

to me that the Republicans are trying to gut Medicare now. Now, when the program serves as a security blanket for 37 million Americans. Now, when Medicare serves as a lifeline to our seniors. Well, let me say this to my Republican colleagues: we cannot balance the budget on the backs of our seniors. We should be celebrating and embracing our seniors, not stabbing them in the back by taking away their health care.

REPUBLICANS WORKING TO SAVE MEDICARE

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

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, shame on you, to my colleague from the fine State of Florida. What are you trying to do utilizing these scare tactics? You know they are inaccurate. You know they are false.

I just went to the Webster's dictionary. You like to quote the Webster dictionary. Let us quote another word out of the Webster's dictionary, called "save." Save means to rescue, save means to keep safe. Save means to preserve.

Do you think this is going to go away if you put your head in the sand? Do you think if you tell American people enough times that we are going to throw seniors out in the streets, that people are going to go hungry, that there is not going to be medicine provided by this fine and great country of ours, that they are going to begin to ignore the crisis that we have in Medicare?

When are you going to come to your sense that this thing is going broke?

Your President, my President, has. He appointed trustees and they came out and said if we do not do something about this program by the year 2002—
ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will address his remarks to the Chair.

Mr. MCINNIS. I thank the Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, when will the gentleman recognize the fact that the Medicare Program is in very serious trouble? The President's trustees themselves have said that that program will be broke by the year 2002.

Is it the theory of some of the people—mind you, not all of the Democrats are opposing this. We have some bipartisan support to save Medicare, to rescue Medicare, to preserve Medicare. But there are some people out there who, by the way, do not have a plan of their own, who, by the way, do not talk about solutions, all they talk about is how do we use scare tactics, how do we scare the Republicans, how do we win the elections in November?

Why do they not put that selfishness aside and talk about the senior citizens in such a way to save the Medicare Program for them, to preserve the Medicare Program for them? Sure it is

easy to criticize the first person out of the foxhole.

We have been willing to take that leadership challenge. We are willing to be the first people out of the foxhole, because if somebody does not do it, Medicare is going to go bankrupt.

There are a lot of my colleagues who did the same kind of yelling and pulled the same kind of tactics on the deficit, a deficit that accumulates at a rate of \$35 million an hour. They hid their head in the sand, they told the American people, "Ignore it, ignore it, it's not happening, it's not happening, it's not happening," and they became convinced that some of the American people were becoming convinced that the deficit was not a problem.

□ 2045

Look where we are today. Look at the suffering that the American people have today because this Congress did not take the responsibility of running a balanced budget in the last 25 years. But to my colleagues on the House floor, we are going to face exactly the same kind of crisis with Medicare if we do not accept that responsibility. If you do not like the plan we have got, come out with a solution. Do not spend our fine time tonight addressing the people in this House, our colleagues, telling them criticism after criticism, quoting Webster's Dictionary. Go look up the word "solution" in Webster's Dictionary. That is where we ought to be working, Democrats, Republicans, unaffiliated. Let us all work for a solution.

I think it can work. I want Medicare saved. I want it rescued. I want it kept safe.

My dear colleague from the State of New Jersey, same kind of thing, same kind of rhetoric. Stand on this House floor, tell the American people that the seniors are going to go without health care, that they will not get to choose their doctors, mislead all you want, be inaccurate as you want, put in a scare tactic and ignore the true problem, that problem being that if we do not do something with Medicare, my colleagues, this thing is going to go belly up. It is not going to go belly up 20 years from now. It is going to go belly up while many of you are still serving in this House.

It is our obligation, a fundamental responsibility of our duty to this country, to save that program, to save the senior citizens, to make sure that senior citizens of this country do have the medical attention that is necessary. When we are done with that, we have got a lot of other things that we need to address, the deficit. And we are trying to address it.

I think we will get it done. I am optimistic we are going to be able to save Medicare.

I am used to people criticizing and never joining the team. We have got a lot of people that like to ride the wagon and not pull it. If some of my colleagues preceding me speaking to-

night would instead help pull the wagon instead of trying to get a ride on it or sitting on the side criticizing why we are not getting that wagon out of deep mud, we may not be able to get it out.

If some of my colleagues who spoke earlier come up with some solutions, work with us in a bipartisan fashion, we can pull that wagon out of the mud, and we can save the program.

REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL TIME IN SPECIAL ORDERS

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, would I get an opportunity, maybe 30 seconds, to respond, since the gentleman called my name during his presentation?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SALMON). The gentlewoman cannot be recognized for that purpose. She has already spoken for 5 minutes. However, if the gentlewoman would like to get some time from one of the Members speaking later, that would be acceptable.

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

[Mr. FARR of California addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

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

[Mr. BROWN of Ohio addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE NORMAN Y. MINETA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. BROWN of California. Mr. Speaker, I hope that we can pause for a moment from the policy issues which divide us at this particular time, and they are extremely important issues, and move on to something that I think we can find a great deal more unanimity about.

I have taken the time this evening to say a few words in praise of our colleague, the distinguished gentleman from California [Mr. MINETA], and before I make my own remarks on this matter, I would like to yield to the distinguished gentleman from California [Mr. MATSUI] for a few words on this subject.

Mr. MATSUI. I would like to thank the distinguished dean of the California delegation for yielding to me and also setting up this special order tonight on behalf of our dear colleague, the gentleman from California [Mr. MINETA],