

Medicare, as much as their rhetoric, certainly give America's seniors reason for concern.

Mr. Speaker, we need reform that protects Medicare's solvency. But we cannot afford legislation that destroys Medicare in the name of saving it.

THE TRUTH HURTS

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

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, the truth hurts and the truth is that what the Speaker asserted in 1995, that Medicare should wither on the vine is still true in his opinion in 1996.

The truth also is that this is a Congress that has reacted when people have opposed their positions in very negative and harmful ways to all of us. In 1995 they threw a national temper tantrum and shut the Government down because they could not get what they wanted. And now in 1996 when working men and women who are members of unions like the laborer's union exercise their constitutional right to protest statements like this, they try to intimidate, coerce, and shut them down with hearings like those that are happening today. Real crime is happening on the streets of America but the crime is not happening with statements like this. We ought to give people the right to say what they want. The truth, indeed, hurts.

□ 1015

TRIBUTE TO MUHAMMAD ALI

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

Mr. WARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate a beautiful moment that will stay with me forever. Last Friday night, my family, and I watched the opening of the Olympic games. It was a wonderful spectacle of color, music, people, and culture.

The great surprise of the evening, however, was watching probably the world's most famous American, Muhammad Ali, mark the official beginning with the ceremonial lighting of the Olympic torch. We could not be prouder to have such a great sports figure calling Louisville home.

Muhammad Ali is a role model for us all. He used his talent along with fierce determination to become the best boxer in the world, proved in 1960 as he won an Olympic Gold Medal and proven in his professional career as he remains the only man to hold the boxing heavyweight crown on three separate occasions.

As he struggles under the grip of Parkinson's disease, he remains a role model. He stood tall and proud while lighting the flame, accepting this physical burden with the dignity and grace he has exhibited for his entire career.

He truly is the greatest.

UTAH IS THE RIGHT PLACE

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

Ms. GREENE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 149th anniversary of the day that Brigham Young and his advance party entered the Salt Lake valley in 1847 and declared: "This Is the Right Place." My great, great grandfather, William Clayton, was part of Young's group that made that epic journey which began in Illinois. And so it is with great appreciation and personal enthusiasm for my State, and its unique heritage, that I say: "Utah Is Still the Right Place."

Today, Utah is a place that has seen the desert blossom as a rose as its residents have come together to forge an existence out of a harsh, inhospitable environment. It is also a place of great cultural diversity, that will continue to require all to come together and meet their differences with mutual respect. It is a place that embraces a prosperous economy that continues to foster a warmhearted, hometown feeling, making it one of our most livable States. And now Utah will be the right place for the 2002 Winter Olympic Games.

For all Utahns, July 24 has come to be a day for reflection on what continues to make our State the right place. While our business requires me to be here today, my heart, and that of many across the country, is home in Utah today.

THE GOP IS CUTTING THE DEFICIT

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

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, both the White House and my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have been patting themselves on the back so hard they've been wrenching their shoulders, all to claim credit for deficit reduction which wasn't their doing. The facts are these: The deficit would be at least \$56 billion higher today if we had followed the President's budget, but instead, we Republicans did the hard work of finding the savings the Democrats didn't have the guts to make.

The rest of the deficit reduction came from three places: First, cuts in defense as a result of the peace dividend which occurred because Ronald Reagan killed communism; second, sales of assets from the S&L cleanup already in place before Clinton took office; and third, the one thing that was the Democrats' doing; namely, tax hikes on gasoline, social security recipients, and small businessmen.

Republicans want to cut those Democratic taxes and create jobs as a result. More jobs would mean a stronger economy, which would mean a smaller deficit—no thanks at all to the Democrats.

PRESIDENT CLINTON FLIP-FLOPS ON WELFARE REFORM

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

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, what really is going on with the President. I know he likes to change his mind and switch his position, but this week, the President and his friends were in rare form.

We know the President has promised to reform welfare as we know it. Yet he has managed to veto reform twice behind thinly veiled excuses.

Then he supported Wisconsin's reform in a speech, but changed his mind.

Then he spoke to the Nation's Governors and said he supported welfare reform, but the next day, his handlers were changing his tune.

The very next day, Leon Panetta said the President would veto the House-passed welfare reform. And on Sunday, Vice President GORE said the very same thing.

The following day in Denver, the President changed his mind again saying he thinks he can support welfare reform.

I can not wait for tomorrow.

With the President flipping around more than a fish out of water, who knows where he will land. But remember, as my Democrat friends have said, if you do not like the President's position, just wait awhile.

With all the flips and flops, it may soon be called the Waffle House.

I yield back the balance of broken Clinton promises.

PERMISSION FOR SUNDRY COMMITTEES AND THEIR SUBCOMMITTEES TO SIT TODAY DURING THE 5-MINUTE RULE

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the following committees and their subcommittees be permitted to sit today while the House is meeting in the Committee of the Whole under the 5-minute rule:

Committee on Agriculture; Committee on Banking and Financial Services; Committee on Commerce; Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities; Committee on Government Reform and Oversight; Committee on International Relations; Committee on the Judiciary; Committee on Resources; Committee on Science; and Committee on Small Business.

Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that the minority has been consulted and that there is no objection to these requests.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ROGERS). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kentucky?

There was no objection.

