

EVERY DIPLOMATIC OPPORTUNITY SHOULD BE PURSUED TO END WAR IN YUGOSLAVIA

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, there is a drumbeat in Washington this morning, as there has been a drumbeat in London, where troops are being advocated to be sent to Kosovo and into the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia for purposes of winding up this war.

I think it is an important moment to reflect, as British officials are visiting this country today, as to whether or not it is in the best interest of our country to not just be talking about ground troops but to even have the thought of an expanded war in which the lives of our young people, of our sons and daughters, would be put at risk.

I say that instead of talking about the possibility of an expanded war, we should begin aggressively to pursue peace. We should look for every diplomatic opportunity to bring an end to this war, to stop the conflict, to stop the bombing, to begin the withdrawal of the Serbian troops, to stop the military activities of the KLA, to begin the repatriation of the refugees, to give them a chance to go home.

This has to be done diplomatically with international armed peacekeeping troops. We cannot win this war militarily. We have to bring an end to it diplomatically.

THE CLINTON-GORE ADMINISTRATION IS REFUSING TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE HEALTH CARE FOR OUR SENIOR CITIZENS

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

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, why is the Clinton administration short-changing Medicare? Under the Clinton-Gore leadership, the executive branch's Health Care Financing Administration is refusing to spend money which is desperately needed by our Nation's elderly population and which has been authorized under the Balanced Budget Act. This amounts to an astonishing \$20 billion this administration is withholding from the most deserving members of our society: retired Americans who are suffering from illness.

There is a lot of discussion in this town about abiding by the caps of the Balanced Budget Act, and I support the idea of requiring our appropriation bills to follow the budget. But when the Congress and the President enact a statute that says funds are needed to ensure the health of our country's greatest generation, HCFA has an obligation to abide by the law.

It is a scandal that the Clinton-Gore administration is refusing to provide adequate health care for our senior citizens.

AMERICA GIVES, GIVES, GIVES TO RUSSIA AND RUSSIA TAKES, TAKES, TAKES

(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, a classified report says, and I quote, Russia is spying on NATO and America. The report goes on and says Russia has recruited spies and is sabotaging our activities in the Balkans. Now, if that is not enough to scorch your Apache, Russia is passing on our secrets to Milosevic. Unbelievable. Think about it. America gives, gives, gives to Russia. Russia takes, takes, takes; then stabs us right in the back.

Beam me up. I say Russia is a bunch of ingrates that should not get one more penny from Uncle Sam. Finally I say, after the bombing is over, let Russia go in with their rubles and rebuild Yugoslavia, not Uncle Sam.

THE QUESTION ARISES, WHAT WAS THIS PRESIDENT OPPOSED TO IN VIETNAM?

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I want to read a quote made recently by retired three star General Tom Griffin, attempting to understand our involvement in Yugoslavia. I quote: "Now let's see here if I understand all this correctly. President Clinton has ordered our forces to engage an entrenched, politically motivated enemy backed by the Russians, on their home ground, in a foreign civil war, in difficult terrain, with limited military objectives, bombing restrictions, boundary and operational restrictions, queasy allies, far across the ocean, with uncertain goals, without prior consultation with Congress, the potential for escalation, while limiting the forces at his disposal, and the majority of Americans opposed to or at least uncertain about the value of the action being worth American lives," end quote.

When we review history, the question arises, what was this President opposed to in Vietnam? Are we going to learn from the history of the 1960s?

IF WE HAVE THE POWER TO BOMB, THEN WE HAVE THE POWER TO SETTLE THIS WAR IN YUGOSLAVIA

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, there has been a lot of finger pointing with the tragedy of Littleton, Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I announce a proposal for "give a child a chance" omnibus mental health services bill for our children, for there are

many things that we can do, but I believe that it is important that we listen to young people and provide them with school counseling services and guidance services which will be available to intervene for children at risk and others.

Mr. Speaker, as we talk about violence, let me move quickly to a subject and join my colleague in asking for a cessation in the bombing. I have asked the President for three days, 72 hours, in order to begin talks on a negotiated settlement over the Kosova conflict.

Mr. Speaker, I believe we can win. I supported the air strike. I certainly did not support the bill yesterday that was throwing good money after bad, \$15 billion, although I supported it before for the refugees and military pay increase. If one has the power, they need to use it right. We need to go to the negotiated settlement table right now and deal with the request or the needs of the NATO allies and begin to send refugees back home.

When I went to the refugee camps in Macedonia, they said one thing to me: Promise to help us go back home. And that was my promise. If we have the power to bomb, then we have the power to settle this.

We need to be at the table of settlement, the negotiated settlement with Mr. Milosevic. It has nothing to do with whether he is a war criminal. That is another matter. Let us get a negotiated settlement and stop this conflict now. It is time now to stop the bombing and begin to discuss the way to really get our refugees back home and bring our military personnel back home.

CLINTON ADMINISTRATION SHORTCHANGING SENIORS

(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, why is the Clinton administration short-changing our seniors? Here is a story we will not be hearing much in the mainstream media. The administration is spending \$20 billion a year less on Medicare than Congress authorized and provided under the 1997 Balanced Budget Act. My colleagues heard that right, and let me repeat it. The administration is hoarding \$20 billion a year from the funds the Republican Congress provided under the current law.

Skeptical? I encourage my colleagues to give a call over to their friendly HCFA offices and verify these numbers for themselves. One can hardly grasp the irony of the startling facts. The same administration that has run millions and millions of dollars in deceptive Medicare TV ads aimed at scaring seniors is now found to be short-changing the same seniors they claim to care so much about.

