What is the liberal Democratic plan for Medicare? Nothing. Absolutely nothing.

MEDICARE AND OLDER WOMEN

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

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, Medicare is a social contract between the Federal Government and the American people. Nearly 20 million older women, many of them in Florida, have come to rely on quality health care under this program.

However, the sad fact is that women age 65 and over already spend an average of $2,827 for acute health care alone—33 percent of the median annual income of older women.

We must support and strengthen Medicare so that it can do more—not less—especially toward paying for prescription drugs and long-term care.

Until there is comprehensive health care reform, the Medicare Program must be protected from cuts that will jeopardize older women.

THE MONCADA BARRACKS

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow marks the 42d anniversary of Castro's nighttime attack on the Moncada barracks in Santiago de Cuba, an event which led to the emergence of Castro's rebel army and his ultimate triumphant, yet, as we were later to learn, tragic ride into Havana in 1959.

Little did many Cubans know that what occurred that night in 1953 was only the preamble to a tyranny that Cuba had not seen before. Tomorrow night my colleagues, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. DIAZ-BALART], the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. MENENDEZ], and I will host a dinner for our congressional colleagues with the participation of four victims of this 36-year-old tyranny.

Among them will be three former Cuban political prisoners who combined spent over 50 years in prison, one of them being a veteran of the Moncada attack. Also joining us will be a survivor of the latest indiscriminate attack last year by Castro on a tugboat filled with Cuban refugees.

These four individuals will offer first-hand accounts of Castro's thirst for political control of the island and the totalitarian methods he uses to maintain that control.

I urge my colleagues to join us tomorrow night.

NRA/WACO

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

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, when the Republicans cut the size of committee staffs at the beginning of this Congress, I was worried some congressional work would not get done.

Then, I figured out how the new GOP chairmen were going to manage.

As this week's Judiciary Committee hearings prove, they'll simply turn to the National Rifle Association for help.

But what kind of hearings did the NRA help with?

With hearings on welfare reform?

With hearings on health care?

No—with the Waco hearings.

Hearings where the actions of law enforcement agents were called into question—the same agents that the NRA calls thugs.

Hearings where laws combating the dangerous proliferation of guns are a central issue—the same laws that the NRA wants to wipe off the books.

When I entered Congress 2 years ago, I thought that the gun lobby had too large a role to play in the backrooms of Congress.

Now, it's obvious that they've moved from the backrooms to the committee rooms.

We do not even have to call them the gun lobby these days—because now, they do not even have to do their dirty work in the lobbies anymore.

MEDICARE AT A CROSSROADS

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

Mrs. SEASTRAND. Mr. Speaker, Medicare is at a crucial crossroads. President Clinton's Medicare board of trustees stated in their April 1995 report, and I quote ". . . the fund is projected to be exhausted in 2001 . . ." In other words, if we do nothing—as the liberal Democrats suggest—millions of Medicare recipients will be denied services. But, the obstructionist liberals would rather criticize the strengthening of Medicare than do something to save it. Medicare is a large Government bureaucracy that does not offer the degree of choice seniors deserve. Republicans are going to strengthen and simplify Medicare by controlling its skyrocketing costs and giving seniors more choices in services. Everyone agrees that Medicare is going broke, but only the Republicans in Congress are posing a solution to that problem. I invite my colleagues from the other side of the aisle to end their empty rhetoric and join our effort to save Medicare.

□ 1020

PERMISSION FOR CERTAIN COMMITTEES AND THEIR SUBCOMMITTEES TO SIT TODAY DURING THE 5-MINUTE RULE

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the following committees and their subcommittees be permitted to sit today while the House is meeting in the Committee of the Whole House under the 5-minute rule: the Committee on Agriculture, the Committee on Banking and Financial Services, the Committee on Commerce, the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities, the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, the Committee on House Oversight, the Committee on International Relations, the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Resources, the Committee on Science, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

It is my understanding that the minority has been consulted and that there is no objection to these requests.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCINNIS). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

Mr. MINETA. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, it is my understanding that our Democratic leadership has been consulted on this matter and we have no objection to this request, so I withdraw by reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

CORRECTIONS CALENDAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is the day for the call of the Corrections Calendar.

The Clerk will call the bill on the Corrections Calendar.

SAN DIEGO COASTAL CORRECTIONS ACT OF 1995

The Clerk called the bill (H.R. 1943) to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to deem certain municipal wastewater treatment facilities discharging into ocean waters as the equivalent of secondary treatment facilities.

The Clerk read the bill, as follows:

H.R. 1943

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "San Diego Coastal Corrections Act of 1995".

SEC. 2. COASTAL DISCHARGES.

Section 304(d) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1314(d)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(5) COASTAL DISCHARGES.—For purposes of this subsection, any municipal wastewater treatment facility shall be deemed the equivalent of a secondary treatment facility if each of the following requirements is met:

"(A) The facility employs chemically enhanced primary treatment.

"(B) The facility, on the date of the enactment of this paragraph, discharges through an ocean outfall into an open marine environment greater than 4 miles offshore into a depth greater than 300 feet.

"(C) The facility's discharge is in compliance with all local and State water quality standards for the receiving waters.