MODIFICATION TO UNANIMOUS-
CONSENT AGREEMENT PROVID-
ING FOR FURTHER CONSIDER-
ATION OF H.R. 3814, DEPART-
MENTS OF COMMERCE, JUSTICE,
AND STATE, THE JUDICIARY,
AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Speaker, last night I offered a unanimous-consent request that was agreed to for the further consideration of H.R. 3814. There was an inadvertent error in that request that I would now like to correct. I ask unanimous consent that the earlier agreement be modified so that the gentleman from Iowa [Mr. GANSKE] may offer an amendment regarding the patenting of medical procedures for 20 minutes instead of amendment No. 16 printed in the RECORD that is on the same subject.

Mr. Speaker, I understand this has been cleared with the minority.

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

There was no objection.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the further consideration of H.R. 3814, and that I may and include tabular and extraneous material.

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

There was no objection.

DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE,
JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDI-
CIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 479 and rule XXIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 3814.

□ 1023

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 3814) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes, with Mr. GUNDERSON in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. When the Committee of the Whole House rose on Tuesday, July 23, 1996, the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida [Mr. MILLER] had been disposed of and the bill was open for amendment from page 49, line 3, through page 116, line 5.

Are there further amendments made in order by the order of the House of Tuesday, July 23, 1996?

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. ROGERS

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. ROGERS:

On page 55, line 22, strike "\$66,000,000" and insert in lieu thereof "\$68,000,000".

On page 56, line 4, strike "\$1,837,176,000" and insert in lieu thereof "\$1,839,176,000".

On page 56, line 6, strike "\$71,276,000" and insert in lieu thereof "\$73,276,000".

On page 56, line 10, strike "\$292,907,000" and insert in lieu thereof "\$298,907,000".

On page 56, line 13, strike "\$429,897,000" and insert in lieu thereof "\$425,897,000".

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the order of the House of Tuesday, July 23, 1996, the gentleman from Kentucky [Mr. ROGERS] and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky [Mr. ROGERS].

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, this is a non-controversial amendment. I am offering this amendment to address concerns raised by some coastal Members on both sides of the aisle. The amendment would make some minor internal shifts within NOAA in order to restore funding for endangered species recovery programs, primarily for salmon recovery in the Pacific Northwest.

Funding for these activities would be offset from within NOAA. It would cost no extra money. I know of no objections.

Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Oregon [Ms. FURSE].

Ms. FURSE. Mr. Chairman, I thank the chairman for yielding me the time, and I rise in strong support of this amendment. It will ensure adequate funding for two of NOAA's programs that are critical to our coastal ecosystems and to the fishing industry. It is an amendment which will help the endangered species and, indeed, endangered fishermen and endangered coastal communities.

It will restore to the fiscal year 1996 level the endangered species recovery programs. These are NOAA programs. When a species is listed, the recovery is in place.

As many as 16 million salmon once made it up the Columbia River, and they were just a basis of our economy. But as recently as 1988 those species began to diminish. The recovery plans will mean that our environmental protection will be in place for those species, and it will also help us recover nearly 50,000 jobs that have been lost.

Mr. Chairman, this amendment is supported by Oregon's Governor, by the commercial and sports fishing industry, and it is also supported by those who represent several billion dollars in annual economic activity and more than 100,000 family wage jobs.

This is a vote for the environment. It is a vote for America's fishing men and women. It is a vote in favor of rec-

reational fishing and critical tourism dollars. It is a small investment, but it will have an enormous benefit for working Americans.

Mr. Chairman, I want very much to thank the gentleman from Kentucky, Chairman ROGERS, and the gentleman from West Virginia, Mr. MOLLOHAN, the ranking member for working on this amendment, for bringing it forward. I believe that it is a great amendment. I thank you for looking out for our fishing men and women and our coastal communities, and I really support this amendment. I thank the Members for all their fine work on it.

Mr. ROGERS. Reclaiming my time, congratulations to the gentlewoman. She has been a real stalwart supporter of this cause. We congratulate her on this effort.

Mr. Chairman, I know of no opposition, no other speakers. I urge adoption of the amendment.

Mrs. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I would like to commend Chairman ROGERS for his very responsible amendment to increase funding for the NOAA Operations, Research and Facilities account.

I am hopeful that some of these funds will be used to augment one of most important programs in this appropriations bill, the Mitchell Act hatcheries. For decades the Federal Government has financed a hatchery program to compensate for the loss of salmon due to hydroelectric projects on the Columbia River. These facilities supported by the so-called Mitchell Act are critical to the maintenance of the region's multi-million dollar commercial and sports fishing industries.

The funding in this bill for Mitchell Act hatcheries was initially less than we need to maintain this vital program. However, I am pleased that Chairman ROGERS has agreed to increase the funds for NOAA activities so that the agency has more flexibility to fund the Mitchell Act hatcheries at a level that ensures a viable fishery in the Northwest.

While I am a strong proponent of balancing the budget, I believe that deep cuts in the Mitchell Act program will actually create more economic hardship for the already depressed fishing industry. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the Senate to ensure that we pass a bill that keeps our commitment to the people of the Northwest.

I urge my colleagues to adopt this amendment.

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Kentucky [Mr. ROGERS].

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. ALLARD

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. ALLARD:

Page 58, strike lines 18 through 23 (relating to the Under Secretary for Technology and the Office of Technology Policy).

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the order of the House of Tuesday, July 23, 1996, the gentleman from Colorado [Mr.