

with amendments and requested conference on H.R. 1868; that the Senate disagreed to House amendments and agreed to conference on S. 440; that the Senate passed S. 619; that the Senate agreed to conference report on H.R. 1854.

With warm regards,

ROBIN H. CARLE,
Clerk, House of Representatives.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain fifteen 1-minutes on each side.

REFLECTIONS ON THE 1-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONTRACT

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

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, it has been 1 year since House Republicans stood on the west front of the Capitol and promised to change dramatically the way Congress works. We signed a contract that said that we will bring to the floor 10 legislative priorities important to the American people. We brought those bills to the floor and passed nine of them. We kept our promises. We proved that politicians can tell the truth. We proved that real change is possible in Washington.

Mr. Speaker, Rome was not built in a day, and completely reforming the Congress will take more than 1 year. But we have made great strides.

This fall we will focus on four issues critical to our Nation's future: We will pass a budget that balances in 7 years; we will strengthen and protect the Medicare system; we will get tax relief to families who need to have more money to raise their children; and we will reform welfare to give folks a hand up and not a handout.

Columnist David Broder has called this Congress "a rout of historic proportions." Is it not amazing what can happen when you keep your promises to the American people?

SHUTTING OUT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ON MEDICARE

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, a story in yesterday's USA Today regarding Republican plans to cut more than \$270 billion from Medicare quoted 76-year-old Naomi Cutrer. Naomi voiced concern that Republicans are rushing through these Medicare cuts, without public hearings. She said:

We need to slow down. They've only held one hearing on Medicare, and I don't know how many on Ruby Ridge and Whitewater.

Well, Naomi, here's your answer—Congress has had 10 days of hearings on Ruby Ridge, 10 days of hearings on Waco, 28 days of hearings on Whitewater and only a single hearing on Medicare.

Naomi Cutrer and seniors like her all across this country are right to be concerned about attempts by Republicans to ram through these Medicare cuts,

without public hearings and without public input. This is supposed to be a government of, by, and for the people, but when it comes to Medicare the American people are being shut up and shut out.

DUCKING RESPONSIBILITY ON MEDICARE

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, over the past several months, the Democrats, during our continuing debate over Medicare, have often accused the Republicans of many things which we are not doing, as we have tried to outline our plans. The comment you heard from the previous speaker is an example of that, ignoring the fact that a number of hearings were held on Medicare before the plan was issued.

The Washington Post has this to say about the Democrats' MediScare campaign.

They have no plan. Mr. Gephardt says they can't offer one because the Republicans would simply pocket the money to finance their tax cut. It is the perfect defense. The Democrats can't do the right thing because the Republicans would then do the wrong one. But that has nothing to do with Medicare. The Democrats have fabricated the Medicare-tax-cut connection because it is useful politically. It allows them to attack and to duck responsibility both at the same time. We think it is wrong.

Mr. Speaker, I agree with the Washington Post. I believe the American public agrees with the Washington Post. We are doing the right thing. We have the courage to do the right thing, and we will do it.

GUTTING MEDICARE

(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, Webster's Dictionary defines the verb to cut as to hit sharply, to constrict, to reduce, to lessen, to hurt.

I understand that the Republican leadership is unhappy about us using the word "cut" to describe the Republican's revolting and offensive Medicare plan. OK, fine. Maybe "cut" is not quite the right word. Well how about gut? According to Webster's, to gut is to demolish, to destroy. How do you like the word gut? The fact is that Republicans want to destroy Medicare's security and leave our seniors stranded to fend for themselves. Perhaps gut is a more appropriate word.

Mr. Speaker, during the August recess, I held 13 town meetings and met with 3,000 of my constituents. My constituents told me that they are outraged about the Republican's reverse Robin Hood tactics—taking Medicare benefits from seniors in order to pay for a tax break for the wealthy.

Republicans call it a cut in the growth of spending. They call it progress. I call it the good old-fashioned bait and switch.

SAVING MEDICARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN POLITICS

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, we Republicans in Congress have been working very hard to come up with a plan to save Medicare from bankruptcy. Unfortunately, the Democrats in Congress here are refusing to help us, choosing instead to push a MediScare campaign.

This is a prime example of putting partisan politics above the needs of the American people. These liberal Democrats claim that the Republican plan will cut Medicare to pay for a so-called tax break for the rich.

Mr. Speaker, those tax cuts were paid for last April and mainly benefited working families, not the wealthy. Now Democrats are even running TV ads that are designed to help mislead the American people into believing their partisan fantasies.

But Republicans will not be sidetracked. We remain committed to the task at hand, saving Medicare and preserving it for this generation and for future generations. We do not believe that politics should stand in the way of this goal. Saving Medicare is too important.

WAKE UP CALL ON VIOLENCE

(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, another public official, a prosecutor this time, fighting drugs and gangs, was gunned down in cold blood. I am not talking about Colombia. This was Boston, MA, Congress. Police say that tennage gang leaders ordered this assassination.

Unbelievable. From Boston to Seattle, New York to Los Angeles, your town to my town, American is bleeding, unsafe, and dangerous. I say it is time to treat these teenagers as adults, charged with murder, and they should be put to death. Whether it is a deterrent or not, one thing about capital punishment, there is no recidivism. It is time.

Think about it. When Boston goes from Minuteman to triggerman, all Congress and America should be hearing this wake up call.

I yield back the balance of this violence.

FIXING MEDICARE

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

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, the American people elect politicians to help fix problems with Government. Pretty simple stuff, one would imagine. But, unfortunately, some politicians do