

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

There was no objection.

#### MEDISCAM, NOT MEDISCARE

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

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, in this town it seems it is always good to have a catch phrase. The latest catch phrase is "Mediscare," Mediscare, as though the cuts in Medicare were not really serious or not really painful. I think they are.

First, if you consider a premium increase of \$32 a month on a senior, I think that is pretty serious and pretty scary. If you consider that seniors will be forced to choose a doctor they can afford as opposed to the doctor they trust, I think that is pretty scary, when a senior is contemplating major surgery.

Third, if you contemplate the likely possibility that some hospitals will have to shut down, reduce services, or pass costs on to private patients, insured with private insurance, I think that is pretty scary.

When you hear the term "Mediscare," it should not be taken lightly. People say we have to do this to save the system. The trustees and the President suggest what we need is a modification, maybe \$90 to \$120 billion. But the Republicans are proposing \$270 billion. Why? So they can give a tax break to their rich friends.

If you make \$300,000, under this plan you are going to get back \$20,000 in tax breaks. This \$270 billion is not going back to save the trust fund. Not a penny will go back to the trust fund.

They mumble about the general fund. Translation: it is siphoned off for a tax break for the wealthy.

No, ladies and gentleman, the term should not be "Mediscare." It should be, "Mediscam," because that is what the American people are being subjected to in the latest Republican proposal on Medicare.

#### ENCOURAGING THE PEACE PROCESS IN SRI LANKA

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 181) encouraging the peace process in Sri Lanka.

The Clerk read as follows:

##### H. RES. 181

Whereas, the United States has enjoyed a long and cordial friendship with Sri Lanka;

Whereas as one manifestation of the warm ties between the United States and Sri Lanka, the First Lady of the United States visited Sri Lanka in April 1995;

Whereas Sri Lanka is a vibrant democracy whose government is committed to political pluralism, free market economics, and a respect for human rights;

Whereas the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam ("LTTE") have waged a protracted secessionist struggle in Sri Lanka for nearly 12 years;

Whereas an estimated 30,000 people have died in Sri Lanka as a result of these hostilities;

Whereas the Department of State's report on global terrorism names the LTTE as a major terrorist organization;

Whereas the LTTE is widely believed to have engaged in political assassinations, including the murder in 1994 of a leading candidate for the Sri Lankan presidency, and the killing in 1993 of President Ranasinghe Premadasa;

Whereas the government of President Kumaratunga initiated a dialogue with the LTTE in 1994, and took a number of other steps to ease tensions and set the stage for negotiations between the government and the LTTE, including lifting the ban on the transit of many commodities to Jaffna;

Whereas a cessation of hostilities in Sri Lanka went into effect on January 8, 1995;

Whereas 4 rounds of peace talks between the government and the LTTE took place; and

Whereas in April 1995, the LTTE withdrew from these negotiations and resumed military operations against the Government of Sri Lanka that have resulted in hundreds of casualties, including many innocent civilians: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) notes with great satisfaction the warm and friendly relations that exist between the United States and Sri Lanka;

(2) applauds the commitment to democracy demonstrated by the Sri Lankan people, in defiance of brutal acts of wanton terrorism;

(3) commends the Sri Lankan people and the Government of Sri Lanka for the significant improvements in Sri Lanka in the area of human rights;

(4) applauds the cessation of hostilities in early 1995 between the Government of Sri Lanka and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam ("LTTE") and deplores the resumption of fighting;

(5) calls on the LTTE to desist in its resort to arms, and to return to the negotiating table;

(6) calls on all parties to negotiate in good faith with a view to ending the current armed strife in Sri Lanka and to finding a just and lasting political settlement to Sri Lanka's ethnic conflict while assuring the territorial integrity of Sri Lanka;

(7) believes that a political solution, including appropriate constitutional structures and adequate protection of minority rights, is the path to a comprehensive and lasting peace in Sri Lanka;

(8) denounces all political violence and acts of terrorism in Sri Lanka, and calls upon those who espouse such methods to reject these methods and to embrace dialogue, democratic norms, and the peaceful resolution of disputes;

(9) calls on all parties to respect the human rights of the Sri Lankan people; and

(10) states its willingness in principle to see the United States lend its good offices to help resolve the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka, if so desired by all parties to the conflict.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. BEREUTER] will be recognized for 20 minutes, and the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. WYNN] will be recognized for 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. BEREUTER].

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. BEREUTER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, located at the southern tip of the South Asia subcontinent, the tiny Indian Ocean island nation of Sri Lanka has, for the last decade and a half, been the site of one of the bloodiest ethnic wars. The conflict has pitted the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam—or Tamil Tigers—against the democratically elected government in Colombo, with at least 30,000—and possibly as many as 50,000—Sri Lankans of all ethnic persuasions perishing in this bloody conflict.

With both sides weary of the unrelenting bloodshed, a cessation of hostilities went into effect at the beginning of 1995, and the government and the Tamil rebels entered into a series of peace talks. Regrettably, this peace that was short lived, and the Tamil Tigers unilaterally resumed their attacks on April 19. The recent attacks have been particularly brutal, with a pair of transport aircraft being shot down, and a fishing village burned to the ground with massive loss of life.

In retaliation, the government has launched its inevitable offensive against Tiger-held territory, with government forces cutting a broad swath through positions long controlled by the rebels, thereby causing hundreds of casualties and displacing thousands of noncombatants.

This pattern of rebel offensives and government counteroffensives is all too familiar. Over the past dozen years, this cycle has been repeated time and time again. House Resolution 181 calls on the parties to break out of this vicious cycle of death and destruction. The resolution recognizes the good faith efforts of the Sri Lankan Government to work for peace, and commends the dramatic improvement in the government's human rights practices. It also denounces all acts of violence and terrorism, regardless of the perpetrator.

House Resolution 181 calls on the parties to negotiate in good faith with a view to ending the conflict and finding a just and lasting peaceful settlement to the ethnic divisions while assuring the territorial integrity of Sri Lanka.

The resolution also encourages the United States to lend its good offices to help in resolving the conflict, if so desired by the combating parties.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution passed unanimously out of the International Relations Committee. I would congratulate the ranking Democrat of the full committee, Mr. HAMILTON, for his initiative in drafting this resolution. First, it recognizes the very real efforts made by the ruling government to respect basic human rights and achieve a just peace. As House Resolution 181 notes, the resolution recognizes that improvements have indeed occurred.

Second, the resolution places the House squarely on the side of peace in a conflict that has been every bit as brutal as the war in Bosnia.

Mr. Speaker, this Member is pleased to cosponsor the excellent resolution of