

Florida said also about low-income people, low-income seniors not being aware and therefore not applying for some of the low-income protection programs like the QMB or the SLMB programs that we have. Under Medicare and Medicaid, if you are below a certain income, you can apply through Medicaid so that you actually get certain prescription drugs covered and certain other benefits covered. But one of the things that is in this Older Women's League report that I mentioned for Mother's Day is that half the elderly women who are eligible for those low-income protection programs never apply for them because they are not aware of them. And also because they do not want to go to the welfare offices where they have to go from what I understand in order to get them because they do not want to be part of a welfare program. One of the reforms that was suggested by OWL is that individuals be able to apply directly through Medicare or Social Security for those low-income protection benefits. Again that is a kind of reform that we should be looking at, something that is going to help people with prescription drugs and some of these other protections rather than worrying about how we are going to save money by raising the age of eligibility.

Mr. DEUTSCH. I just want to quickly mention, because I think what the gentleman said is really important, sort of almost as a public service announcement for whoever is watching us this evening, that there are benefits in Medicare that unfortunately not enough people take advantage of. We have put into Medicare some preventive coverage. Mammogram screening. Right now less than 50 percent of Medicare beneficiaries who are eligible for it take advantage of it. It is free, with no copayment, no deductible. We really need to push that, because that also has its positive humanitarian, human side, preventing one but also the monetary side as well.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Preventive care for prostate cancer, for breast cancer, for osteoporosis, for diabetes, a whole host of new preventive care programs paid for by Medicare all in the last 2 or 3 years. That is something people should certainly take advantage of.

Mr. PALLONE. Those were put in as a result or with the balanced budget process.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. OSE). The Chair would remind the Members to direct their comments to the chair and not to the members or viewing audience outside the Chamber.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. In closing, I think, Mr. Speaker, the commitment for all of us, all four of us that have been here tonight, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTSCH), the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN), the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is start

with the 15 percent budget surplus, put it in Medicare, put those over the next half dozen, dozen years, hundreds of billions of dollars into Medicare. The trust fund already is solid until 2015.

□ 2200

We can even do better than that. Make sure the preventive care is explained as well as the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTSCH) did, and we continue to talk about that, and expand Medicare 55 to 64, and especially programs like prescription drugs.

I thank my colleagues for joining us tonight.

#### DISCUSSION ON KOSOVO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. MCINNIS) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would note that I will be happy to yield to the gentlewoman from the Committee on Rules when the time is appropriate.

Mr. Speaker, good evening.

I am pleased that I have an opportunity to visit with all of my colleagues this evening about an issue that is very dear to my heart, an issue that I am going to spend the next, say, 45 or 50 minutes talking to you on several different areas that I think we should review, an issue that is not only dear to my heart but dear to everybody's heart that is sitting on this floor.

As my colleagues know, I have never been at a stage in life where I had children that were of the age that could now serve in the military. My wife, Lori, and I are very privileged to have three children: Daxon, Daxon is 22 years old; Tessa, who is 21 years old; and Andrea, who is 17 years old. As my colleagues can guess, my concern today is about the military action that is being taken in that land far away called Kosovo or Yugoslavia.

I thought we would start out by covering several points. I want to give you just somewhat of a brief history, talk about what are the real interests of the United States.

At this point in time, Mr. Speaker, I would be happy, so that we could go ahead and take care of the rule, to yield to the gentlewoman for the rule.

#### REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1664, KOSOVO AND SOUTHWEST ASIA EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

Mrs. MYRICK, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106-127) on the resolution (H. Res. 159) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1664) making emergency supplemental appropriations for military operations, refugee relief, and humanitarian assistance relating to the conflict in Kosovo, and for military op-

erations in Southwest Asia for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

Mr. MCINNIS. MR. SPEAKER, WELL, WE WILL GO BACK TO THE KOSOVO DISCUSSION, BUT I DO, FIRST OF ALL, WANT TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE COMMITTEE ON RULES.

As my colleagues can see, it is after 10 o'clock at night back here in the East, and that Committee on Rules is still working hard. They put in a lot of late hours, and I know they are appreciated by the Members on this floor.

Let us go back to my outline about what I am going to discuss this evening on Kosovo and Yugoslavia.

First of all, we are going to talk a little on the brief history, just give you summary.

I am not a historian, I am not a teacher or a professor, so I am not going to go into great detail, but I do want to summarize kind of the scenario or the historical perspective that I think is important for me to get to the other points of this speech. We are going to talk about what are the interests of the United States.

As my colleagues know, before the United States enters any type of military action, we need to define, we need to have a clear interpretation and a clear definition of why it is that we are doing what we are doing, what is it about the authority. Do you have the authority to invade the sovereign territory of another country? Under what conditions does that authority exist, and do we meet those conditions?

Talk about what the European responsibility is in this situation, what the cost is to the American taxpayers, and I think you will be surprised by the numbers that I give you this evening as to what it is going to cost the American taxpayers to complete this action over the next 2 to 3 years.

We should talk about the humanitarian effort. Clearly, no matter where you fall on the side of the policy that is now being followed by this country in regards to Kosovo, we can all agree on one thing, and that is that there is a just cause for a humanitarian effort. We will talk a little bit about the humanitarian effort.

We will also talk about the deployment of ground troops. I have read the press lately, I have read and been briefed and so on that there is an urge to put ground troops in over there. Let us talk a little about that this evening.

What are the logistics involved? What do ground troops really mean? What kind of numbers of ground troops are we going to have to have to go into this situation, not just to keep the peace, but do we ever stand a chance of making the peace? And tonight my colleagues will see that I distinguish between keeping the peace and making the peace.

We will talk a little bit about NATO, what the military facts are of NATO,