

confronts," and that maybe for 59 years of his life, that is exactly what this leader of Iraq has done.

This time, maybe he has not acted to invade a nation, as he did with Kuwait, but to reassert his authority over a part of Iraq. In any event, he rises to assert his power over those who would not want it.

I think it is important to be able to congratulate and to thank the President for his measured, but pointed, response. As the Presidential race continues and politics become intertwined with government, I think it is important Republicans and Democrats alike should recognize what the responsibility of America is all about. That is that, if we enter into any conflict where we offer our men and women in the Armed Forces, we do it with caution, with seriousness, with understanding.

Mr. Speaker, I am gratified that the captain of the B-52 bomber was from Texas and that their initial mission was successful and that they were able to make the pointed determination as ordered by the Chief of our command, President Clinton, but as well they were able to come away with American lives not lost.

It is important to know that the President did not hastily decide to send Americans in, nor has he committed ground troops to that action. But what he has done is continue to study the issue and to continue to be on top of the issue and to assure us that he will act on behalf of all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, it is important to recognize that the Bosnian decision that was made after some of us had the opportunity to visit Bosnia, the former Yugoslavia and Croatia, was one of peace, to ensure that the Serbs and Muslims would not fight anymore, and those who wanted to come home could come home. Although it has not been perfect, I again thank the President for his measured response and his commitment to peace.

To my constituents let me say that it is important, now that we have gathered here in Washington, that we not raise our voices in political rhetoric, that we monitor this situation, that we be concerned about the Kurds and their desire for peace, that we recognize that this is an internal conflict, but it is led by a man who wants to confront. It is important that we try and minimize any loss of life of American men and women, that we do our very best to enforce the principles of democracy of this Nation, and that we recognize the leadership role that we have, both in foreign policy and creating an atmosphere of peace in this world.

I ask the President in his wisdom and his leadership that he continue to keep the Congress apprised of the leadership that is needed for us to go forward and do the right thing. Then I would ask those of us who gather in the U.S. Congress to be supportive where it is necessary, and as well to be questioning on behalf of our constituents. But this is

the right decision, and we must stand on behalf of democracy and fairness and the saving of lives.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the men and women who are part of our Armed Forces, who are always faithful, always strong, always committed.

DEVELOPMENTS IN HAITI

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. GOSS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, it has been a hectic August recess this year, Mr. Speaker, so as we return I want to take a moment to make my colleagues aware of some of the recent disturbing developments in Haiti.

It would be very easy indeed to miss these things because no one—neither the media nor the White House—seems interested in making a concerted effort to analyze what is going on in that small Caribbean nation. Although, behind the scenes we understand that Haiti is hosting a high level cast of characters from the administration—National Security Advisor Anthony Lake, Joe Sullivan from the Haiti Working Group, Janet Reno our Attorney General, General Sheehan of the Atlantic Command and even Strobe Talbot himself. With them, we understand, goes an additional \$10 million for the beleaguered Haitian National Police Force—we are certainly all anxious to know which account it came from.

Then there is another gift for the national police in the form of a contingent of Marines who went last week for yet another training mission—this time protecting the U.S. Embassy in Haiti. We can almost certainly expect to see more of these training exercises—muscle-flexing, if you will—for the next few months.

What specifically are my colleagues and I so concerned about? The few reports we have seen in recent weeks tell a tale of assassination plots, political killings, threats against the Haitian media community, and general civil unrest. On August 19, 20 men, suspected to be members of Haiti's disbanded military, attacked the National Palace and police headquarters in Port-au-Prince. One report in the Washington Times said that the attackers "nearly overran police headquarters."

There are strong suggestions that the right may be once again formalizing its structure and that the left may be involved in payback killings against those who ran Haiti during the Cedras era.

In fact, Evans Paul, once mayor of Port-au-Prince and respected head of the FNCD Party in Haiti, publicly issued an accusation on August 22 that the government of Rene Preval is responsible for the assassinations of right-leaning Minister Antoine Leroy and Paul Florival in Port-au-Prince August 20. He made the bold—and dangerous statement—that in practice

"There are no differences between the Lavalas group and the 'Macoutes'." Because both use the same methods. We only hope that Mr. Paul won't pay for exercising his freedom to speak with his life.

Finally, in recent days, we have seen allegations that members of the National Palace Security Force have been involved in criminal activities.

Mr. Speaker, clearly something is seriously wrong in Haiti. When, can we ask, will the White House come clean, stop glossing over the rough spots, stop calling this a success, and put some meat on the bones of this anemic effort. After spending \$3 billion in taxpayers' money, the American people and the American Congress expect and demand better.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. RIGGS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. RIGGS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. WELDON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

PRESERVING PROTECTING AND ENHANCING MEDICARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the house, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. FOX] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I come to the well of the House tonight to speak about a very important topic to all Americans, and that is the preservation, the protection and enhancement of Medicare.

Medicare is the important healthcare program for our senior citizens, and the President's trustees not long ago told us if we do nothing to improve Medicare's financial stability, by the year 2001 it will be out of business. So we in the House and Senate, as well as the President, need to work together to make sure we preserve and protect Medicare.

You may say to yourself, how did we get to this point? We have \$30 billion a year in fraud, waste and abuse by providers; not all providers, but some providers, whether it be doctors, hospitals, or insurance companies, have led us to a \$30 billion a year figure of fraud, waste and abuse.

So, Mr. Speaker, the majority party has introduced legislation which we hope will be eventually passed, which will in fact clue for the first time healthcare fraud as a crime, so that those who would systematically and regularly bilk the Federal Government through Medicare fraud, waste and

abuse, would in fact be eligible for a 10 year jail term and lose their rights as providers.

