

same time shovelling more burden on to working Americans, and then for the majority leader of the Republican Party to say, hey, this is fine, that is a new low for the United States House of Representatives.

More than 90 million tax paying American families every April 15 are obligated to pay, but the CEOs and some of the largest corporations in this country, they do not pay anymore. Tyco International is one of the ones who has moved down there. Enron, another corporate citizen. He said it is about competitiveness. It is not about competitiveness. It is about corruption and theft.

DEMOCRATS MISLEADING AMERICANS ON DEBATE ON PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE

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

Mr. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, the Democrats are misleading the American public over the debate on prescription drug coverage for our seniors, and I am very disappointed to see our friends on the other side of the aisle once again employing the politics of demagoguery and fear.

To illustrate to my Democratic friends how our plan will help States, in Kentucky, which has 615,000 Medicare beneficiaries, a half of those seniors live at 175 percent below the poverty level. In Kentucky, HHS estimates that the State savings under our plan would be \$549 million in the fiscal years 2005 through 2012.

In a time when seniors and State governments are experiencing financial difficulties, our plan provides seniors with an affordable benefit to Medicare and immediate savings. States also benefit by saving about \$40 billion estimated over the next several years.

Our plan is the only fiscally responsible choice for both seniors and government and should be supported next week as we bring it to the House floor. The Democrat plan, it remains an \$800 billion pie-in-the-sky boondoggle which misleads seniors and would require higher and higher taxes.

So in a time when seniors deserve honesty and transparency, I encourage them to join our efforts to provide a responsible, reasonable, and double relief for our seniors' prescription drug needs now.

AMERICAN PEOPLE WILL NOT BENEFIT FROM REPUBLICAN PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I am going to make a prophecy. Next week we will pass a bill that will not give senior citizens economic security in the area of prescription drugs. Why?

Very simply, because it is based on the theory that we will throw the old folks into the arms of the insurance companies who will then arm wrestle the drug companies down in their prices.

If my colleagues believe that, they must have been unaware of what went on last night. The reason this bill is going to pass is last night the bill was paid; \$30 million came in from the insurance companies and the drug companies through the Republican Party fundraiser.

I am sure they must have sung at least one chorus of an old song we used to sing in the camp meetings in Illinois when I was a young kid called, "Bringing in the sheaves, bringing in the sheaves, we shall come rejoicing bringing in the sheaves." But the people will not benefit from this bill.

It is a bill that is designed to privatize Medicare with a little sweetening wrapped around it called a drug benefit. The old folks will be watching and they are going to want us to vote "no" on that bill.

ASSISTANCE NEEDED IN ANTHRAX INVESTIGATION FROM COALITION PARTNERS

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, as much of America continues to focus sadly on 9-11, I rise to urge my colleagues and the administration to focus on "five eleven," five dead Americans, eleven infected with the anthrax virus, dozens of offices affected here in Capitol Hill, including mine, that was closed for 4 months during decontamination.

As I learned earlier this week, despite media accounts, Mr. Speaker, the FBI investigation is ongoing and employing hundreds of investigators and dozens of laboratories. Our domestic investigation is moving forward; but it seems, Mr. Speaker, that our investigation of an international connection is being hampered by a lack of cooperation by the supposed partners in our coalition.

There are some nations who profess to stand with us who are not, Mr. Speaker, cooperating with this anthrax investigation. I call on the administration to bring all diplomatic pressure available to bear to insist on the assistance of all of our coalition partners to fully cooperate in the anthrax investigation. It is totally unacceptable to profess a partnership in the war on terrorism and not provide the information necessary to investigate and protect our citizenry.

EXPANSION OF NATIONAL SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES ON NATIONAL SERVICE DAY

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

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, today I join my colleagues in calling for the expansion of national service opportunities on National Service Day. Creating a strong system of voluntary national service has been a signature New Democrat idea since the founding of the Democratic Leadership Council.

National service promotes the New Democrat tradition of opportunity, responsibility and community. In Oregon, more than 37,000 people of all ages, all backgrounds are helping to solve problems and strengthen communities through 95 national service projects across the State.

President Clinton's AmeriCorps program, the domestic Peace Corps, will provide over 700 Oregonians with the opportunity to spend a year serving in their local communities. In return, AmeriCorps participants will receive up to \$4,725 to help pay for college.

Seniors can also contribute their time and talents to one of three programs that make up the Senior Corps.

National service volunteers have served their communities by providing tutoring, mentoring to students, giving support and information to new parents, repairing the homes of elderly and disabled residents, and establishing additional volunteer programs in the community. This should not be a special chance for a few but a way of life. We should all volunteer.

AMERICANS CAN COUNT ON THE REPUBLICANS' PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN

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

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, when Medicare was founded in 1965, Republicans and Democrats left drugs out of the program; but today, Republicans and Democrats agree we should update Medicare by covering prescription drugs. The difference is cost.

