For Freedom's Sake, Eliminate Social Security."

Mr. Speaker, that is the direction the Republicans are heading. And now that the labor movement has had the courage to tell the truth about the Gingrich agenda, and stand up for working families, the Republicans are doing all they can to silence them.

Mr. Speaker, there's an old saying: Salt doesn't hurt unless it hits an open wound. First, it was Medicare. Next, it is Social Security. That is the real Gingrich agenda.

MEDICARE

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

Mrs. KENNELLY. Mr. Speaker, the Speaker has said he was misquoted on Medicare. Therefore, let us for a moment consider the majority's actions on Medicare, rather than their rhetoric.

The majority passed the largest reduction in Medicare's history—\$270 billion. The majority also proposed allowing some doctors to bill beneficiaries extra charges. Furthermore, the majority's plan would have capped Medicare's expenditures below the level of expected medical inflation. And under their bill, the Medicare premium would have doubled over the next 7 years from its current level. These facts are not in dispute.

In the end, actions speak louder than words. And the majority's actions on