

willing to take the hits that we knew were going to come from the other side of the aisle? "Oh boy, are you guys cruel and unreasonable." The fact is, there is going to be less money coming into the Medicare trust fund in the next 2 years than the payouts. There is a little reserve there in part A that is going to allow us to continue until 2002, and then it is bankrupt.

Mr. KINGSTON. If the gentleman will yield back, what is bothering me is we still seem to have folks on the other side of the aisle debating that Medicare is fine and dandy and there are no problems. We can go on ad infinitum with Medicare.

We cannot do that. We are driving straight into a brick wall that we will collide with a bus full of senior citizens in 7 years, period.

The tragedy of this is look at the wisdom on the Democrat side. I am envious as I look at the Democrat Party. They have a lot of talent and brains over there. I would like, as the Republican Party, to recruit some of their folks. Some of the people I would rather not recruit. I am sure there are folks over here they would rather not recruit. But good gracious, the wisdom of getting the two parties together to come up with a solution for Medicare, would that not be the responsible thing to do for senior citizens? We are wrapping ourselves around momma's bath robe in the name of Mother's Day. We have heard the speeches for the last 40 minutes. What my momma told me to do is put aside party differences and do what is right. That is what we need to do.

Medicare needs to be reformed. The Clinton administration, Senator KERREY, many Democrats, have come out front and said that. Republicans have certainly said that. Take it a step further: To reform it, the American people need the Democrat and the Republican Parties working together on this.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. I was just saying on reform, testimony before our Committee on the Budget indicated there was \$40 billion of fraud and abuse in the system. So, for a start, last year we had a proposal by the administration that the Federal Government should take over all of the medical health care needs in this country.

The fact is that we have seen Medicaid and Medicare grow at the rate of 10 and 12 percent a year. The private practice health care has been 6 and 7 percent. In fact, last year it was about 4 percent, with many parts of the country being zero. The private sector is growing at 4 percent, the public sector, where we have Medicaid and Medicare, where the Government is responsible, has been growing at 10 and 12 percent. To say it is a solution to have the Federal Government take over everything does not jibe. We have got to do something the corporations and the rest of America are doing. We have got to make smart shoppers out of every American, including senior Americans.

Mr. KINGSTON. I think the gentleman ran out of time a little while ago. I wanted to hear about your charts. Alice Rivlin said today there are other places to cut in the budget. She said where the Republican Party was cutting was idiotic. I am sure there are things that the administration does that the Republican Party and Americans think are idiotic. Has the administration cut the budget in their proposal, in the President's budget proposal?

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. KINGSTON, what I learned is I am not a better number drawer when I have extra time than I am with short time. All this says is that the only budget that—and I do not want to be partisan, but that the President has sent the Congress is figured in the same way as the Republicans are figuring their budget as far as deficits. These are the deficits that are going to exist under the President's budget that he sent us about 8 weeks ago, and the Republican budget passed out of the House, very similar to the one passed out of the Senate.

In year 1996, the deficit under the President's plan is \$211 billion, \$156 for the Republican. Every year you see our deficit keeps going down and down. We are trying to brag about it. We are saying for the first time since 1969, the end figure is zero as far as the deficit. The zero at the end is the fact we are balancing revenues with expenses. The projection down here for the President is going up on the deficit in those out years.

Mr. KINGSTON. The figures are right. It is atrocious, your momma is ashamed of you. But if I read that correctly, in the year 2001, the President's budget has a \$276 billion deficit. The Kasich Committee on the Budget proposal has a \$108 billion deficit. The year 2002, the President is at a \$318 billion deficit. We are at a \$15 billion surplus.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. We are actually starting to pay back some of this huge, gigantic, \$6 trillion debt that the kids and grandkids are going to owe at that time if we do not change.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio [Ms. KAPTUR] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Guam [Mr. UNDERWOOD] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. UNDERWOOD addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. GONZALEZ] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. GONZALEZ addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

#### COMMENTS ON THE DEBT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. SMITH] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, just some comments on the debt. You know, we have made a decision in the U.S. Congress to require that the Senate vote, that the House vote, that the President sign, any time that we increase the debt ceiling. Right now we have a debt ceiling of \$4.9 trillion. That was done 2 years ago, when this administration came into office.

Now, that is good, no more charts. That debt ceiling was increased 2 years ago in 1993 to \$4.9 trillion. Today—today our debt, subject to the limit, is \$4.77 trillion. We are going to hit the cap of \$4.9 trillion in September or October. So this House is going to have to decide, do we want to vote to increase the debt limit again.

Several of us, Congressman CHRIS SHAYS, myself, about 20 others, are saying look, if we are going to vote to increase the debt limit, should we not have something solid to get us on a glide path to assure that we are going to have a balanced budget sometime in the next 4 to 7 years? And I think the answer is yes.

So I think we need to send a strong signal to the President of the United States, look, unless we are on that glide path, unless we have got a law, a reconciliation bill, a balanced budget amendment, or something that can somehow guarantee to the American people that we are not going to pick their pockets any more, we are not going to vote to increase the debt limit.

So we are sending that message to the President. We are also sending a letter signed by about 25 of us to the majority leader in the Senate, to the Speaker of the U.S. House, saying look, do not plan on our vote to increase again the debt ceiling of the U.S. Government unless we have got the kind of firm, absolute, tough legislation signed by the President that helps make sure we are going to get there.

Mr. KINGSTON. If the gentleman will yield, I want to ask you, because you are a distinguished member of the Committee on the Budget: Now, on the tax increase decrease, can we decrease taxes and balance the budget? Are we being hypocrites?

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. The gentleman has as good an answer as I do, so I will let you complete the answer. My part of the answer would be that most economists that appeared before our Committee on the Budget agreed that increasing taxes is not the way to balance the budget if we want to stimulate job growth in this country. And as everybody knows, or should know, 2 years ago in 1993, what this Congress