

the President of the United States want to put forward budget cuts that would hurt them the most.

Let me tell you about them: \$12 billion in Medicaid cuts at a time when 45 million Americans do not even have health insurance, and \$850 million cuts in the food stamp program when 2 million people, according to the Agriculture Department, were just added to the hungry rolls.

This is the wrong time to do these cuts. These cuts are made to offset a \$70 billion tax cut for billionaires and millionaires who do not even need the money; and in order to even pay that money, we have to go and borrow it from Communist China.

The American people deserve better, we can do better, and we must do better. Let's vote down these cuts and stand up for the American people.

MEDICARE HISTORY

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

Mr. HULSHOF. Mr. Speaker, today, senior citizens across America can sign up for the new Medicare prescription drug benefit that will save them money on medicines that they need. Many are concerned that the program with its many choices is too confusing, not to mention the mixed signals being sent by this House. Health care can be complicated, but saving money on prescription drugs that senior citizens need should not be. We have a responsibility to help seniors save money, not scare them away from these critical new benefits.

Back in 1966, many people thought that the original Medicare hospital insurance plan was too confusing. Then, as now, volunteers were trying to help seniors enroll, even going door to door. Back in 1966, not all seniors answered the door; and as a result, millions failed to enroll in the first round of benefits before the initial sign-up window had closed. "I think the problems ahead will be vast," said Democrat Senator Abraham Ribicoff in the spring of 1966. "The encouraging fact," he added, "is a willingness to cooperate, despite the earlier strong opposition to Medicare, to make it work. I am sure it will," he said.

I share Senator Ribicoff's optimism. Older Americans have flooded the Medicare hotline and Web site, and they are attending workshops in America's senior centers in large numbers.

It is natural for many seniors to have questions. I urge this House to help our constituents deal with this new benefit.

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RUBBER STAMP CONGRESS

(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 here to make a public service announcement. The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. SCOTT) laid out the problems of the bill that has been floating around in the Congress, but I want him to be assured that the rubber stamp Congress is coming in on Thursday.

Now, it says here, I approve of everything that George Bush does, and that is what this rubber stamp is we are going to use in here on Thursday. Last night, the Ways and Means Committee produced a tax cut bill. They will bring it over here, bring it up to the Rules Committee, roll it all together with the tax cuts and the tax giveaways and make the poor people pay for what the rich people get. They are going to bring it out here, and we are going to watch 218 Republicans march up and rubber stamp that baby.

Whatever George Bush asks for, whether it makes sense or not, that is the responsibility of the Republican majority, and they all have to bring their stamp on Thursday, because if they do not bring it on Thursday, we are not going to get to go home for Thanksgiving to rejoice over how much we have been able to give to the rich. This is a very important week. Don't forget your rubber stamp on Thursday morning when you come to work.

SAINT LEO THE GREAT CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Saint Leo the Great Catholic School in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, for being named a No Child Left Behind nationally recognized Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education. The Blue Ribbon Schools program honors K-12 schools that are academically superior in their State or demonstrate dramatic gains in student achievement.

Saint Leo the Great is one of just 10 North Carolina schools to receive this prestigious award. In fact, it is the only private school in the entire State to achieve this recognition. Not only am I proud of the students and faculty at Saint Leo for their academics, I am also proud of them for their compassion. Following Hurricane Katrina, the students at Saint Leo reached out to their peers at Saint Clement of Rome, a fellow nationally recognized Blue Ribbon School in Louisiana. The students at Saint Leo made congratulatory cards and sent individual blue ribbons to the students and teachers at Saint Clement. They also raised money to pay travel expense for the principal of Saint Clement to receive the Blue Ribbon Award in Washington, DC.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the students, faculty and staff at Saint Leo the Great Catholic School in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

KENNETH "KEN" BRUCE

(Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my sorrow and the sorrow felt by the people of Campbell County, Tennessee, over the tragic death of Mr. Ken Bruce on Tuesday, November 8, 2005.

Mr. Bruce is survived by his loving wife, Jo; his two sons, Christopher and Patrick; his parents, Gene and Beverly Bruce; his brother, Greg; sister, Wendy, as well as all those who knew Mr. Bruce and experienced his overwhelming goodwill and humorous service.

Mr. Bruce was one of the rare individuals in this world that dedicated his life to serving others. Through his 20 years service in the Army and Army Reserves, and as a school administrator, the students of Campbell County High School where Mr. Bruce served as an assistant principal knew him as a man who they could talk to, who would listen, who would empathize and who would offer good sound advice. They also knew him as a man with a great sense of humor, always willing to offer a one-liner that would put a smile on their faces.

It is difficult, when we experience such a profound loss, to find words that do justice to a life cut short or bring condolences to those feeling the deepest pain. Those who knew him well knew he would want everyone to carry on, to approach each day with an open mind and with an open heart and with an enthusiasm for life that encourages us to find the good in every situation and to turn to the Lord for answers to their most difficult questions.

It is my hope that all of us affected by this terrible sad death will continue together to help this community carry on, to help them find peace and calm, for as surely as we know there will be a tomorrow, we know we will never see his smiling face in this life. We can only take solace in the knowledge that Mr. Bruce has gone on to a better place where his spirit will continue peacefully into eternity.

You will be sorely missed, Mr. Bruce, and we will never forget. As Horatio said in Shakespeare's Hamlet, "Now cracks a noble heart. Good night, sweet prince, and flights of angels sing thee to thy rest."

May God continue to watch over your family and the communities of Campbell County, Tennessee.

MEDICARE PART D

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

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to encourage seniors across America to learn about Medicare part D, the new voluntary prescription drug benefit available to all seniors. Tuesday marked the first day seniors could

enroll in Medicare part D. Enrollment continues through May 15, 2006, and coverage begins January 1, 2006.

