This Congress removed the deductibility for health insurance premiums, for the average working stiffs in the 1980's. The average working stiff who pays it by the month will not be able to deduct their premiums. Yet we are going to give it to the wealthiest who can afford $5,000 a year.

As my colleague from Ohio says, beam me up. We are going to let the wealthy, are helping the wealthy more by the $5,000 deductible buy MSA's, but we are not letting the average person who pays their health insurance by the month deduct it. We ought to do both in this Congress.

MORE ON FBI FILES

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

Mr. STOCKMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have a confidential file here that somehow ended up on my desk. I do not know where it came from or how it got here.

The President came to Houston a little over a year ago and he had the courage to admit he raised the taxes too much. Mr. Speaker, he is coming again to Texas and Houston, June 21. It is my hope that he will have the courage to apologize for taking these files on individuals and bringing them back to his office.

My fear, Mr. Speaker, is that there will be a lot less courage but maybe one day we will see some convictions.

POLITICS OF INSENSITIVITY

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

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, all Members of this House should be saddened today by the remarks yesterday of majority leader DICK ARMEY in his criticism and his remarks about the President's visit to South Carolina today to dedicate the new chapel at Mount Zion A.M.E. Church, a church that was firebombed and burned to the ground, 1 of 49 black churches burned to the ground in this country.

For the majority leader to turn this into politics is exactly the kind of politics that we do not need in this country: the politics of insensitivity, of extremism and of race.

The President is doing what any President of this country must do, and that is to bring us together to heal this Nation and to get us to face this national horror.

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The President is doing what any President must do to bring the full force and effect of law enforcement against these crimes, against these bombings. The President is doing what any President of this nation must do, and that is to get this Nation to challenge, to challenge us against these horrible crimes. The gentleman from Texas [Mr. ARMEY] is doing what no majority leader should do, and that is to make politics out of a national terror.

ABUSE OF POWER AND INVASION OF PRIVACY UNCOVERED IN THE WHITE HOUSE

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

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, potential abuse of power and invasion of privacy have been uncovered in the Clinton White House. The White House requested, and received, highly confidential FBI files and records of former Reagan and Bush appointees, suggesting the formation of an enemies list.

Mr. Speaker, there are a lot of unanswered questions in this latest Clinton administration blunder. The American public, especially those citizens whose privacy rights were violated by having their personal files searched, deserve an honest explanation, not more excuses and coverups.

It is time for the President to come clean on his administration's activities. Tell us the truth about the FBI file search.

TRUST FUND SCARE ONE OF BIGGEST SCAMS EVER PERPETRATED ON AMERICANS

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

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, we have heard a lot of rhetoric from Republicans this year. However, the current trust fund scare is one of the biggest scams ever perpetrated on the American people.

Republicans in Congress are using the Medicare trust fund report to justify their extreme proposal to slash Medicare. The trust fund report is simply a smokescreen for the real reason they want to cut Medicare: tax breaks.

If Republicans were truly interested in saving Medicare, they would reduce their huge tax breaks to the rich, not by slashing this vital program with cuts that will devastate seniors, close public hospitals, and burden working-class families.

Medicare is a program that should provide health care services for seniors, not a piggy bank for wealthy corporations and the privileged few.

300 FILES A BUREAUCRATIC MISTAKE?

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

Mrs. SEASTRAND. Mr. Speaker, they say that nothing ever stays the same, and I suppose that applies even to Bill Clinton's beliefs about how personal FBI personnel records are.

When the American public was concerned in 1992 about Governor Clinton's military record, or lack thereof, the Washington Times filed a Freedom of Information request to check on discrepancies between Clinton campaign statements and his letters to ROTC officials.

At that time, the Clinton campaign said ''It's a personal file. He's not going to [release the records]. [Clinton] just doesn't have to disclose every shred of his personal life, and the American people don't expect him to.''

Apparently, Clinton did not expect that same sort of privacy for other citizens. He has raided the personal files of Reagan and Bush political appointees, yet it was only a bureaucratic mistake. A misplaced paper or misfiled form may be a bureaucratic mistake, but the personal files of over 300 people?

Clinton once thought those 300 files were personal. The American people, and the people whose privacy were violated by this administration deserve an explanation.

MEDICAID REFORM

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

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, after U.S. Governors earlier this year announced a plan to reform Medicaid, I looked forward to working in a bipartisan fashion to create a quality piece of legislation.

However, there have never been any bipartisan negotiations on the current bill. The result is a new blueprint for block-granting that may be ideologically perfect, but is socially destructive.

The proposed legislation removes the guarantee of health care for the elderly and disabled. It allows each State to define the scope, amount, and duration of any Medicaid payment.

It will require impoverished seniors to pay high deductibles or copays that they cannot afford. It will force spouses and children around the country to contribute a disproportionate amount for nursing home care for their parents or grandparents.

This bill would be devastating to rural health care, because it does not require benefits provided by each State's program to be provided equally to all parts of a State.

Medicaid was created in the first place because States did not provide for those who needed care. Let us not turn back the clock and create 50 new federally funded experiments that use our grandparents and children as guinea pigs.

HYPOCRISY IN THE WHITE HOUSE

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

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks ago Bill Clinton and his liberal partners held a stand for children.

Now, this march was to demonstrate their commitment to instilling values in America's children and to focus the Nation's attention on the need to raise moral children in this country.

