

make sense if the Republicans were not simultaneously squeezing \$270 billion out of Medicare.

The Republicans describe the various private health insurance options as "Medicare Plus." But Mr. Gibbons told them: "You ought to call it Medicare Minus. What you're doing is herding all the seniors together and forcing them to accept managed care."

Mr. LAUTENBERG. I thank the Chair.

I would just like to read from the article for a couple seconds.

After receiving assurances that Medicare payments to doctors would be cut less than originally planned, the American Medical Association tonight expressed support for a House Republican plan to redesign the medical plan for the elderly. * * *

Republicans in the House and Senate alike want to cut projected spending on Medicare by \$270 billion . . . in the next seven years. Of that amount, \$26.4 billion would have come from strict new limits on Medicare payments for doctors' services.

Obviously, that was obviated or the AMA in this case would not have come along.

Mr. President, what this budget does is painful. It doubles the premiums for part B from \$46 a month to \$93 a month. It doubles part B deductibles from \$100 to \$210. It hurts seniors who want to stay in fee for service. It will

mean a cut of \$6 billion in the State of New Jersey that would cause us to lose the services of 40 out of 110 hospitals in our State, when combined with the Medicaid cuts.

In short, this proposal, as it is outlined, would result in disaster for our senior citizen population.

The arithmetic is very simply displayed on this chart. "The GOP's New Medicare Plan: The Untold," I call it the sneak attack, "The Untold Story." Mr. President, \$270 billion worth of proposed cuts, \$89 billion is needed for the trust fund. It leaves \$181 billion, and where is it going? It is going for tax breaks for the well-off.

And so, when we finally vote on this reconciliation bill, one I voted against in committee—I am on the Budget Committee—and one that I continue to view as harmful to the very structure of our society, breaking promises with people to whom we have had arrangements, I know one thing: That I am going to be on the side of the senior citizen. I am going to be on the side of the students in this country who are depending on our Government for help in getting their education. I am going to be on the side of those who need Medicaid for their support, and I am going to vote "no" on this budget reconciliation bill.

The one thing I hope will come out in the debate these next couple of days is that the American people will fully realize what it is that is being proposed; that the notion that these cuts have to be made to save the program are patently false, they are untrue and that what we have to do is put our thinking caps together, sit down and take the time necessary to redesign a program that will fit the bill, that will not continue to exacerbate the budget deficit situation.

So, Mr. President, as we close the debate this evening, I hope that our colleagues in the Senate will continue to examine this proposal that is in front of us and reject it when the time comes and to think about the folks back home and those who are depending on it.

With that, I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.
TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under a previous order, the Senate will now stand in adjournment until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, October 25.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 8:03 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, October 25, 1995, at 10 a.m.