

more for Medicare. They will get less of a cost of living, and their rent will go up.

At least older people who read the comics and remember Al Capp, Lil' Abner, and Evil-Eye Fliegial will know what is happening to them. They are about to get the Republican triple whammy.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. There being no further requests for morning business, pursuant to clause 12, rule I, the House will stand in recess until 10 a.m.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 49 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until 10 a.m.

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 10 a.m.

PRAYER

The Reverend Ronald K. Austin, Spirit of Peace Baptist Church, Washington, DC, offered the following prayer:

Eternal God, the creator and sustainer of all life, we come before You this morning and pray that You would continue to be our ever present strength. Touch our minds and hearts this day that we might continue to be Your instruments for love and justice in this great Nation of ours. May Your light continue to lead this great body of men and women in the difficult decisions that they must make. Be with them in the good times and especially in the tough times. Also we pray for their families because they need Your strength also. Now help us all, dear Father, to reach that great day when nation will not take up sword against nation nor will they train for war anymore. In Your Holy name we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. 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 gentlewoman from California [Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair announces there will be ten 1-minutes on each side.

SUMMARY OF SOCIAL SECURITY MEDICARE ANNUAL REPORTS

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

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, this is a report that is a summary of the 1995 annual reports of the Social Security and Medicare boards of trustees. I urge every American to call their Representative at 202-224-3121 and get a copy of it. This is the annual report of your Government, about your trust funds for Social Security and, most importantly, Medicare.

It is something that you should read. It is clearly written. There is a problem, and you need to know about it. Outside of this politicized atmosphere of rhetoric, outside of the demagoguery that is going on, you need to be able to read this yourself and make your own decision. It is 202-224-3121, so that you know what is going on with these trust funds. Please call your Representative. Ask for the summary of the annual reports.

HUD PROGRAM CUTS

(Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, the \$7 billion cut from HUD's 1996 budget will decimate Federal housing programs when housing needs are at their worst, particularly among families with children.

In 1993 alone, 5.6 million family households were in need of housing. And, every night, 600,000 households are homeless.

These proposed cuts will cause much needless pain and suffering.

A \$700 million cut in public housing authority operating budgets will result in increased rents and deterioration of public housing.

These, cuts will also reduce existing housing levels for the elderly, the disabled, and persons with AIDS.

Finally, these cuts prevent distressed communities from leveraging private investment for economic development to improve life in these areas.

This Republican proposal is fused with fact and fiction. The fiction is that these cuts are necessary in order to reduce the Federal deficit, and that all of us must share the pain. The fact is there will be no pain sharing. The rich will get richer and the poor Americans will pay the price.

PROTECT MEDICARE

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

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, Norma and I have realized the American dream. We built our own log home. We cut down the trees, we built the home, we now own the home free and clear. But what of the future? We are both eligible for Medicare.

We are deeply concerned about Medicare. Previous Congresses have spent all the money, decades of wild, irresponsible spending on pork, and foreign aid, and so forth, and they did not build a secure base for Medicare. It is now an insecure base.

The President's own commission says that Medicare will go bankrupt by the year 2002 if we do not fix it. We are not going to let that happen. The new majority will preserve and protect Medicare. It is going to increase 5 percent or more each year in the benefits. Thousands of people are counting on it. We have given our word, and we will not fail them.

EMBRACE NEW TELECOMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGIES

(Ms. ESHOO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I amended the telecommunications bill to ensure the emergence of the Smart House—a fully automated digital home which the chart next to me diagrams. It is all about the future.

The amendment ensures that the FCC does not limit consumers' ability to use their computers to provide security, maintain air quality, and provide entertainment.

The language is supported by American business alliances including the Telecommunications Industry Association [TIA], the Alliance to Promote Software Innovation [APSI], and the National Cable Television Association [NCTA].

On the other hand, foreign TV manufacturers are pushing for FCC standards that will establish television sets as the gatekeeper to home automation systems.

Mr. Speaker, the issue is simply. We can either embrace the future by allowing new technologies to flourish with minimum Government interference or cling to the past.

I urge you to protect the cable compatibility language in H.R. 1555 and oppose any amendment to limit or strike it.

STRENGTHEN MEDICARE

(Ms. PRYCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PRYCE. Mr. Speaker, where is the Democrats' plan to save Medicare? They cannot fix it by whining.

They cannot solve the crisis by finger-pointing and fear-mongering.

And they cannot fool America's seniors with their demagoguery.

This weekend, the Democrats will pose as proud fathers of Medicare on its 30th anniversary.

But, when the prodigal son comes home facing imminent bankruptcy and desperately needing help, those proud parents turn their backs, close their minds, and close the door on America's senior citizens.

Where it comes to Medicare, the Democrats are deadbeat dads.

We urge the Democrats to join us as we work to strengthen Medicare for today's and tomorrow's retired Americans.

