The Gingrich plan to privatize Medicare will mean that seniors will pay more in premiums and deductibles and will lose their choice of doctors. Under the Gingrich plan, recipients who now pay $46.10 per month for Medicare part B would pay more than $110 per month.

Thirty years ago when Medicare was established, 93 percent of Republicans opposed the plan. Now, the Gingrich Republicans are walking in lockstep once again and are out to achieve a 30-year goal, dismantling what they never wanted in the first place—Medicare.

FINDINGS OF FIRST AUDIT

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

Mr. LARGENT. Mr. Speaker, this is a small sample of what the House books look like. I think the American people expect us to not only read the House books but also to have an audit of the House books, and today marks the release of findings of the first—America, did you hear that—the first audit of the House books in history.

In this audit, the auditors found in the last Congress a shocking disregard for financial controls, a disregard for businesslike practice and frequently having waived the rules regarding the House books.

Some of the promises that we made on the first day of this Congress was that Congress would live under the same laws that everybody else has to abide by. I think that is only fair. Another one of the promises that we made was that we would have the first audit ever of the House books.

The auditors have come back and said that the House books are in a shambles.

Mr. Speaker, there is an old adage that says if it does not work at home, do not export it.

Let me tell you, it has not worked in this House for a long time. But this year we are making it work in this home and then export it to the rest of the American people.

□ 1020

MAY'S TRADE NUMBERS

(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, just hot off the press, America ran another budget-busting $11.4 billion trade deficit for the month of May, continuing the recordbreaking hemorrhage for 1995 for our country. For the first 5 months of this year, we recorded a trade deficit with the world of over $52 billion, an increase of 30 percent over the same period last year, more lost wages for this country, more lost wealth. What is the administration, the leadership of this House, and every other ''blind trader'' around Washington doing about this bleeding of America's wealth?

While we chalked up a deficit of $2.8 billion with China just in May and a projected $32 billion deficit with them for this year, the administration is pushing for extension of most-favored-nation for China. With Mexico, after all the promises of increased exports to Mexico, our country is projected to run a $20 billion trade deficit with them this year. American workers can no longer afford to sustain these kinds of trade losses. Let us bring that wealth back to America.

REPUBLICANS STAND FOR CHANGE, DEMOCRATS STAND FOR THE STATUS QUO

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

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, we, the Republican majority, are committed to preserving, protecting, and improving the Medicare system. However, the other side continues to play the political games and ignores the writing on the wall. The Clinton Medicare trustees stated that the program will be bankrupt by the 2002. The fact that the system is going bankrupt makes our efforts more important than ever before.

Our plan gives States the flexibility needed to design effective, innovative health programs tailored to meet the special needs of individual citizens. We will not cut the Medicare Program, instead our proposal includes a spending increase of $340 billion over the next 7 years—a 34-percent increase in Medicare spending per retiree.

We will clean up the waste and inefficiency in the system and provide an improved system for current and future generations.

Bottom line, we stand for change, the Democrats stand for the status quo.

CALLING ON THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE TO DENOUNCE RACISM

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

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, it is rare that I come to this well with news that is unpleasant. My tendency is to be very positive about most things all the time. However, I will share several events that I would like to call to Members' attention.

On Thursday, as I was in the elevator 5B in the Rayburn House Office Building, on the very elevator door was written these words: ''Niggers equal crime.'' As if that was not enough, the problem for me was exacerbated when about 3 o'clock on Sunday morning I was awakened by a telephone call. That telephone call said to me, in a prank call, ''We are going to join NEWT GINGRICH in killing all niggers.''

Mr. Speaker, I urge you this morning to mount this well as Speaker of the House of Representatives, as a leader in this Nation, to let this country know that these epithets do not represent you. In the depths of my heart I would hope that you would help us to make all Americans believe that.

EFFORTS TO SAVE MEDICARE ARE NOT MEAN-SPIRITED

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

Mr. KIM. Mr. Speaker, I had a design engineering firm before I joined in Congress 2½ years ago, and at one time I had 150 employees, and I am an expert in mathematics. Let me tell the Members, this is the flat tax that the political leadership proposed, a 17 percent flat tax. This is what is proposed by my colleagues on the other side of the aisle. It is a different bracket based upon income.

Let me plot this. They insist this is a flat tax also. I would like to ask the American people, does that seem flat to them? Let me take a look at this Medicare. Mr. Speaker, this line is leading into bankruptcy within 7 years. The bottom line is what the Republicans are proposing, trying to save and preserve the Medicare system from bankruptcy. Look at these two lines. This green line is simply trying to slow down the rate of increase just a little bit. Still there is an increase. Each year we are spending more money. My colleagues call it cuts, draconian cuts, mean-spirited cuts. I just do not understand this.

FOLDING OF NEW YORK NEWSDAY

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

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, yesterday morning when I woke up in New York, I did what I customarily do, I go to the door of my apartment and pick up the newspapers. Something was missing. That was New York Newsday, the paper that folded that Sunday. All New Yorkers, and particularly those of us who read Newsday and were covered in Newsday, regret this loss very much.

Whether it was their feisty and comprehensive coverage in New York City or the investigations they did or the thoroughness with which they treated the outer boroughs, Brooklyn, Queens, where I come from, or whether it was the complete, fair, and balanced coverage of Washington which made the reader interested in what went on there, New York Newsday is going to be missed. I regret very much that it is not continuing.

