

Let us not slash Medicare. Let us be sensible about it and let us see this plan for exactly what it is: An attempt to deprive elderly Americans of the health care they so desperately need and the security that their families need as well.

PROPOSED REPUBLICAN CUTS WILL RESULT IN DEVASTATION OF MEDICARE

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I just want to follow up on what my colleague from New York just said. We know what happened in the last 2 years with the Republican leadership plans to cut Medicare and Medicaid.

If those plans had gone into effect, and thank goodness they did not because of the President and because Democrats in Congress constantly fought against it, if they had gone into effect what we would have seen is increased costs for senior citizens as well as the general population. We would have seen the actual costs for part B premiums under Medicare almost doubled. We would have seen copayments go up and deductibles go up for Medicare, and, at the same time, we also saw the proposal this year in 1996 that would basically have allowed doctors, if a senior stayed in traditional Medicare, to charge whatever they want over and above what Medicare pays the physician.

The bottom line is that there is no free lunch. If we impose these tremendous cuts in Medicare that were proposed by the Republican leadership in the past 2 years, and even more cuts that would be proposed because of what Presidential candidate Dole is saying, we will see devastation of Medicare.

JUST SAY NO TO "HEMP-DOPE"

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

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to know what these guys are smoking. The Hemp-Dope ticket expects to cut taxes by \$550 billion, increase military spending, balance the budget, and, at the same time, promises not to decimate Medicare and Social Security.

As always, their plan cuts taxes for the wealthy first, then leaves the hard spending cuts for future Presidents. That is what I would call a political hit and run.

Moreover, Mr. Speaker, Hemp-Dope wants to abolish the Department of Education at a time when our young people will have to compete in a changing global economy. Simply put, our Nation cannot afford another decade of voodoo Reaganomics, which bankrupted us in the first place.

As the President said, we are on the right track to the 21st century. Just say no to Hemp-Dope.

ABIDING BY THE RULES OF THE HOUSE WILL MAINTAIN CIVILITY ON THE HOUSE FLOOR

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

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, in closing these 1 minutes this morning, I want to make the point that nobody here was gagged, nobody was prevented from speaking on a subject they wished to speak on. They can go outside these doors in the Speaker's lobby or upstairs and hold a press conference and say all they want to say about the matters they were referring to this morning.

What they cannot do is talk about matters before the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct on the floor of this House because it is against the rules of the House to do so. And that is the only point that was raised consistently this morning and was also being ignored, even ignoring rule after rule by the Speaker.

If we want to maintain some degree of civility on the floor of this House to engage in honest political debate, we should at least abide by the rules or try to change them and not continually ignore the Speaker's admonitions.

REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO HAVE UNTIL MIDNIGHT, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1996, TO FILE CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3675, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997

Mr. MYERS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the managers on the part of the House may have until midnight Friday, September 13, 1996, to file a conference report on the bill H.R. 3675, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Transportation and related agencies for the fiscal year 1997, and for other purposes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana?

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I would urge that the gentleman withhold that request.

I do not personally have an objection to its being filed, I support the bill, but I have been informed by our leadership that another committee does, and absent their presence, I would feel obligated to object if the motion is made at this time.

Mr. MYERS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I will withdraw it. I understood it had been cleared by the gentleman's side.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, it had been cleared as far as the committee is concerned, but we were just informed by our leadership that there is a problem with another committee.

Mr. MYERS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my unanimous-consent request at this time.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MYERS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 3816) making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes, and that I may include tabular and extraneous materials.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3816, ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997

Mr. MYERS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the previous order of the House, I call up the conference report on the bill (H.R. 3816), making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House today, the conference report is considered as having been read.

(For conference report and statement, see proceedings of the House of earlier today.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Indiana [Mr. MYERS] will be recognized for 30 minutes, and the gentleman from Alabama [Mr. BEVILL] will be recognized for 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. MYERS].

Mr. MYERS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The conference agreement that we are bringing to the floor at this time for this next fiscal year is \$19.973 billion of new budget authority. This is \$562 million higher than the version passed by the House a few weeks ago and \$343 million below the Senate-passed level.

The greatest amount of this increase is in Defense—a \$449 million increase in Defense activities.

A lot of people do not realize that 57 percent of the energy and water bill—over half—is Defense related. Domestic discretionary programs have been reduced by \$48 million below last year. \$11.4 billion is in Defense. Of that amount, \$5,620,000,000 is for environmental restoration and waste management. No small amount.

That is the most rapidly growing account that we have. We are cleaning up the nuclear waste and other wastes that have been accumulating through the years.

Mr. Speaker, the bill has five titles. Title I is related to water resources. We have more than 25,000 miles of inland waterways. The deep ports of our country all come under the jurisdiction