

But the average person is losing ground. Economic insecurity I think is setting in. I think of single parents, single moms who are getting up in the morning and getting their kids ready, sending them off to day care, sending them off to school and going to work, humping it, working hard, trying to make ends meet, just to keep their head above water, not to get ahead, just to get by. I think of parents like myself with small children who are having a tough go of it, people in their thirties who are accumulating debt that frankly they do not know how they are going to pay. I think of people in their forties and fifties with strained family budgets right now, having a difficult time getting by.

Our senior citizens are worried right now that politicians are not going to do the right thing to preserve and protect Medicare. They are worried up here that they are not going to keep it intact, and we are trying to do that, and I think they are beginning to see through the smoke and mirrors of the people who are opposing the necessary changes to Medicare.

I look around the world, Mr. Speaker, and I see nationalism growing in other countries. We see Israel. In elections there, nationalism wins. We look at the Soviet Union, nationalism is on the rise. What about our country? Where is our nationalism? Where is our sense of country, our patriotism today? Mr. Speaker, I am for free trade, but by George, we need fair trade, not just free trade. We are losing our manufacturing base in the United States of America, and we are not willing to stop and say that we need to renegotiate NAFTA. We need to stop. It is not working. It is costing us farming jobs, it is costing us manufacturing jobs in appliance manufacturing. Our textile industry is moving overseas.

The gentlewoman talks about China. Most-favored-nation status should not be given to China. They are actually taking our intellectual property. They are pirating our goods. We have got to look at our country and look after what is best for America. I come from the Teddy Roosevelt-Abraham Lincoln school of Republicanism, where we have to preserve American jobs first. If this country is going to be the world leader that it has to be as the only superpower in the entire world, we have to rebuild America and put America first.

□ 1930

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from New York [Mrs. KELLY] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mrs. KELLY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

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

tleman from Texas [Mr. FIELDS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

HOUSE URGED TO ISSUE CONTEMPT CITATIONS CONCERNING TRAVELGATE

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

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I come before the House today to again call on the Speaker and House leadership to bring forward the contempt citation against Mr. Quinn, legal counsel to the President, and other White House officials who have been involved in keeping documents relating to "Filegate" from the Congress and also from the Special Counsel.

I serve on the committee charged with the jurisdiction of investigations and oversight. It is the House Committee on Government Reform and Oversight. We have been investigating this matter now for over 2 years. We have requested files for over 2 years. The pattern of evasiveness, the pattern of deceit by the White House in keeping these records both again from the Congress, the Special Counsel, and our committee is abhorrent.

Let me just cite from our report, the contempt proceedings that were offered to the House, some of the facts relating to this matter. This all deals with Travelgate which our subcommittee was investigating.

Weeks after the firings of 7 long-time White House Travel Office employees, President William J. Clinton staved off a congressional inquiry into the growing controversy by committing to House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jack Brooks on July 13, 1993, and this is what the President said: "You can be assured that the Attorney General will have the administration's full cooperation in investigating those matters which the Department wishes to review."

No mention then of executive privilege from the President on withholding documents from the investigators. In fact this is quite unprecedented. Even in Irangate, President Reagan offered all materials to congressional investigators. This is almost unprecedented, and again an issue that does not deal with foreign policy or national policy but is an investigation of the conduct within the White House, that this information is kept from us.

This is what the President said in January 1996, this year. He stated, "We've told everybody we're in the cooperation business. That's what we want to do. We want to get this over with."

Yet we still have not, as of this day, gotten one-third of the documents relating to this matter. Let me read really the essence of what this is about, and let me quote from notes from a

White House aide that we obtained just recently this year, dated May 27, 1993. This is the date of the document.

White House Management Review author Todd Stern wrote this. This is not the Republicans, this is a White House operative. He said: "Problem is that if we do any kind of report and fail to address those questions, the press jumps on you wanting to know answers; while if you give answers that aren't fully honest, e.g., nothing re: HRC"—Hillary Rodham Clinton, he uses the initials—"you risk hugely compounding the problem by getting caught in half-truths. You run the risk of turning this into a cover-up."

Now, I did not say this. Our committee did not say this. No Republican said this. This is a White House aide.

We see why they have kept these documents from us. The fact is that two-thirds of the documents we sought, were sought by a bipartisan subpoena, have been withheld from the Congress by the White House.

The fact is, we now know why the White House has stonewalled the Congress. The fact is, the White House in this case misused the IRS and the FBI, the chief law enforcement agency of this Nation, in an incredible abuse of power. The fact is, and this will come out, the civil rights, the privacy rights, the Hatch Act, all of these laws I believe we will find have been violated. These are the rights and the privacy of past and present Federal employees. One of the most egregious violations is that they obtained the files of three of our staff directors of our Investigations, and Oversight Committee, the one on which I serve.

The fact is that more than 2,000 pages of documents are still being kept from the Congress, from the media, from the Special Counsel relating to this matter.

I call on the Speaker, I call on Chairman CLINGER, I call on the House leadership to bring forward to the floor of the House of Representatives this contempt citation. We must vote on it, and we must find Mr. Quinn and officials at the White House in contempt of Congress for their actions in this matter.

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

[Mr. SMITH of Michigan 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 Florida [Mr. WELDON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

FIXING MEDICARE

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

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, the Medicare trustees have just issued their annual report and the news in that report is not good. Medicare is now losing money for the first time ever. We are actually taking in less than we are spending. It is going to be completely broke by 2001, according to the trustees, unless prompt, effective, and decisive action is taken to control costs.

