

previous question, "nay"; and roll call No. 525, agreeing to the resolution, "aye".

□ 2015

THE MOST WANTED POSTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. (Mr. McINNIS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from North Carolina [Mrs. CLAYTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, recently certain elements of the Republican Party published a so-called "Wanted" poster, wherein twenty-eight Democratic Members of Congress were identified as targets.

This callous, insensitive, and abhorrent act is offensive, repulsive, and ugly.

I take this opportunity to use these strong terms because the "Wanted" poster targeted a particular group of Members.

Twenty-two of the twenty-eight Democrats are African-American, Hispanic, Jewish or female.

Apart from those classes of individuals, there was no other rhyme, reason or rational relationship to reasonably put these Members in a group—refer to them as "Wanted"—and lace the poster with language such as aiding and abetting—suggesting that these public servants should be associated with criminal allegations.

I was not on the list, Mr. Speaker, but this act was insulting to me as an American and should be insulting to every American who favors freedom, democracy and the way we function as a Government and as a people.

More than an affront, this act was a very sad deed.

Congressman PAXON claimed that the faces on the "Wanted" poster were chosen because of their voting records.

Another spokesperson claimed that the faces were chosen because of their geographic location.

Still another spokesperson claimed the faces were chosen because they were from areas deemed winnable by Republican strategists.

The fact is that it would appear that little or no thought was given to this disgusting act.

Perhaps this act was driven by the same attitude that created Willie Horton during a recent Presidential campaign.

The fact is that among the faces on the "Wanted" poster are African-Americans, Hispanics, Jewish Americans and women who won their last elections with as much as three-fourths of the vote in their districts.

Few of the faces represent districts that could even remotely be considered politically vulnerable.

This poster appealed to the worse kind of sentiment we can imagine. It appealed to emotions that brought us bull dogs and billy clubs in past years.

And, it appealed to emotions that have brought us Oklahoma City and

those organized band of thugs whose purpose is to deny to some the rights that they demand for themselves.

Again, Mr. Speaker, these are strong words that I use—words that I do not ordinarily use on the floor of the House.

But, unless we speak out against this kind of dangerous and demeaning act, none of us will be able to enjoy the fruits of this democracy.

I condemn this condemnable act in the strongest of terms.

WE WANT TO MAKE MEDICARE A BETTER SYSTEM

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

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, we are debating here on the floor of the House or we are having discussion going on concerning Medicare, and I have got a couple of charts here that I want to share.

I want to read, my colleagues, a 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, not three times the rate of inflation. But this quote says the person that made this statement said that we are proposing to let it go up at two times the rate of inflation rather than three times the rate of inflation. That is not a Medicare or Medicaid cut. So, when you hear all this business about cuts, let me caution you that that is not what is going on. We are going to have increases in Medicare and Medicaid and a reduction in the rate of growth.

President Clinton, 1993.

I find that it is interesting, Mr. Speaker, that when we talk about Medicare and Medicaid it seems as though when Republicans talk about Medicaid and Medicare and we are slowing down the rate of growth, it seems that that is a cut. However, when the President talk about slowing down the growth in Medicare or Medicaid, then that seems to be an increase.

I want to share with you a chart here from 1995 through the year 2002 and just wanted to illustrate what the dollar figures are concerning the Medicare spending and the plan that is before America. In 1995, we will spend \$178.2 billion. Now, Mr. Speaker, that is per beneficiary, per month, about \$401. In 1996, we will spend 191 billion; 1997, 201.8 billion; 1998, 213.8 billion; 1999, 226.3 billion; the year 2000, 238.9 billion; the year 2001, 255.4 billion; and in the year 2002, 274.1 billion.

Now the per beneficiary/per month, dollar amount goes from \$401 a month in the year 1995 to the year 2002, going to \$561 a month per beneficiary, and I ask the American people, "Where is the cut?"

Mr. Speaker, the Medicare Board of Trustees, and three of these trustees are—six total—three of these trustees were appointed by the President of the

United States, his current administration, and those six trustees signed off on the annual report of the Medicare Board of Trustees report that said that by the year 1996 that Medicare would be broken, by the year 2002 Medicare would be bankrupt, if we do not deal with it.

Now that report was consistent in 1994, and it is consistent in 1995. That was the conclusion that, if we do not do something about Medicare, that it would be bankrupt by the year 2002.

So, in the President's plan he refused to deal with Medicare. The Republicans we are choosing to deal with it so we can save Medicare for our children, for our children's children, for future generations. We know that there are people today that depend on Medicare, and, if we let this go unnoticed and do not choose to deal with this, we will have many, many people in this country, especially the senior citizens, that will be crippled tremendously if we do nothing about this.

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to stand here and to commend the gentleman for bringing to the attention of the American people the statistics that you have offered here this evening. We have been struggling for a long time, and you are helping us now, struggling to get the message across to people to be, contrary to the propaganda that we have heard about the cuts in Medicare and Medicaid, and the gentleman has gone a long way in dispelling the doubts that are out in the American public. I wanted to commend him for that.

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. There is a hundred billion dollars in the Medicare system that was spend in the year 1994, and 44 billion of that was fraud. We want to cut the fraud. We want to made Medicare a better system. We want to preserve it for our children, our children's children, for the future of America.

THE STATUS OF THE MEDICARE PROGRAM IN THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. HOKE] is recognized for 40 minutes and the gentleman from Florida [Mr. BILIRAKIS] will be recognized for 20 minutes as the designees of the majority leader.

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, tonight during the time that we have allotted in the leadership hour for special orders I have asked some of my colleagues to help me talk about the status of the Medicare program in the United States and to try to elucidate for the American people exactly where we are at, where we are going, what our responsibilities are and how we are going to meet those responsibilities, and I am going to, before I yield any time to my