Further items in this reform legislation would include reducing our paperwork cost. Twelve percent of Medicare now goes to paperwork. We can reduce that with electronic billing to just 2 percent.

Further, on medical education, very important medical education for our interns and residents at teaching hospitals, it is a program that should be supported. Maybe it should not be part of the Medicare Program, but it should be part of the Federal Government's allotment of funds, so teaching hospitals continue to have the finest education and doctors turned out of medical schools so we can make sure that we have the education we need, but not as part of Medicare. Medicare should be for our senior citizens' health care.

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Another provision of the bill is for the Medicare lockbox. Any savings we get from fraud, waste and abuse would in fact go to health care for our seniors.

Finally, the legislation proposed would make sure that we in fact have options. We would retain the fee-for-service choice of doctor and choice of hospital for every senior across the country, but also give them the option of having managed care Medicare to include eyeglasses and pharmaceuticals for the healthiest of seniors, and also medical savings accounts under Medicare which would give them the chance to invest the money they want to their health care and have the extra dollars they keep be rolled over to the following year when they might need the funds more.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think it is very important that we as Republicans and Democrats work together to save Medicare for our seniors, for this generation of seniors and the next, to make sure that health care is there and Medicare is there and we do so in the proper way for the protection of all our senior citizens.

MEDICARE SCARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. HOKE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, I come to the well tonight fresh off of 30 days of recess that included a week of vacation with my children and about 3 or so weeks with my constituents. And it is with a great deal of sorrow and disappointment, Mr. Speaker, that I have to report to you that there is a dark occurrence happening in many parts of America right now where a fraud is being perpetrated on people who are vulnerable, people who are sometimes more gullible than maybe many in the population, and people who can be preyed upon by appealing to real anxiety that turns into the exploitation of

fear when, instead of being truthful, what is happening is that those individuals are being pushed into believing something that is simply not the case.

Mr. Speaker, what I am speaking about, what I am talking about is a very, very expensive, well thought out, well produced, calculated demagogic ad campaign that is designed to persuade senior citizens in our country that this Congress is trying to not only cut but gut Medicare and destroy the safety net, the health care safety net for senior citizens. It is an ad campaign that is not only well done, well thought out and well produced and absolutely blatantly demagogically false, but it is also being paid for in a way that those who are being forced to pay for it do not even approve and do not want it to exist.

I am talking about the fine working men and women of local AFL-CIO affiliates, several of which I have been personally endorsed by. I am talking about the use of funds that are being mandatorily taken out of paychecks to fund politically motivated ad campaigns that distort and completely falsify the facts.

The facts are, as Mr. FOX was speaking earlier, quite simple. That is that Medicare is going broke. Medicare is going broke. Medicare is going broke. How do we know that? We know that because the Medicare trustees have said it. Who are the Medicare trustees? Three of them are members of the President's own cabinet. Another is a political appointee, and two are individual citizens. And they say Medicare is going broke.

What is the responsible response? What is the right response? What would be the correct response that you, Mr. Speaker, or the citizens of this country would want to see from its legislators?

It seems to me that the responsible way to deal with that is to look at the problem, face it clearly and do what is right to fix it. That is exactly what we have done. In fact, not only has this Congress done that, but with a different set of policy statements the President has done the same thing.

It boils down to slowing the rate of growth. It is pretty simple. Instead of growing at 10 percent a year, it has to grow at about 6.5 or 7 percent a year. Yet this is being used for political purposes to frighten senior citizens into believing that this Congress is trying to destroy Medicare.

Mr. Speaker, the one thing that this Republic cannot tolerate, the one thing that this Republic cannot stand is blatant exploitative, manipulative lying in the political process. That is what is happening by this ad campaign financed by the AFL-CIO.

It is wrong. It is not voter education. It is voter disinformation. It should stop. I just hope and trust that the citizens will not be swayed nor fooled by it.

ENGLISH THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. ROTH] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROTH. Mr. Speaker, on August 1 this Congress finally began to show as much sense, common sense, as the American people by overwhelmingly passing our bill to make English the official language of the United States. Make no mistake about this, this was an historic accomplishment. For the first time in over two decades, Congress has taken a concrete step toward cementing our national unit by reinforcing our most important common bond, the English language. After 25 years of Great Society social experimentation, we are finally starting to reverse the tide.

That historic vote was cast on the 1st of August, the first step toward returning to a commonsense policy of promoting American unity by promoting the teaching and learning of English. But the battle has just begun. There is still so much left to be done, starting with the Senate.

Acting on the bill that we passed here in the House, we now ask the Senate to pass this legislation and send it onto the President for his signature. Frankly, I know that President Clinton will sign this bill. The overwhelming majority of the American people support making English our official language. I do not believe that the President wants to alienate a large segment of the electorate just 60 days before the election.

When push comes to shove, Bill Clinton will sign that bill. And as he did when he was Governor of Arkansas, the President should sign this bill, not only because it has certain political advantage that it confers on him. He should sign it because this is the most important piece of legislation this Congress and his administration will consider.

Mr. Speaker, we have witnessed events recently that have testified to the fragility of nations: the sundering of the Soviet Union, the breakup of Yugoslavia, the near divorce between Quebec and the rest of Canada. Secessionist tides are rising all across Eastern and even Western Europe. All these incidents share a common thread. The thread, incidentally and ironically enough, is the unraveling of national unity across the world today. The twin forces of nationalism and tribalism are plunging nations into a separatism spiral, and the United States is not immune.

America is the most diverse Nation in the history of the world. We are a people from every corner of the globe. We represent every culture, every language, every religion, every difference imaginable. The last census, for example, indicated that over 320 languages are spoken in our schools, cities, and communities. Do not think for a second that this Nation can avoid the fate