Mr. Speaker, how can Bill Clinton and his liberal buddies preach about morality to our children and then turn around and deliberately mislead the American people about the White House's search of the FBI files? This hypocrisy must stop, Mr. Speaker.

The White House had FBI files for possible political use stored in one of their security vaults. Mr. Speaker, I ask, does this sound like an innocent bureaucratic mistake as the White House says? Oh, of course out.

Mr. Speaker, if Bill Clinton wants to instill honesty in our children, should be not first look at the mirror and look at himself?

HOUSE REPUBLICANS DIVIDED ON THE BUDGET

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

Mr. WARD. Mr. Speaker, the secret is out. This may not be England, but there is dissension in the family, and the Queen is not happy. The House Republicans are divided, and the gentleman from Texas [Mr. ARMEY] cannot as easily as usual whip them into shape. Yesterday the vote on the final passage of the 1997 fiscal year budget was yanked, taken off the floor, because the Republican freshmen and the more conservative members of the majority party were not in line.

It seems that the budget deficit will increase over the next 2 years under Speaker GINGRICH's plan, not decrease. As my colleague, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. BARTON], so appropriately said, we are backing away from what they started out to do in this Congress, something that may not be too smart in an election year: To try and cut the deficit. However, the crown jewel of the tax cut for the wealthy may be threatened.

So let us see where the gentleman from Texas, Mr. ARMEY's, priorities are and those of his royal family.

REPUBLICANS BALANCE THE BUDGET FOR OUR CHILDREN'S FUTURE

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

Mr. RIGGS. Mr. Speaker, to listen to the rhetoric from some of my good Democratic friends and colleagues this morning, one would think that they were prepared to vote for less spending and lower deficits, when nothing could be further from the truth. We are going to get a budget agreement, and let me tell my colleagues why. The budget agreement that we have reached between House and Senate Republicans achieves a $5 billion Federal budget surplus in the year 2002. It calls for reforming Medicaid and welfare, saving Medicare from bankruptcy and providing middle-class families much needed tax relief. It reforms Medicaid and welfare by giving more power and more revenue to the States in line with the recommendations, the bipartisan recommendations, of the Nation's Governors. It preserves and protects Medicare for our Nation's elderly, a goal which is even more important because of the report last week from the Medicare trustees which says Medicare is going broke earlier than expected; in fact, their worst-case scenario is that Medicare could be broke in 1999, just 3 years from now. And it calls for permanent tax relief for American families through a $500-per-child tax credit that is $1,000 for a family of four.

Mr. Speaker, it is a good budget, and it balances the budget for the sake of our children's future.

REPUBLICAN BUDGET BAD FOR SENIORS AND FOR THE DEFICIT

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, the House was scheduled to vote on the 1997 budget yesterday but the vote was delayed at the last minute. It seems that the Republican budget, by their own admission, actually increases the Federal deficit.

And freshman Republicans, many of whom campaigned back home for a balanced budget and many of whom voted for the balanced budget amendment, balked at voting for a budget that is not balanced.

But today the Republican leadership has twisted enough arms and many of these same freshmen will support a budget that does exactly what they promised they would not do when they came to Washington: increase the deficit. What hypocrisy.

And yet these same Republicans want the American people to trust them when they say their budget does not cut the Medicare program by $168 billion over a 6-year period to pay for tax breaks for the wealthy. Do not be fooled. This budget is bad for seniors and bad for the deficit.

REPUBLICANS SHOULD SUPPORT THE CONTRACT CALLED MEDICARE

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

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, the Republicans are not cooperating or attempting to work out a compromise to protect Medicare for seniors. I hope all voters remember these facts in November. The Republicans have repeatedly voted for deep cuts in the Medicare Program which will affect the quality of service which our seniors depend on to stay healthy and, in fact, to stay alive.

The Republicans in Congress seem to be big supporters of contracts. If this is true, then they should stand by the contract which America has made with our senior citizens. This contract is called Medicare. The Republicans should support Medicare, should defend Medicare, but the Republicans should not cut Medicare.

WE NEED TO PASS A RESPONSIBLE BUDGET

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

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, it is interesting that the people who are complaining about cuts to Medicare are offering no program to save it. The President's own trustees on the Medicare trust fund said it will go bankrupt a year ago by the year 2002, and I will say it will be bankrupt in 5 years, and no program from this side is trying to protect it.

This budget we are about to vote on is going to give us a $5 billion surplus in the year 2002 to begin the downpayment on our grandchildren's debt, an immoral debt, I might add, that we left them after 30 years voting ourselves wonderful government programs and just choosing not to pay for them. This budget is going to preserve and protect Medicare for our Nation's elderly for many years, but not enough yet until the baby-boomers come, and we are going to have to still deal with that. It is also going to give some tax relief for families with children up to $100,000 in income $500-per-child tax credit. These are for middle-class American families. All this baloney about the wealthy, but there are not capital gains cuts in this budget. These are for middle-class families, $500 per child tax relief.

It is time to pass a responsible budget that comes to balance.

BATTLE OVER BUDGET

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

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, why is the row of Republicans there so empty in giving speeches this morning? They are all busy fighting with each other over the budget. They do not have time to put together a coherent program. And the reason is simple: The Republican Party has drifted over to the extreme. Bob Dole is a voice of moderation, I guess, with TRENT LOTT taking over the Senate, and then the extremists will even be given a greater hand. So look at the budget they cannot even get the extremists to pass on: fewer toxic waste cleanups, welfare reform that cuts——

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I have a point of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAZIO of New York). The gentleman will state his point of order.