An extravagant \$1 trillion promise by the minority party is a promise they cannot afford to keep. They will break their promise to America's seniors because it is too expensive to maintain.

Seniors know there is a war on. Seniors know Social Security is under financial pressure. They want a plan to cover drug costs for needy seniors, one we can afford.

Our majority affordable program promised is one that people can count on. They cannot depend on a \$1 trillion program that will collapse from its own costs. Count on the program we can afford to keep. Count on the Speaker's prescription drug plan.

□ 1100

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

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

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, we have long talked, over the years that I have been serving in Congress, about prescription drug plans and how we can effectively deal with the countless seniors who have not been covered over the years and who continue to call our offices and come to us for assistance.

Many of our seniors have been forced to choose between buying essential medications, paying for food, and I know some of them who have subsisted, when their money does not stretch far enough, by buying canned pet food for their meals. They also have to figure out how to buy their essentials: pay their rent and pay for the heat during the winter, or cool off during the hot summer weather months that we have. Women seniors, in particular, need prescription drug coverage. Over a quarter of them have no prescription drug coverage.

Our Democratic plan is voluntary. Seniors who would choose to participate would pay a \$25 monthly premium, \$100 annual deductible, and 20 percent of their prescription drugs, up to \$25,000 a year.

We have talked about prescription drug benefits long enough. It is time to give seniors what they deserve, a comprehensive, reliable, affordable plan.

MEANINGFUL SAVINGS FOR SENIORS UNDER HOUSE PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN

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

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of a Medicare prescription drug benefit that provides immediate, meaningful savings for American seniors.

The Department of Health and Human Services released a study yesterday that stated the House Republican plan will give seniors a 60 percent to 85 percent savings per prescription and cut their out-of-pocket costs by as much as 70 percent.

This same HHS study confirmed that our plan creates a fiscally responsible benefit that results in immediate savings for American seniors. The study backs us up by pointing out that the Democrats plan does not help seniors until 2005. That is too long to wait, as this relief cannot come soon enough. Twelve million do not have prescription drug coverage at all.

Quality health care for seniors should not end when they turn 65. Our proposal would deliver 21st century prescription drug coverage by providing a voluntary, affordable prescription drug benefit as a permanent entitlement to Medicare beneficiaries.

I encourage my colleagues to support this proposal that will save seniors across the country money on their prescription drug bills.

MAJORITY LEADER SPEAKS FROM THE HEART

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, the best you can say about the comments made yesterday by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY), the House Republican leader, of U.S. companies fleeing to offshore locations in order to reap additional tax benefits, is that he spoke from his heart, and the heart of the Republican Party.

At the same time as his party was raising over \$30 million up the street at the Washington Convention Center from groups like the pharmaceutical industry, Congressional Quarterly reported that he defended the actions of corporations to move their headquarters abroad to reduce their tax burdens. With all his party is taking from the Social Security and Medicare Trust Funds, his remarks reveal the true heart of the Republican Party: Take our people's money before everything, before Social Security and Medicare, before prescription drugs, before jobs in America.

So the best I can do is to thank the Republican leader for revealing the true heart of the Republican Party. It is the reason this Member is a Democrat.

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

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

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow, in my district in Orlando, President Bush will be visiting the Marks Community Center on Physical Fitness, and we thank him. I have a lot of seniors in my district, but besides physical fitness, they need the prescription drug benefit that was promised to them in the last election.

When I was home recently in Jacksonville, I had to go to the drugstore to pick up a prescription for my grandmother. I thought the copayment would be \$15. It was \$91. Our grandmothers deserve better than that.

If the Republican leadership and Mr. Bush could take a break from their \$30 million drug company fund-raisers and their tax cuts to the rich, maybe they could work on a compromise that will provide our seniors with the relief they need and that was promised to them in the last election. They need to get their priorities straight.

SMALL AIRPORT SAFETY, SECURITY, AND AIR SERVICE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2002

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 447 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 447

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1979) to amend title 49, United States Code, to provide assistance for the construction of certain air traffic control towers. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure now printed in the bill. Each section of the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 8 of rule XVIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COOKSEY). The gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. PRYCE) is recognized for 1 hour.

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to my colleague and friend, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 447 is an open rule, which provides for 1 hour of general debate equally divided between the chairman and ranking member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on H.R. 1979, the Small Airport Safety, Security, and Air Service Improvement Act of 2002.

The rule provides that it shall be in order to consider for the purpose of amendment the amendment in the nature of a substitute now printed in the bill. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute and provides that it shall be open for amendment by section.

Any Member wishing to offer an amendment may do so as long as it complies with the regular rules of the House. However, the rule allows the Chairman of the Committee of the