

and the Federal Government has to borrow more money and go further in debt to try to make up for the shortfall.

Last week, I held two Social Security town hall forums in different parts of the State. First, I talked with senior citizens in Smithville, just outside of Atlantic City, and next I visited with more than 70 college students in Brookdale, at Brookdale Community College in Monmouth County. Here too the forum was open to all members of the college's political science and history club. I would assume some of the participants were Republicans, but that does not really matter.

The bottom line is that as Members of Congress, Senators, and senior organizations hold forums around the country and explain the President's privatization plan, there is more and more opposition to it. While the President still seems to think his privatization plan is catching on, Congressional Republicans brave enough to have town hall forums heard an earful from supporters of the current Social Security System.

Mr. Speaker, let me just give some examples. From the February 23 edition of the Philadelphia Inquirer: "At two stops, morning at Drexel University; afternoon at Widener University, the Pennsylvania Republican Senator SANTORUM encountered skepticism and hostility as he voiced his support for the White House plan to allow privatization of personal accounts using payroll taxes. He was heckled by protesters, called a liar, and told that his views were unconscionable. Those sentiments ranged across the spectrum."

That is from the Philadelphia Inquirer. From the February 22 Washington Post: "At every stop, Representative PAUL RYAN faced skeptics. Nancy McDonald, 66, who sells securities and insurance, complained in Darien that health care for the uninsured needs to be addressed before Social Security. 'Slow down! Slow down!' She scolded the lawmaker at one point."

And finally, Mr. Speaker, I take a quote from the February 22 Savannah Morning News. "At Armstrong Atlantic State University, the subject of Social Security caused a crowd of 200 to become rowdy. Questions were shouted out. The congressman," Congressman KINGSTON, "was interrupted. And one of Congressman KINGSTON's assistants was booed when she announced an end to the hour-long discussion."

These are just examples. In meeting after meeting Republicans got a chilly reception to the President's Social Security plan. Maybe that is why we heard today that Senate majority leader BILL FRIST thinks the Senate may not be able to take up the President's Social Security privatization plan until next year.

Mr. Speaker, many of my constituents are concerned about the President's plan. Unfortunately, they will not have the opportunity to voice

those concerns to the President this Friday morning in Westfield, New Jersey. But we are going to be heard anyway. I have chartered a bus, and I am taking several dozen of my constituents to join people from all over New Jersey at a rally in support of truly strengthening Social Security.

We are going to go with the bus to Westfield, New Jersey, where the President is going to be, and maybe the President will send some of his staffers over so they can really hear from us how their plan is being received outside the White House. It is not being received well, because Americans are finally waking up to the fact that the President's privatization plan is bad for them, bad for Social Security, and bad for America.

TRIBUTE TO MS. CLARA JENKINS

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

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of an extraordinary member of my community, Clara Jenkins. In the 1950s, Clara helped advance the Civil Rights movement in Georgia by breaking down color barriers at a local hospital.

On August 20, 1951, Clara was hired as the first black nurse at Kennestone Hospital in Cobb County. Now, 1951 was not an easy time to be a black nurse among all-white colleagues. The Brown v. Board of Education ruling, that mandated separate but equal was inherently unequal, was still 3 years away. In 1951, Kennestone Hospital was segregated by floor and ward. Black patients and white patients received their care separately and in unequal surroundings.

But Clara did not let segregation deter her goal of providing care for the sick and the needy. Through her determination and talent, she proved to her colleagues that skill, not skin color, was what mattered most.

Despite having earned a nursing degree right here in Washington, D.C., Clara was not initially allowed to work with white patients. However, over time, doctors and nurses noticed her skill, especially her ability to insert IVs into patients with thin or hard-to-find veins. Clara said her work on parents with darker skin made her adept at finding veins by touch, not sight, a skill the other nurses lacked. Increasingly, white doctors and nurses began asking for Clara's help.

After the 1954 Brown versus Board ruling desegregated Kennestone Hospital, Clara was assigned to several special hospital units. She was asked to head up Kennestone's very first IV team, and later became the only black nurse on the hospital's first coronary team. These were amazing feats for a woman who only a few years earlier had not been allowed to even care for white patients.

As a physician, I had the privilege of working with Clara at Kennestone Hos-

pital. And let me tell you, she is just as respected and beloved now as she was then. In fact, she was one of my favorite nurses. And working with her on the floor, and later when she was a supervisor, always gave me confidence in her ability, her compassion, and her leadership.

I am inspired by Clara Jenkins' ability to prove herself in the face of segregation and discrimination. Clara had a sense of determination and courage that should serve as an inspiration for us all. By asking others to judge her based on skill, not race, she helped break down color barriers for black professionals in Cobb County.

Clara also opened doors for other black nurses. She was once offered a position as head pediatric nurse at Kennestone. But when she turned down the job, another black nurse was selected to head that unit. She brought a greater equality to our hospital.

Clara Jenkins is a skilled nurse and an important member of the Cobb community. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in honoring her legacy.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take the time of the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

PRESIDENT'S PROPOSAL FOR PRIVATIZATION OF SOCIAL SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Ms. KILPATRICK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, March is Women's History Month, and we are proud to celebrate the contributions that women have made to American society. As mothers, as caregivers, as teachers, as providers, we honor the women in America this month of March.

While home last week, I had an opportunity to hold two town hall meetings. My first meeting was in Wyandotte, Lincoln Park, River Rouge, and Ecourse communities, where we had hundreds of people who came out to hear about the Social Security proposals. My first point to them was that we have no bill. What we are hearing are discussion points, and right now we have no legislation that has come to the House or the Senate. What we are