Finally, seniors in our communities will have better access to the medication they need to stay well. Seniors can sign up today by calling 1-800-MEDICARE or by visiting the Web site www.medicare.gov. Seniors who want to sign up should have several pieces of information on hand: a list of the medications they are currently taking; information about any prescription drug coverage they may currently have, be it employer, union or a Medigap policy; the name and address of a local pharmacy they will use to fill prescriptions; the out-of-pocket amount they spend on prescription drugs each year; finally, seniors should have their Medicare enrollment information readily available.

As a physician, I know that providing our seniors with prescription drug coverage will be beneficial to their health and to their wallets. I am glad Medicare now works to prevent disease as well as treat it.

BUDGET RECONCILIATION

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, as we move towards the vote on budget reconciliation, I trust that the majority does not come back with the same old soup warmed over or the same old lemon with a new twist.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that we will come back with something that really meets the needs of the people, not tax breaks for the wealthiest 1 percent and nothing for the truly needy and those who are poor. I hope that we get it right this time, Mr. Speaker, and have a reconciliation plan that reconciles not only the budget but meets the needs of the American people.

MEDICARE

(Mr. CARTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, this week, seniors across the country can take the first steps towards much-needed prescription drug benefits when they enroll in the Medicare prescription drug plan. The plan gives seniors the power of choice. Seniors will select from multiple plans and choose the option best suited to their needs. With the cost of prescription drugs increasing every year, the ability to choose a plan tailored to that senior's specific health needs is invaluable.

Not only that, but choice encourages competition. Private companies will be making their prices available for seniors to compare. This, in turn, will lower prices in an effort to secure those seniors' business. By giving the seniors choice, we give them lower prices.

Mr. Speaker, the Medicare prescription drug coverage card is long over-

due. I am proud of Republicans for providing a viable solution to America's seniors, and I encourage seniors all across the country to take advantage of these added benefits.

REMEMBERING THE 1989 MURDERS OF SIX JESUIT PRIESTS IN EL SALVADOR

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, 16 years ago today, in the dead of night, the Salvadoran Army's U.S.-trained Atalacatl Battalion entered the grounds of the University of Central America in San Salvador, pulled six Jesuit priests from their beds, marched them out onto the lawn behind their residence, put high-powered rifles to their heads and shot them dead in cold blood. A few minutes later, these same soldiers discovered the Jesuits' housekeeper and her teenager daughter hiding in the house and murdered them as well.

A bipartisan commission appointed by the Speaker of the House and chaired by our former colleague, Congressman Joe Moakley, investigated this heinous crime, identified the killers, and the Commission's report became critical evidence in the prosecution and conviction of the priests' killers and, I believe, in creating support for the U.N.-brokered negotiations that ended El Salvador's 12-year civil war.

Mr. Speaker, I knew these priests. I was proud to call them my friends. Let us take a moment to remember their courage and to remember the bipartisan work of this House under the leadership of Joe Moakley that helped El Salvador forge a pathway to peace.

Let us never forget the names of those who were murdered on November 16, 1989: Father Ignacio Ellacuria, Father Ignacio Martin-Baro, Father Segundo Montes, Father Armando Lopez, Father Joaquin Lopez y Lopez, Father Juan Ramon Moreno, Celina Maricet Ramos and Elba Julia Ramos.

PRIVATE SUPPORT FOR LOUISIANA FOLLOWING RECENT HURRICANES

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

Mr. JINDAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the private support that has been delivered to my home State of Louisiana following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The Ford and Dodge motor companies donated dozens of vehicles to first responders in my State.

In addition, one of the greatest examples of support, though not the only example, came from Wal-Mart. I want to take a moment to tell you about it. It is easy to tell you of their generosity. Wal-Mart donated over \$17 million to

the Bush-Clinton Katrina Fund, the Salvation Army and the Red Cross. They donated \$3.5 million worth of merchandise to shelters and command centers throughout the Gulf Coast region. They provided \$20,000 in cash donations to animal shelters across the region. They provided 150 Internet-ready computers to shelters across the region to help loved ones stay in contact. They donated use of 25 vacant facilities for use by relief agencies. Their customers have donated more than \$8.5 million in stores across the country.

The best thing I can do is share a brief story that was told to me by the men and women on the ground. Wal-Mart told officials and first responders, We don't have staff on the ground, they have all evacuated, but come in, take what you need, just shut the door after you leave.

It took our government days to provide what Wal-Mart and other private companies did in those first few hours.

BUSH ADMINISTRATION'S INTELLIGENCE WAS NOT A "SLAM DUNK"

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

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, President Bush's latest attacks on those who have questioned whether his administration manipulated the intelligence to justify a war against Iraq is based on flawed arguments and falsehoods.

First, the President said Congress had access to the same intelligence as the White House prior to the war. This is false. The Washington Post writes, and I quote, Bush and his aides had access to much more voluminous intelligence information than did lawmakers who were dependent on the administration to provide the material.

Second, President Bush claimed the bipartisan Senate investigation found that he did not misrepresent prewar intelligence. Again, the President's statements are wrong. The Senate Intelligence Committee is not expected to complete this phase of their investigation until next year.

Third, the President said intelligence agencies around the world agreed with the Bush administration's assessment of the Iraqi threat. Once again, this statement is false. Many of our international friends concluded that Iraq's threat did not rise to the level of justifying immediate military force.

Mr. Speaker, the Bush administration refuses to live in reality. It has no plans in Iraq other than, stay the course. This administration makes decisions with no understanding of the consequences of those decisions. The reality is, we lost six more servicemen in Iraq in the last 24 hours.

AMT REFORM

(Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey asked and was given permission to address