We cannot blame seniors for becoming cynical about this administration's constant willingness to play politics

with Medicare. Do our seniors not deserve better?

ADMINISTRATION CUTS MEDICARE BY REFUSING TO SPEND THE MONEY

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

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, my friend, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. SCHAFFER) points out yet another way in which the Clinton-Gore team says one thing and does another. Indeed, to use the rhetoric of Medicare from 1996, in essence Mr. Clinton, Mr. Gore and their liberal allies have cut Medicare by \$20 billion by refusing to spend the money.

I suppose it will come as no great surprise to the pundits and those in town here engaged in spin, because we have a credibility canyon of people saying one thing and doing another.

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That is why, Mr. Speaker, not only in terms of defending our seniors, but for all Americans in terms of national security, this House should release the Cox Committee Report so that we can get to the bottom of Chinese espionage and transfers of technology, not to engage in spin and double-talk, as some do at the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue, but because the American people deserve the facts, and free people in a constitutional society have the right to a common defense and a sound national security.

Let us end this breach of credibility. Let us heal that breach and give the American people straight answers.

BUCKLE UP AND DRIVE SAFELY

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

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today during National Transportation Week to discuss the safety of our Nation's children. As a father of a four-year-old, this issue hits home for me.

I am a strong advocate of child passenger safety laws, but sadly, not all of America's drivers are. Listen to the statistics. Each year, 1,800 children ages 14 and under are killed. More than 280,000 are injured. An average of 24 children 10 years and under die every week. Why is this happening? We are not protecting our children. Six out of 10, or 60 percent, of the children who die in automobile crashes are unrestrained. No seat belt, no car seat.

Mr. Speaker, the law is clear. All children must be buckled up at all times. As parents and drivers, let us demonstrate a commitment to protecting our youth. I urge my colleagues to buckle up and travel safely.

DEMOCRATS MAKE MEDICARE POLITICAL ISSUE

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

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, let us face it. The Clinton administration sure does talk a good game about Medicare, but now there is even more evidence that the administration and their liberal defenders in Congress are only paying lip service to the seniors they claim to champion.

First, they shot down, for political reasons, their own bipartisan Commission on Medicare Reform. They said, you can kiss Medicare reform goodbye in this Congress because the Democrats need to make it a political issue in the 2000 election. After all, what would an election be without Democrats scaring seniors with demagoguery about Medicare? Mr. Speaker, do not take my word for it. Just ask the distinguished gentleman from Louisiana in the other body about the Medicare Commission and why the White House will not even look at it.

Now we learn that the administration is shortchanging seniors to the tune of \$20 billion in this year alone from the Medicare program. Hard to believe? Well, ask the hospitals and the seniors if it is true or not.

This administration is spending \$20 billion less than authorized by law. Our seniors deserve better.

REPUBLICAN MEDICARE AND SOCIAL SECURITY PLAN SAVES MORE FOR SENIORS

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

Mr. COOKSEY. Mr. Speaker, the Republican plan saves \$100 billion more for Social Security and Medicare compared to the Clinton plan. Now, this one is going to be awfully difficult for the Democrats to spin, to deny, or to demagogue.

Do not get me wrong, this will not stop them from trying. But the numbers are there for all to see. They are on the Internet. They are on the record at the Congressional Budget Office, or the CBO. In fact, even a generation of children growing up on rain forest math, whole math, and arithmetic through self-esteem could probably figure out the truth about the Republican budget.

The Republican budget saves \$100 billion more for Social Security and Medicare over the next 10 years than the Clinton budget does. Mr. Speaker, \$1.8 trillion is locked away from Social Security and Medicare by the GOP plan.

Under the Clinton plan, \$1.3 billion is promised, but not locked away, for Social Security and Medicare, and the

kicker is that the Clinton plan contains \$350 billion in new Medicare IOUs, a bad deal for seniors.

AMERICAN PEOPLE WANT HONESTY AND INTEGRITY FROM PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

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

Mr. HILL of Montana. Mr. Speaker, the book that I am holding up came from the Library of Congress, and it is entitled *Honest Graft*. It is written by Brooks Jackson, and it documents the influence-peddling and the soft money abuses of a former Member of Congress and the former head of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee. Largely as a result of the events that were documented in this book, that former Member was compelled to resign his seat in the Congress.

The significance of this today is that that discredited former Member, who literally invented the soft money scams and then worked to hide the truth from the American people, has been tapped for a new job and that new job is heading up the Vice President's campaign.

To all of my colleagues who have argued on this floor that we need to reform campaign laws, particularly those on the Democratic side, I say, you need to join me in speaking out that the Vice President is making a huge mistake. This decision reflects poorly on his commitment to honesty and integrity, and the American people are crying out for honesty and integrity in the candidates for the next President of the United States.

NO AMERICAN BLOOD SPENT ON THE FIELDS OF KOSOVO

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

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, our Nation is on the verge of sending in ground troops into Kosovo. Just look at the headlines in today's Washington newspapers. Estimates, however, take between 150,000 and 300,000 ground troops in Kosovo, with casualties of between 7 and 12 percent, and 65 percent of those ground troops would be Americans. Casualties of up to 20,000 Americans in Kosovo, and who is pushing it? NATO, many of whose members still continue to ship oil to Serbia. Who is pushing it? The Prime Minister of the United Kingdom who uses the word "we." His Nation sends 20 airplanes to Serbia, while the United States sends over 600.

It is time to negotiate a settlement now. It is time to stand up and say, the American people do not want any blood of American soldiers spent on the fields of Kosovo.