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House of Representatives

The House met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. EVERETT].

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 17, 1995.

I hereby designate the Honorable TERRY EVERETT to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12, rule I, the House will stand in recess until 12 noon.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 31 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until 12 noon.

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. EVERETT) at 12 noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

We speak about Your sovereignty, O God, and yet we often act as if You did not exist; our prayers of devotion call upon Your name and yet we think we can walk alone; our public petitions invoke Your grace and yet privately we do not care; our mouths call upon You with requests and appeals and yet our hearts and souls go their own way. Slow us down, O gracious God, and turn us to the truth to see You as the author of all creation, the redeemer of all

that is good, the pilot that gives us direction and our guardian through all the perils of life. Bless us this day and every day, we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. DINGELL] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. DINGELL led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ON MEDICARE

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

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, like the many seniors who have contacted me, I am shocked that the Republican budget slashes Medicare by \$270 billion.

It now appears that Republicans are preparing to end Medicare as we know it. Recent media reports indicate that they want to privatize this valuable program, as they did when it was enacted in 1965.

Sadly, the Republicans are hiding their plans for reforming Medicare. The current legislative schedule allows for only a few days in September to introduce, review, and vote on their proposed changes. If my colleagues across the aisle have such wonderful ideas for

ensuring the solvency of Medicare and the health of their seniors, why are they keeping them a secret? What are they afraid of?

It appears that they are trying to sneak their radical and extreme cuts by the American public. I can understand why they would be inclined to do so, given the fact that they are also pushing a \$240 billion tax cut for the wealthy.

Raiding Medicare to pay for this unwise tax cut will inflict unacceptable pain on this Nation's seniors. Out-of-pocket expenses for seniors will rise by \$850 by the year 2002. These cuts will also greatly diminish the ability of older Americans to access quality care.

Seniors have a right to know what is in store for Medicare, especially if they are being asked to bear skyrocketing premiums and limited access to care to help finance tax breaks for the wealthy.

I call upon my Republican colleagues to deliver a full and open debate on how best to improve and strengthen Medicare. I also urge them to join me in rejecting the unfair tax break/Medicare cut tradeoff being advanced.

DO NOT TAKE AWAY HEALTH CARE SECURITY FROM OUR SENIORS

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

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, while I was in my district yesterday, I met senior citizens who are frightened. They don't have much money to spare, and they watch what they spend. They are worried that they will lose the security of Medicare.

They understand that cuts to Medicare are not reform. They understand that they will pay more.

I share their concern. The Republicans say they will give seniors more

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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