LET US GET TO THE TRUTH ON WACO

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, Federal agents say that cult leaders in Waco were liars, and that may be true. But something does not add up. It is now known that Federal officials came to learn that their so-called surprise raid had been leaked. They were expected to show at the compound. They knew that the surprise element was gone. That raid had danger and escalation written all over it like a neon sign, yet they sent in the troops. Four agents were killed.

Now, let us tell it like it is. Those cult leaders may have been liars, but those Federal agents and leaders have been lying through their teeth, stone cold lying through their teeth. They knew what was happening. They are lying to the American people, and Congress should not allow it.

From Potts down, this thing stinks. You know it. I know it. The American people know it.

Let us get to the truth.

IMPROVE MEDICARE

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

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, Medicare is going broke. If we do nothing about it, in 7 years it will be totally bankrupt. But instead of backing reforms, some Members in this body want to play politics with this very important issue.

Let me share with you a letter I just received from a constituent:

I am sending the enclosed to you to add to your file of examples of the foolish and wasteful application of government personnel and funds. I would be embarrassed to present this check to my bank for processing.

And here is a check for 1 cent, sent to him as a Medicare B payment.

The Republican Party is determined to save Medicare. Mr. Speaker, we intend to create a Medicare system that offers the best care at the lowest cost. Together we will improve Medicare so that it can be protected and saved.

SENIORS WILL FIGHT FOR MEDICARE

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, well, another day has passed without our Republican colleagues disclosing even a single detail of how they are going to hike health care costs for American seniors. What they have disclosed in a cynical memo are the details of how they are going to try to convince seniors that they are not in fact being had.

Yes, Speaker GINGRICH has turned to the same public relations firm that generated that all-time great campaign gimmick, the contract on Americans. And now they have produced an interesting document called, everything you ever wanted to know, not about saving Medicare, but about communicating Medicare.

And what does it tell us? It says: Do not talk about improving Medicare, Republican colleagues. We cannot afford to raise expectations.

Well, that is revealing. Then it goes on to say: Keep in mind that seniors are very pack oriented and very susceptible to being led.

When it comes to older Americans, I respect their intelligence as well as their pocketbook, and they are not going to be led in a pack off a cliff by a bunch of Republicans. They are going to fight for Medicare.

SAVE MEDICARE

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

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, my good friend from Texas once again comes to the well of the House playing politics with Medicare. Communicating Medicare? What is wrong with that idea? Standing up in town hall meetings saying: Friends, we have a problem, which three Cabinet-level secretaries, three appointees of the President admit that Medicare will go bankrupt in 7 years if we do nothing. What is wrong with that?

And taking time to rationalize and formalize a rational policy on Medicare, where is the crime there? Far better to be engaged with the American public, working to save the program of Medicare, than to march to the well of the House as so many of my liberal friends do trying to scare senior citizens.

The fact is, yes, we are trying to communicate the fact that we have to save Medicare. And, yes, we are engaged in trying to save the very program. Do not let the whine producers, W-H-I-N-E, come to the floor again and again and whine and complain.

Challenge them to be part of the solution and not part of the problem.

MEDICARE

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

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Republicans are accusing Democrats of scaring senior citizens. Seniors should be scared because we do not have a plan yet from the Republicans, only leaked documents that lead us to believe Republicans plan to cut the program substantially. And so I ask one question: Why the secret or the stealth attack on Medicare? Why are the Republicans proposing deep and devastating cuts in the programs for seniors over the next 7 years? Well, they would answer they are trying to save the program from bankruptcy. At least that is what they have been told to say by their pollsters. They are being told to tell them you are saving the program, but they are really gutting it.

Let us think back to the last session of Congress, the 103d session, when Republicans attacked the Democratic plan to shore up Medicare. I remember there was not one Republican vote that helped pass that plan.

Now let us ask: Why are you raiding Medicare to balance the budget while at the same time providing huge tax cuts that almost equal the same amount that you are cutting for Medicare over the next 7 years?

Frankly, if it were up to Republicans, Medicare would not even exist today. But for many years now, Medicare has proven time and time again that it is one of the true success stories of our Government. It has dramatically improved the health care of our seniors and never again will older Americans have to choose between health care and rent or food.

MEDICARE

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

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, once again, one more time we hear the liberal Democrats whining and crying. They go to great lengths to convince senior citizens that Republicans are going to hurt them. But instead of the overheated rhetoric, let us talk about the facts.

It is a fact that in the last Congress, liberal Democrats voted to increase taxes on seniors. Not one Republican voted for that tax increase. Earlier this year, the Republicans voted to give seniors a tax cut to allow the seniors to keep more of the money that they earn. What did the liberal Democrats do? They voted against the tax cut for seniors.

When the trustees of Medicare, including three members of Mr. Clinton's administration, reports that Medicare is going bankrupt, Republicans are stepping up, stepping up to the plate trying to fix Medicare and preserve this system for the next century.