

school, I took out 10,000 dollars' worth of loans while I was a medical student.

I was very pleasantly surprised to discover that when I finished medical school and when I finished my internship and residency, that I still only owed \$10,000, that the interest of 7 percent per year had been picked up by the U.S. taxpayer. Indeed, I was very happy to find that out because once I got out of medical school and my internship and residency, I got myself a pretty good job and \$10,000 was fairly easy to pay off.

That, indeed, is the essence of the problem with the Democrat proposal of continuing the in-school interest subsidy.

Let us just say, if I had daughters, they were twins. And one wanted to go to school to become a hairdresser and it took her 1 year. And she wanted to take out a \$5,000 loan to do that. And then I had another daughter who wanted to go through 4 years of college and 3 years of law school and wanted to borrow \$5,000 a year to do that. Well, guess what? My daughter who went to school to be a hairdresser would be paying through her taxes the in-school interest subsidy on my other daughter who wants to accumulate a \$35,000 loan and then get out and become a wealthy attorney.

We, Republicans, are making a proposal that these students pay that in-school interest subsidy in the form of added principal when they graduate. This may sound like an onerous, terrible burden to place on our college students and our professional career students when they get out of law school or medical school, but the truth is, Mr. Speaker, that the average increase in the size of that student loan will roughly be equivalent to their cable bill. It will be about \$27 a month, the average student will have to pay in extra costs on their student loan, not exactly what I would consider to be an onerous burden to place on a student who has a great likelihood of making a fairly good income, a substantially better income than the average person who goes out there and works when they get out of high school.

Mr. Speaker, this proposal of the Republicans is a fair proposal, but probably more importantly, one of the best reasons why this is a good proposal is we do not have the money to pay for this. We have to borrow the money to pay those interest payments for those college students. Indeed, these college students, when they get out and those who have had their student loan interest paid, it has been paid in the form of added Federal debt. Those students, when they get out of college, will have more debt to pay off in the form of an added debt burden.

Mr. Speaker, our proposal, the Republican proposal, is a logical proposal. It is a fair proposal. And, indeed, it is a proposal that asks the people who are most able to pay to pick up the tab. But we are going to hear a lot of rhetoric about this being something that is

bad and evil, but, Mr. Speaker, it is fair. It is logical. It makes sense. It is something that is badly needed. And I support the elimination of the in-school interest subsidy.

I ask that all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle do so so that we can help balance the budget and we can help create a better future for our children and our grandchildren.

SHARING AND CARING HANDS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Minnesota [Mr. RAMSTAD] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I attended a truly memorable event in Minnesota. It was the dedication of Mary's Place. And at that dedication, I saw love and compassion up close. Mary's Place is a transitional housing facility built through the vision and the persistence of Mary Jo Copeland, Minnesota's Mother Teresa. Mary's Place is a shining example of how we can use nongovernmental private solutions to solve the problems facing our country.

This was a \$7.2 million transitional shelter, 200 beds for homeless people, \$7.2 million all raised through private businesses, individuals, and churches, not one penny of government money.

Mr. Speaker, last month I saw firsthand why Mary Jo Copeland is Minnesota's Mother Teresa. I was touring the new facility before it was open, and I watched Mary Joe interrupt that tour to go across the street to greet a homeless family, a young mother and her three little children. And that family was forced to leave their home after her husband beat her and to watch Mary Joe hug those bewildered, broken children brought tears to my eyes. Everyone who has been to Sharing and Caring Hands, all of the volunteers, every one who goes there daily to assist other people have seen that same kind of love and compassion firsthand.

Yesterday we celebrated several things, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned, we dedicated the \$7.2 million facility. We also celebrated 10 years of love and compassion and concern like that I just explained.

Let me tell you a little bit about Sharing and Caring Hands, because I believe we need to replicate this wonderful organization throughout our great country. This organization, Sharing and Caring Hands, was founded in 1985 as a safety net organization to assist those who are not getting help from the welfare system. Each and every month, Mr. Speaker, 12,000 people, 12,000 homeless, hurting people are assisted through a food shelf, meals, clothing, showers, dental care, medical help, eye glasses, transportation, Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, and school tutoring for children. These services are all provided by hundreds of volunteers and private contributions,

again, not one penny of taxpayer money.

Over \$150,000, therefore, each month, all of the funds raised by Sharing and Caring Hands, goes directly to the recipients. Nobody take a salary. Mary Jo works 14 or 15 hours each and every day. No salary, strictly volunteer work. As Mary Jo puts it, a labor of love.

Mr. Speaker, we need to focus national attention on this model organization. Mary Jo Copeland and her volunteers at Sharing and Caring Hands have taught and are teaching America a lot about caring and about sharing, about true compassion.

Mr. Speaker, I believe this project should serve as a model and a beacon of hope, a beacon for those of us who are dedicated to the principle that each of us can make a difference in the lives of other people through volunteerism and commitment. As we all know, there has been much focus here in Congress about ways to strengthen the family. Everyone agrees that the breakdown of families has provided a whole new range of social problems.

What Mary Jo Copeland and everyone at Sharing and Caring Hands have done, Mr. Speaker, is to create a kind of sharing, caring, compassionate, and concerned family. Sharing and Caring Hands is truly that for so many people.

It is a very special family that is taking in new brothers and sisters each and every day. Yesterday we dedicated a new family home, Mary's Place, a place where people know they can find comfort, they can find love. They can find a safe haven. They can find support that you would find that we are able to find in the majority of American families. So while the debate rages here in Congress on how best to provide the resources necessary for people to become more self-sufficient, Sharing and Caring Hands is already here showing us how, without bureaucratic strings and without taxpayer dollars, people can make a real difference in the lives of those less fortunate, in the lives of people who are hurting.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we need to replicate Sharing and Caring Hands throughout the United States. Mary Jo Copeland's vision can make a difference in your communities and States just like Sharing and Caring Hands is making a real difference in the lives of real people in the twin cities of Minnesota.

Mr. Speaker, I take my hat off to Mary Jo Copeland and all of her volunteers for what they are doing in Minnesota. We are very, very proud of them and grateful for them.

MEDICARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. FOX] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.