I think it is important, Mr. Speaker, to understand that the trustees are not a partisan group. They include three members of the Clinton Cabinet. Last year those trustees projected that Medicare would not run out of money until 2002. This year they are saying that under the middle scenario, because the way that they do their projections, they have to come up with three different scenarios, best case, worst case, and middle case. They are saying that under the middle scenario, it is going to run out of money in 2001 and that under the worst scenario it could be 1999 when the trust fund runs out of money.

So as bad as the news is, what the American people need to know is that regardless of who wins in November, Medicare's financial crisis is going to be solved, because letting Medicare go bankrupt is simply not an option. It is not an option for the responsible legislators of this Congress and it is not an option that exists for the President or anybody who is elected to be President.

Both Congress and the White House have offered plans that limit the rate of growth in Medicare spending by strikingly similar amounts. The White House would increase spending 7.2 percent annually. Congress would increase spending 7.0 percent annually. To put this in perspective, bear in mind that right now the annual growth rate in private sector health care spending is less than 3 percent annually.

What I have just said will no doubt, Mr. Speaker, come as a great surprise to those who already have suffered from overexposure to the semihysterical, patently, false, and politically motivated mantra of cuts, cuts, cuts. President Clinton himself put it well when he said, "When you hear all this business about cuts, let me caution you that that is not what is going on. We are going to have increases in Medicare."

While the sides are essentially in agreement with respect to how much to restrict the rate of growth in Medicare, or how much to let it grow—7.0 percent, 7.2 percent—in fact there are very significant differences as to how to do that.

The President and those who believe that Washington knows best are committed to a top-down, bureaucratic solution that would increase the Government's role in the health care of our seniors. It is essentially identical to

the plan that Mrs. Clinton was the chief architect of in 1994 and which we defeated in this House in 1994. That is, a plan that depends almost exclusively on forcing senior citizens into managed care. That is the President's notion of the way to get control of the Medicare crisis. But the far better solution is to modernize Medicare and give seniors the same kinds of options, including medical savings accounts, that are now available in some of the very best private sector plans while preserving their right to stay with traditional Medicare if that is what they choose.

In addition, we must mount the first ever attack on waste and fraud and the waste and fraud that has helped bring Medicare to the very brink of bankruptcy. I remember when Bob Reischauer was still the director of CBO, he testified before the Budget Committee that I serve on. He stated very clearly that somewhere between 15 and 20 percent of the money that is spent on Medicare goes down the drain in waste and fraud. Think about that—20 percent of \$180 billion is \$36 billion hard-earned taxpayer dollars thrown away.

Unfortunately, some folks, including politicians, Washington special-interest groups, even the President himself, have indulged their partisan ambitions by intentionally trying to scare seniors into believing that Congress might like their Medicare benefits away from them. Helping to spread that poison are the big labor bosses in Washington who have spent literally millions of dollars confiscated from their own rank-and-file membership on advertisements pursuing that same big lie. Yet when you cut through all the political grandstanding, one thing becomes crystal clear. The longer a Medicare solution is put off, the harder and more unpalatable the choices become. We need all sides working together now, not as Republicans and as Democrats but as Americans, to solve this problem.

So the next time that you hear someone attack Congress for killing Medicare, ask them to show you their plan to save it. The chances are they will not have one. That is because they are thinking more about the next election than they are about the next generation.

HEALTH CARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Arizona [Mr. SALMON] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, tonight I would like to talk about a very crucial issue that I think probably most of us campaigned on the last election cycle, the issue of health care and the health care dilemma in our country.

Most estimate that there are probably about 40 million to 50 million Americans out there that have a lack

of health insurance to take care of the needs of their family. As the father of 4 children, my heart goes out to those people, because frankly when your child is sick, there is nothing in the world that you would not do, nothing that you would not give up on the planet to pursue an effective remedy for that child's health malady. Or if a parent were sick or a wife or a husband, you would give up everything that you had to pursue the most state-of-the-art medical technologies available to try to rescue that individual.

I have some friends back home in Arizona that have a child with cystic fibrosis. Let me just tell a little about their story. They are both self-employed, have had health insurance for years and then they had a child with a serious health malady, cystic fibrosis. I think as most know, cystic fibrosis is a disorder that can be very, very debilitating, requires a lot of medical care, a lot of money to be expended, a lot of time, love, and patience, and most people with cystic fibrosis do not live past their teenage years. If you have a child with cystic fibrosis that lives on into their twenties, you count yourself lucky to have had that time available to spend with them.

My own child, Jacob, when he was a young boy, had several health problems and there was a fear that he might have cystic fibrosis. They did a little medical test on him and they determined that he did not have it, but I remember in the 3 days that we were waiting for that diagnosis to come about after they had done the testing, I remember the agony that we went through, the fear that we went through as parents wondering whether or not our child had this debilitating illness. But, then, this is not about my problem, it is back to my friends in Arizona and their child. Because after their child was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis, their insurance rates skyrocketed. In fact, they went up about 5 or 6 times. The premiums went up exorbitantly. They could not afford it anymore. And so they had to drop their insurance.

The answer in today's society under our current administrative policies and State governments and Federal Government, at least in the State of Arizona, is they have to spend down all of their assets to qualify for Medicaid so that that child could get the kind of care that she needed to preserve her frail young life.

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That is not right. We ought to be addressing the issue of preexisting conditions. We ought to be addressing the issue of portability. These things are not just campaign slogans, they are not rhetoric. They are real-life situations with people, with situations that would tug at your heart strings. Most of us that have children and recognize again that you would do anything for a child that was in harm's way, such as this child is, you would do anything,