It seemed that it was almost about to turn a profit when its life was untimely ended, and yet those of us who know the reporters and editors and delivery people who made this newspaper tick will tell the Members one thing: It did a great job, it improved all of its competitor papers, as they would be the first to admit, and it made our city a

better place. New Yorkers and Americans will miss New York Newsday.

OPPOSE THE ANTIFARMER LOWEY AMENDMENT

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

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, having lived in the middle of Georgia's farm belt all my adult life, I want to make sure the facts are on the table as we debate this year's agriculture appropriations bill.

It concerns me that big city representatives think that cutting farm programs is the simple solution to budget problems. For example, Mrs. LOWEY of New York plans to offer an amendment which would lower the support price of peanuts from $678 per ton to $550 per ton.

Now, she thinks that a cut like this will produce savings, but according to USDA it would cost taxpayers around $100 million. That's right, a cut that would cost taxpayers millions.

But that is not all. She also believes that this cut will spell out savings for consumers. Wrong again. Reduction in the farm price for peanuts will not be passed on to the consumers.

In fact, 74 percent of the consumer's cost for peanut butter is added on by food processors after peanuts are sold by farmers. This amendment would actually increase profits for multinational commodity traders and food companies by paying farmers less for their peanuts.

Oppose the antifarmer Lowey amendment. It will not lower Government costs, it will not lower consumer prices, but it will devastate small, family farmers across the country.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Edwin Thomas, one of his secretaries.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2020, TREASURY, POSTAL SERVICE, AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1996

H. RES. 190

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 1(b) of rule XXIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2020) making appropriations for the Treasury Department, the United States Postal Service, the Executive Office of the President, and certain independent agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The bill shall be considered by title rather than by paragraph. Each title shall be considered as read. Points of order against provisions in the bill for failure to comply with clause 2 or 6 of rule XXI are waived except as follows: beginning with ''*Provided further*'' on page 33, line 2, through ''Maryland:'' on line 13; and page 42, line 9, through page 43, line 6. Where points of order are waived against part of a paragraph, points of order against a provision in another part of such paragraph may be made only against such provision and not against the entire paragraph. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD designated for that purpose in clause 6 of rule XXIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida [Mr. DIAZ-BALART] is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. For purposes of debate only, Mr. Speaker, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from California [Mr. BEILENSON], pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for purposes of debate only.

(Mr. DIAZ-BALART asked and was given permission to include extraneous material.)

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 190 is an open rule, providing for the consideration of H.R. 2020, the Treasury, Postal Service, and general government appropriations bill for fiscal year 1996. H.R. 2020 provides funds for the Treasury Department, the United States Postal Service, the Executive Office of the President, and certainly independent agencies.

The rule waives clause 2, prohibiting unauthorized and legislative provisions, and clause 6, prohibiting reappropriations, of rule XXI against provisions in the bill, except as otherwise specified in the rule.

The rule also provides for the reading of the bill by title, rather than by section, for amendment, and each title is considered as read. In addition, the Chair is authorized to accord priority in recognition to members who have preprinted their amendments in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. And finally, the rule provides for one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

I would like to stress that this rule is an open rule, so open that it does not even restrict dilatory tactics. We are hopeful that Members will not utilize stalling techniques that do not advance debate nor improve the substance of legislation.

This rule does not provide waivers of the rules for any amendments to H.R. 2020. It is a standard open rule, and Members who want to move funds around or reduce funding for certain programs will be able to do so within the parameters of House rules. Any battles regarding the level of funding for particular programs or projects can be decided on the floor in a deliberative manner.

I would like to commend Subcommittee Chairman LIGHTFOOT and Chairman LIVINGSTON for their hard work on this bill. As an open rule on this $23 billion measure, House Resolution 190 could not be more fair, and I urge its adoption. Mr. Speaker, for the RECORD, I include the following information regarding amendments:

THE AMENDMENT PROCESS UNDER SPECIAL RULES REPORTED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE,[1] 103D CONGRESS V. 104TH CONGRESS

[As of July 17, 1995]

Rule type	103d Congress		104th Congress	
	Number of rules	Percent of total	Number of rules	Percent of total
Open/Modified-open[2]	46	44	35	73
Modified Closed[3]	49	47	12	25
Closed[4]	9	9	1	2
Totals:	104	100	48	100

[1] This table applies only to rules which provide for the original consideration of bills, joint resolutions or budget resolutions and which provide for an amendment process. It does not apply to special rules which only waive points of order against appropriations bills which are already privileged and are considered under an open amendment process under House rules.

[2] An open rule is one under which any Member may offer a germane amendment under the five-minute rule. A modified open rule is one under which any Member may offer a germane amendment under the five-minute rule subject only to an overall time limit on the amendment process and/or a requirement that the amendment be preprinted in the Congressional Record.

[3] A modified closed rule is one under which the Rules Committee limits the amendments that may be offered only to those amendments designated in the special rule or the Rules Committee report to accompany it, or which preclude amendments to a particular portion of a bill, even though the rest of the bill may be completely open to amendment.

[4] A closed rule is one under which no amendments may be offered (other than amendments recommended by the committee in reporting the bill).