

CLINTON'S CHANGE OF HEART CONCERNING MEDICARE

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, let me just say as one Member who speaks in this well to the Member who just spoke, the Democrats have bankrupted Medicare for 30 years. It is now the Republicans' responsibility and obligation to preserve, protect, and improve the Medicare system, which we intend to do.

Mr. Speaker, I want to give you a quote and ask who said this quote:

Today Medicaid and Medicare are going up at three times the rate of inflation. We propose to let it go up at two times the rate of inflation. That is not a Medicare or Medicaid cut. We are going to have to have increases in Medicare and Medicaid, but a reduction in the rate of growth.

Who said that? President Clinton said that last year.

Let me give you a quote from Mrs. Clinton:

We feel confident * * * that we can reduce the rate of increase in Medicare without undermining quality for Medicare recipients.

That is Mrs. Clinton. That is what she said. So when the President or Mrs. Clinton proposed slowing down the rate of growth in Medicare and Medicaid, it was not a cut. But now that the Republicans offer our budget which contains a similar proposal, the Democrats are now saying it is a cut.

My friends, let us put aside our differences and work in a bipartisan manner to solve the problems of how to save the Medicare program.

HOW THE BUDGET WILL AFFECT ANTOINETTE "TONI" PODOJIL

(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, these Republican Medicare cuts are not just number-crunching, they mean real medical service reductions affecting real people.

Let me introduce you to Toni Podojil from Cleveland. Toni is 83 years old. She worked in the textile industry before her first retirement, but with minimum pension benefits and Social Security benefits, which is true with many women she had to get a job with the united labor agency. She will have to retire again soon and they will then live on a combined pension of about \$600 a month.

Toni is a survivor of uterine cancer, she has had a heart attack, and she suffers from a hearing loss. Uncovered medical expenses now equal almost half her retirement income. When she retires a second time at age 83, what can she expect under this unfair budget? A doubled Medicare part B premium; over \$553 more a year? An increased part A deductible over \$1,200 more a year?

Let us balance the budget, not give away tax breaks to the wealthiest in this country.

PRESIDENT'S PROMISED VETO OF RESCISSIONS BILL IRRESPONSIBLE

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

Mr. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, President Clinton's promise to veto the rescissions bill is irresponsible and lacking of leadership: irresponsible because just 2 weeks ago the President pretended to negotiate in good faith with House Republicans, only to back out at the last minute for short-term political gain; lacking of leadership because this President who only 2 years ago was promising a balanced budget by 1996 is now incapable of cutting \$16 billion, \$16 billion, that is only 1 percent that he says he cannot cut.

What reasons does he give? Well, first he says he wants to eliminate more pork, but then turns around and says well, we cannot cut the AmeriCorps program, the biggest boondoggle there ever was.

Then he says, "You can't cut efforts to help people," and then turns around and says he is going to veto the relief package to Oklahoma City.

The fact the President would save his veto for this bill demonstrates that he is more interested in playing politics than acting as leader. Does anyone wonder why the American people consider the President irrelevant to the process?

MEDICARE CHECK

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

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, this country once had a system of checks and balances. Now with the Republican budget scam we have checks without balances. Here is one check, Mr. Speaker, a big check, a whopping \$228 billion check made out by the senior citizens of this country who face a massive cut in Medicare, and who is this check written out to, Mr. Speaker? To the wealthiest, who will rake in billions thanks to the Republican budget scam.

Yes, the oldest Americans in this country will face \$3,500 in out-of-pocket medical bills, while the richest Americans will put \$20,000 into their pockets. What a shame.

But big checks are nothing new to the GOP. Think about all of the big campaign checks they got in 1994.

So, Mr. Speaker, go ahead and protect the wealthy and the powerful, and we Democrats will protect the health of the powerless.

Go ahead and help those who helped finance your victory in the last election, while we Democrats will help those seniors who led us all to victory in World War II.

Seeing this huge check makes me realize that the Republicans must have

checked their compassion and decency at the door, Mr. Speaker.

□ 1015

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma). Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I, the pending business is the question of the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. TATE. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 360, nays 37, answered "present" 1, not voting 36, as follows:

[Roll No. 341]

YEAS—360

Ackerman	Collins (IL)	Gejdenson
Allard	Collins (MI)	Gekas
Andrews	Combust	Geren
Archer	Condit	Gilchrest
Bachus	Conyers	Gilman
Baessler	Cooley	Gonzalez
Baker (CA)	Cox	Goodlatte
Baker (LA)	Coyne	Goodling
Baldacci	Cramer	Gordon
Ballenger	Crapo	Goss
Barcia	Cremeans	Graham
Barr	Cubin	Greenwood
Barrett (NE)	Cunningham	Gutknecht
Barrett (WI)	Danner	Hall (OH)
Bartlett	Davis	Hall (TX)
Barton	Deal	Hamilton
Bass	DeLauro	Hancock
Bateman	DeLay	Hansen
Becerra	Dellums	Hastert
Beilenson	Deutsch	Hastings (WA)
Bentsen	Diaz-Balart	Hayes
Bereuter	Dickey	Hayworth
Bevill	Dicks	Hefner
Bilbray	Dixon	Heineman
Bilirakis	Doggett	Herger
Bishop	Dooley	Hilleary
Bliley	Doolittle	Hobson
Blute	Dornan	Hoekstra
Boehlert	Doyle	Hoke
Boehner	Dreier	Holden
Bonilla	Duncan	Horn
Bonior	Dunn	Hostettler
Borski	Edwards	Houghton
Boucher	Ehlers	Hoyer
Brewster	Ehrlich	Hunter
Browder	Emerson	Hutchinson
Brown (FL)	English	Hyde
Brown (OH)	Eshoo	Inglis
Bryant (TN)	Evans	Jackson-Lee
Bryant (TX)	Everett	Jefferson
Bunn	Ewing	Johnson (CT)
Bunning	Farr	Johnson (SD)
Burr	Fawell	Johnson, E. B.
Burton	Fields (LA)	Johnson, Sam
Buyer	Flake	Johnston
Callahan	Flanagan	Jones
Calvert	Foglietta	Kanjorski
Camp	Foley	Kaptur
Canady	Forbes	Kasich
Cardin	Ford	Kelly
Castle	Fowler	Kennedy (RI)
Chabot	Fox	Kennelly
Chambliss	Frank (MA)	Kildee
Chenoweth	Franks (CT)	Kim
Christensen	Franks (NJ)	King
Chrysler	Frelinghuysen	Kingston
Clement	Frisa	Klink
Clinger	Frost	Klug
Clyburn	Funderburk	Knollenberg
Coble	Furse	Kolbe
Coleman	Galleghy	LaFalce
Collins (GA)	Ganske	LaHood