

the next 20 years, Havis did what he could to relieve the physical pain of patients. He did this work as a ministry, and with such good humor and professionalism that he earned a promotion.

In 1970, Havis ran unopposed as coroner of Jefferson County. Building on his desire to mitigate the physical pain of patients, he sought to soothe the emotional pain of those left behind. He also fought to end drug abuse by helping to start the Drug-Free Jamboree.

Now, after his 28 years of heart felt public service and compassion, I want to personally thank Havis for sharing his light and goodness with the people of Jefferson County, Arkansas.

SUPPORT H.R. 835, MAKING THE R&D TAX CREDIT PERMANENT

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

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to call on this Congress to pass legislation to make permanent the Federal Research and Development Tax Credit. I am a strong supporter and an original cosponsor of H.R. 835, which really is a bipartisan piece of legislation sponsored by Representatives JOHNSON and MATSUI to make it permanent. It is also one of the top issues of the new Democratic coalition for this Congress.

The R&D tax credit provides an essential incentive for companies to increase their investment in U.S. research and development. The R&D tax credit is important to the Research Triangle Park and the rest of my district in North Carolina, which happens to be the home for 3,100 information technology establishments and over 195,000 technology employees, and with a payroll of \$5.1 billion.

This tax credit is so important because it provides a base amount, but North Carolina has an amount tied to that that will make a difference, and if the Federal is lost, so will be the State. We need to make it permanent this year.

Unless companies can consistently depend upon the combined Federal and State tax credit year in and year out, we risk the ground-breaking research that is provided for job placement.

SAVING SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, a moment on Social Security. I think we are moving ahead very quickly. The challenge is still that the Democrats and the Republicans should not demagogue our efforts to try to save Social Security.

A decision was made last week with the Republicans that we are going to set aside 100 percent of the Social Security surplus.

I have a bill that I introduced last January. I invite the cosponsorship of Republicans and Democrats. Let me just briefly tell my colleagues what that bill does.

It says that we are going to lower the public debt. We are going to pay off the debt to the public for every dollar that comes in in surplus from Social Security until we use that money, the Social Security surplus, to save Social Security. It is important that we move ahead, and it is important that we work together in a bipartisan effort.

PRIVATIZING MEDICARE

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, the National Commission on the Future of Medicare is poised to recommend to the President and the Congress that one of our Nation's best government programs, Medicare, be delivered to the private insurance market. There is nothing new here. Conservative newspapers like the Wall Street Journal and the Washington Times, and conservative Republicans, have been trying for years to privatize Medicare. Privatize, they say, in order to save it.

This is a critical time for Medicare. The program faces significant financial difficulty, in part because of the impending retirement of baby boomers and the fact that people are living longer. The Republican answer has been to move Medicare beneficiaries into managed care and create Medicare medical savings accounts. Privatize the program in order to save it.

Medicare is a fundamental part of the fabric of our country. Thirty-three years ago, before Medicare, half of the elderly of this country had no health insurance. Today, virtually everyone over 65 is covered by Medicare.

Meanwhile, the private insurance industry leaves 43 million Americans uninsured. That is why our public institutions like Medicare and Social Security are so important. We must keep Medicare the successful public program that it is.

NEW TITLES FOR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT BUREAUCRATS

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

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, the Clinton administration announced once that it was committed to reinventing government. But according to a new Brookings Institute study released yesterday, it sounds like the administration is just reinventing job titles.

Yesterday the Brookings Institute released a study, detailed in the Washington Post, that discussed this phenomenon of title creep. It stated, This administration has created as many

new job titles during its 6 short years than the past seven administrations created over the preceding 33 years. Listen to some of the more inventive titles they came up with: Principal Assistant Deputy Under Secretary, associate Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, and my personal favorite is Principal Deputy to Deputy Assistant Secretary.

The Federal Engraving and Printing office must be working overtime on these new business cards, Mr. Speaker. It is amazing they can even fit the title on one small card.

What does all this mean to the average taxpayer? It means more layers of bureaucracy, more delays, and more interference. It is hard to imagine that the American taxpayer is getting anything out of these extra layers of bureaucracy except perhaps a big headache.

But in the true spirit of the Clinton vision of reinventing government, I have decided to take a new title for myself. Imagine my new impressive business card, when it says, RICHARD K. ARMEY, B.A., M.A., Ph.D., M.C., Principal Deputy Underspeaker of the House of Representatives for the United States of America.

A TRADE WAR ON BANANAS THAT AMERICA SHOULD NOT BE IN

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

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, the United States is in a trade war with the European Union. It is in a trade war about bananas. We do not grow any bananas in the United States. How did we get into this trade war? One man, Carl Lindner, has triggered a trade war, Carl Lindner of Chiquita Bananas.

How did this happen? It is very simple. The European Union has a relationship with the Eastern Caribbean. The European Union that was once the colonizers, when they left independence to the colonies, they created a relationship so that these colonies could sell their bananas and be independent.

Carl Lindner cannot compete with the Eastern Caribbean, and our Trade Representatives, starting with Mickey Kanter, and before, Charlene Barchefsky, who promised we would not get into this trade war, took this issue before the World Trade Organization. They made the case on behalf of Carl Lindner, who is everybody's friend, Democrats and Republicans, and he has gotten us into this trade war.

We had better wake up. This is not something we should be in. I am going to talk about this a lot.

