

over and over again the talk about forcing seniors into managed care, forcing seniors into managed care. We do not do that. What we do is we preserve the system. We preserve it not only for this generation but the next, and I hope we all vote for it tomorrow.

VOTE "NO" ON THE REPUBLICAN
PLAN TO RAPE MEDICARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BUNN of Georgia). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. KLINK] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, there was a song back in the early 1970's by Janis Joplin, and the previous speaker, my colleague from Pennsylvania, kind of reminded me of it. I would like to change the words, and that is she said, "Freedom is just another word for nothing left to lose." I think it is freedom is just another word for being forced to choose, and that is what the Republican Medicare plan is about. Senior citizens will be forced to choose whether or not they want to follow their doctor. That is as the Republican fail-safe, and he is right. If people want to stay in traditional Medicare as they have it today, they will be able to do it, but they may find out that their doctor does not do it because the fail-safe plan the Republicans have built into Medicare is going to squeeze the traditional medical fee for service, and so you may have to choose whether or not you stay with your doctor or whether you follow that doctor who decides to go out and get involved in HMO's or managed-care systems.

So freedom to choose is being forced to choose, to have to choose whether you want to stay with your Medicare system as it is now or you want to stay with your doctor if that doctor decides to sever himself from the system.

This Congress began the 104th Congress with very loud chanting of a Contract With America. Medicare, Mr. Speaker, is a Contract with America. It is a contract that was made 30 years ago at a time when one in three senior citizens in this Nation lived in poverty, when it was common for senior citizens to have to decide whether they were going to heat, whether they were going to eat, buy medicine, or pay the rent. It was a common problem prior to Medicare for the children of those senior citizens to have to decide what they would do with their assets, how much they would spend or how much they would sell off if mom or dad got sick. This is the 1930's, and 1940's, and 1950's, prior to Medicare that the Republican plan wants to take us back to. This is the \$270 billion that they want to cut, \$270 billion they want to cut, and, yes, dollars are fungible. These dollars are not going into, this \$270 billion that we are cutting from growth of the program, is not going to prop up Social Security. It is not going to prop up Medicare. Dollars being fungible, it is

going to pay for that \$245 billion tax cut.

Now, I know that my colleagues on the other side say we are not cutting, we are not cutting. We are slowing the increase. The question is this:

Will seniors get less? Yes. Will seniors pay more? Yes. They are going to pay more and get less. That is a cut. Will the part B premium double over 7 years from \$46.10 now to over \$90? Yes, that part B premium will be doubling. Will it go back to prop up the part A that the trustees' report deals with and that seniors are upset with? No, it will not be used to prop up part A. Did one Republican vote for the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 that at that time saved Medicare? Not one, not in this body and not in the other body, and that was in 1993 when we were told the same thing that we are being told now, that we have to make adjustments on Medicare. Not one Republican vote went up to save Medicare in 1993. Yet, now they have got all their concerns, and in fact how many Republicans voted for Medicare back in 1965 when it went into law? The fact of the matter is 93 percent of them voted against it.

The majority leader takes to the well of the House and says in a free country he would have no part of Medicare, and yet we hear Member after Member stand up saying, Trust us, trust us. We want to save Medicare. We are all for it now.

I say to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, Your actions speak much louder than your words and speak many more volumes than your words, that in fact it is evident to us that you have not ever supported Medicare and you are not supporting Medicare now.

This whole idea of a Medicare savings account, what a joke it is. Senior citizens in my district, very poor to moderate income in coal-mining and steel towns of southwestern Pennsylvania, many of my seniors live only on Social Security, and I know Social Security was not intended to be the sole support of people in their final years, but a point of fact: For many it is. Those people cannot afford to plow in thousands of dollars that they would spend in a few moments of having major health problems. They cannot afford it, and in fact I heard from a lady just several weeks ago who said to me, "Congressman KLINK, the fact of the matter is that after I pay the expenses that I have to pay, my rent, my utility bills, I've got \$87 that's for food, that's for everything that I am going to spend for the rest of the time I'm here."

Medicare savings accounts will not help people like that. Vote no on the Republican plan to rape Medicare.

REPUBLICAN PLAN BRINGS
HEALTH CARE INTO THE NINETIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Georgia [Mr. KINGSTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, you know we all elected 435 Members of this body on certain campaign promises and representations, and, you know, some of it is campaign rhetoric and some of it is not, some of it is righteous indignation, and some of it is accurate, some of it is not. But when you get elected, we know you do have to do the hard job of governing, and some of the job is very, very difficult, some of the decisions that you have to make.

Now one of the things that we as the new majority were faced with this year was the bankruptcy of Medicare, and that is from the chart right here where the trustees, the Medicare trust fund, said that the plan is going to go bankrupt in 7 years. We got to deal with that. We cannot hide our heads in the sand.

Now just think what would happen in a good bipartisan effort if the best ideas of the Democrat Party, the best ideas of the Republican Party, came together and said, By golly, this is—these are our moms and dads. We got to come together and save this.

You know it is very difficult to get some things established in this town, or some things passed, when you have a whole group of special interest organizations out on both sides of the aisle convincing constituencies that the sky is falling. If the Republican plan goes through, or if the Democrat plan goes through, send me your \$25 check to prevent this horrible thing from happening, and yet, you know, I would think inside this body of the 435 of us would maybe be above that kind of foolishness, that we would say, you know, maybe there is something to be said for what the Democrats are saying, and maybe there is something to be said for what the Republicans are saying, and just maybe we can get our ideas together and do the best for both instead of all this that, oh, you are going to cut, you are going to throw senior citizens out on the street, you are going to do this, you are going to do that.

You know, I heard a speaker earlier tonight say we voted against the Clinton plan and we should not have voted for it. It added countless new bureaucracies and agencies in the health care system that clearly had rationing, and there were not choices of physicians. You know here is a plan that allows choice of physicians.

Now you know the Washington Post, which as my Democrat colleagues would say certainly is not exactly the Republican, you know, GOPAC brochure; you know what do they say about the Republican plan? They are saying that they are being responsible, this is credible, it is innovative, it addresses a genuine problem. That is what the Republican plan says.

Now you know on you folks it says what the Democrats do and it is scare tactics, demagogery, and it is wrong.