REPUBLICANS WANT LOCAL, NOT FEDERAL, CONTROL OF EDUCATION

(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, Republicans continue to work on what we call the BEST agenda: B for balancing the budget and paying down the debt, E for excellence in education, S for saving social security and Medicare, and T for lowering taxes on the middle class working families in America.

Let me talk a little bit about E for education. When I was in 11th grade back at Clark Central High School in Athens, Georgia, I had a wonderful teacher, Mrs. Musik. Now Mrs. Musik was tough. You could not split an infinitive, you could not dangle a participle in her class. She expected you to learn grammar. She expected you to read Emerson and Thoreau.

But she was the master. When she went in there, she did not have to answer to the Board of Education in Atlanta or the folks in Washington, the bureaucrats who want to run the classroom today. She was in charge.

That is what we want in the Republican Party, local control of education: letting the teacher run the classroom, not the Washington bureaucrats.

SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE

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

Mr. SHOWS. Mr. Speaker, more than 400,000 elderly Mississippians depend on Medicare for their health care. In my home district in Mississippi, the Fourth District, close to 93,000 elderly people depend on Medicare. Without the Medicare system, many people in Mississippi and across the country would have to live without health care.

Right now we have the opportunity to protect both social security and Medicare by reserving nearly 80 percent of the budget surplus to ensure the solvency of social security through 2055 and Medicare through 2020.

Look to the fact that prior to Medicare's introduction in the early sixties, 55 percent of Americans who reached the age of retirement lived in poverty. That number is less than 10 percent today. That decline can be attributed to the success of the Medicare system.

We cannot leave Medicare out in the cold, this valuable program which is so special, in order to offer a massive tax cut. We should take the opportunity to protect social security and Medicare, and offer the targeted tax cuts to working families who need them.

CONGRESS IS WAITING FOR THE PRESIDENT'S SOCIAL SECURITY PROPOSAL

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

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, the President has been talking about the need to save social security for a num-

ber of weeks now, but the talk has not advanced beyond general talking points and rough outlines. That is fine for television and for public relations, but Congress needs a proposal.

We have heard over and over again that the White House is ready to work with Congress in a bipartisan manner to reform social security, but we are waiting. We have not seen any legislation or even a sign of legislation coming.

Rhetoric is great, but now is the time to get to work. Congress has even set aside an honored spot for the President's social security bill, H.R. 1. Congress will immediately get to work on this bill as soon as it arrives.

It is time for the President to answer some questions about his social security proposal, particularly questions about the double-counting of imaginary money that it contains, double-counting that adds up to more than \$2 trillion. H.R. 1 is a starting point. Now let us get started.

MEDICARE, SOCIAL SECURITY, AND PAYING DOWN OUR DEBT

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Medicare and social security are two of the greatest programs for our citizens. They provide the two fundamental keys to retirement security, medical and financial security.

Before this Congress spends the budget surplus either on tax cuts or anything else, we have a responsibility to every American, past, present, and the future, to save these two American treasures, and also to pay off at least some of our national debt.

The bad news will only come if people try to make these programs more political or, worse yet, to dismantle social security and Medicare. Retirement security and senior health care are popular with the American people for a simple reason, because they work, and they have worked for many years, and paying down the national debt just make common sense.

PATIENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS

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

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I believe there is no greater issue that confronts this Congress and the Nation than health care reform. This is not a Democratic issue, this is not a Republican issue, but rather, a matter whose urgency and scope should unite all of us in a bipartisan effort to ensure that each and every American can obtain affordable coverage to meet their health care needs.

This is why I am pleased to join the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL) and my colleagues as an original

cosponsor of the Patients' Bill of Rights. Mr. Speaker, my constituents, the hardworking people of Queens and the Bronx, strongly support the enactment of comprehensive health care legislation, as the vast majority of them are in favor of the Patients' Bill of Rights.

We must pass legislation that guarantees access to specialized care, common sense emergency room treatment, and the ability of women to have direct access to OB-GYN care. We as a Congress must protect the millions of Americans who are in managed care programs, and provide them with the highest quality of health care possible.

ENCOURAGING THE REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP TO JOIN DEMOCRATS IN MAKING DEBT REDUCTION A PRIORITY

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

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to encourage the Republican leadership to join my colleagues in making debt reduction a priority. My Democratic colleagues have made a commitment to dedicate the surplus to saving social security and Medicare and paying down the debt. This is the fiscally responsible decision to be made.

For the first time in a generation we will have a surplus. We are finally in the black. Just because we have some money on the positive side of the ledger, we cannot let spending fever grip Congress. I know my colleagues on the other side of this aisles want to dole out tax cuts, but now is not the time. While across-the-board tax cuts may sound attractive, it is not the most opportune time to indulge. The truth is that such a tax cut will only benefit the most affluent Americans.

We must practice fiscal responsibility and restraint. If we dedicate the surplus to paying down the debt, we can put money in the pockets of hardworking families. What I mean by that is that we can reduce the debt from \$3.7 trillion to \$1.3 trillion. Such a reduction will have a ripple effect on our economy. All Americans stand to gain. Economists believe that this kind of reduction would result in lower interest rates.

THE 1999 TRADE POLICY AGENDA AND THE 1998 ANNUAL REPORT ON THE TRADE AGREEMENTS PROGRAM—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE) laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and ordered to be printed: