

with others, has found an appreciative audience beyond Georgia as he has carried the eternal message to others.

His commitment to family has led him and his wife, Teresa, to home school their sons James, Jonathon, and Jushua.

His and Teresa's concern for their son's education is worth the immense commitment of time and energy required of them.

Last, it is always good politically to find myself in the company of such a respected public person who is more conservative than me.

Dr. Merritt is truly committed to faith, family, and freedom and it is my good fortune to call him friend.

THE CRIMINAL WELFARE PREVENTION ACT

(Mr. CLEMENT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I, along with Congressmen HERGER and SHAW, introduced bipartisan legislation to address the problem of prisoners receiving Social Security and SSI benefits while incarcerated, a violation of public law and a huge waste of taxpayer money.

I originally became aware of this issue last month when an inmate in my district who had been convicted of selling drugs in prison bailed himself out of jail with a Social Security check he was still receiving from the Social Security Administration. This legislation will begin to address the primary problem—the reporting of criminals to the Social Security Administration.

In a time when we are working tirelessly to eliminate Government waste, to ensure the viability of the Social Security Program, and to provide benefits for those who truly need them, surely we all agree that we don't need to be paying prisoners for their drug habits and bail money.

I call on my House colleagues to cosponsor H.R. 2320 and end this flagrant abuse of taxpayer money.

NATIONAL DYSTONIA AWARENESS WEEK

(Mrs. MORELLA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring to the attention of my colleagues National Dystonia Awareness Week, which will be commemorated nationwide September 16–23.

Dystonia is a neurological movement disorder that can take many forms—all of which are frequently misdiagnosed or even undiagnosed. It is characterized by involuntary muscular contractions which force certain parts of the body into abnormal, often painful movements or positions. Approximately 200,000 Americans suffer from dystonia, yet only about 5 percent of

these individuals have obtained accurate diagnoses and proper treatment. Dystonia is a condition that fundamentally impacts the lives of nearly a quarter of a million Americans and their families, yet we have very little understanding of the condition, or of how we can ameliorate it.

The National Institutes of Health, through its researchers at NINDS, has increasingly recognized the importance of dystonia research, and I am pleased that the Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor-HHS has continued to urge continued NIH action in this area. It is my hope that, together with scientists and doctors across the Nation, our experts at NIH will be able to shed considerable insight into the mystery of dystonia.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to recognize the diligent efforts of one of my constituents, Ms. Nancy Aldrich, who has worked tirelessly to bring the issue of dystonia to the Congress' attention. With the efforts of Ms. Aldrich and many individuals like her, we will one day put dystonia behind us.

FRENCH COLONIALISM IN TAHITI IN THE EVE OF THE 21ST CENTURY

(Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, despite international pleading, protests, and appeals, France resumed nuclear testing in the South Pacific on September 5, 1995, at Morurua Atoll, exploding a nuclear bomb 10 times more powerful than the bomb dropped on Hiroshima. Sixty miles away, 3 days before, on the island of Tureia, Tahitian children splashed and played in the ocean waves, unaware that a man named Chirac would forever mar their innocent way of life.

Chirac's decision to promote nuclear proliferation, at the expense of a peaceful people, is a chilling commentary on man's inhumanity to man. In fact, it is an atrocity, a crime against humanity, not unlike the French Government's earlier decision to forcibly deport 75,000 of its own French citizens to Nazi concentration camps where it is said that only 1,000 of those deported survived.

France's resumption of nuclear testing, especially in waters other than its own, is nothing less than a classic example of rancid colonialism; an old world ideology politicized by dominant cultures as a means to marginalize, oppress, and make expendable the lives of some 200,000 Polynesian Tahitians. Every enlightened French citizen should be ashamed that such atrocity reigns in the hands of its current leader, President Chirac.

THE LOST BATTALION

(Mrs. SEASTRAND asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SEASTRAND. Mr. Speaker, there they go again, the desperate leaders of the Lost Battalion of the Democrat Left, riding off today on another mean-spirited mission to misinform and terrorize the elderly.

What a pitiful sight it is to see the leaders of a party once entrusted with 40 consecutive years of control of this Congress now cowering and running away from the fight to save Medicare from bankruptcy.

Afraid to point the way with a plan of their own, they're content simply to point a misdirected finger of blame.

Surely, these so-called leaders don't speak for the dwindling membership of the Democrat caucus, the men and women whose loyalty belongs to the people who elected them to serve, to face the tough problems and find answers, not run and hide from the truth and blindly follow the Lost Battalion of the Left down the path of political retreat.

To those Members, we offer our hand and welcome you to join us in a mission worthy of this institution—a mission to ensure a comprehensive, secure, affordable health insurance plan for every retired American now and in the future.

THE BIG DAY IS FINALLY HERE

(Mr. DOGGETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, well, the big day is finally here and all of America is happy. The time is here. After months of being Medi-scared to level with the American people and tell them how much their pockets are going to be picked to provide the same level of health care, Mr. Speaker, today is the day that has finally been announced by the Republicans as the day they will unveil the details of their Medicare plan. The Speaker has put out notice on national TV that we would finally get the details of how deep into the pockets of our senior citizens they are going to reach in order to provide a tax break for the privileged few.

The Republican bright lights, and some of the not so bright lights, were all assembled. All the luminaries were gathered. And what details were provided? Absolutely none.

Mr. Speaker, after all this waiting, after all this attention to the great performance, it is as if they forgot the words to the song. Now we know absolutely nothing more than we did before, and that is only that it is going to cost American seniors billions of dollars to pay for this tax break for the privileged few.

JOIN TOGETHER TO SAVE MEDICARE

(Mr. HAYWORTH asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, once again I listen with great interest to my friend from Texas, and so many folks on this side of the aisle, who once again are engaged in an active policy not of saving Medicare, but of Medicare.

Mr. Speaker, there is one lesson I learned since coming to this Congress. It is a sad lesson, but I have to tell it in all sincerity to the American people. So often what we see happen on this floor has absolutely nothing to do with policy and everything to do with politics.

Mr. Speaker, it is a sad day when the guardians of the old order, so jealous of the majority that they once used to possess, will do absolutely anything to scare America's seniors.

Here is the fact: Even if the budget were balanced today, we would still have problems with Medicare. It is the role of every American, Republican, Democrat, and Independent alike, to step forward to save the program.

Once again, friends on this side of the aisle, join with us. Join with us and save this program.

"DON'T ASK, WON'T TELL"

(Mrs. SCHROEDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, well, now we know what their plan is for Medicare. It is, "Don't ask, won't tell."

They tell us they are going to save it, but they will not tell us one detail as to how they are going to save it. If they have got such a harmless way of saving it, why do they not tell us?

Mr. Speaker, there was just a 4-hour Republican conference in which they were telling them all sorts of things, but we still do not have one detail.

What do we hear we will find out? There is going to be 1 day of hearings. My word, there were days and days and days of hearings when this was put together.

Yes, we have a way to save Medicare. We save it by not killing it. They do not want us to know it is going to be killed. But when we ask them, when we ask them for one detail about Medicare, do not ask, because they will not tell. They just come down and scream politics, old order, and throw names around, but they will not throw the first fact out.

Stop throwing names around. Stop calling names. Throw facts out. That is what we want.

WASHINGTON POST AND WALL STREET JOURNAL PRAISE REPUBLICAN PLAN FOR MEDICARE

(Mr. HOKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, we have had more than 2 dozen congressional hearings, thousands and thousands of pages of testimony, dozens of town meetings and open forums. Every Member on this side of the aisle has solicited the advice, the consent, the input of their constituents to find out what is the best way to go about this. This notion that somehow this has been done behind closed doors is so pathetic and misleading and is another one of their tactics.

Mr. Speaker, I want to ask today, what exactly is it that the Washington Post and the Wall Street Journal have in common? Well, they have both applauded congressional Republicans for having the courage of attacking the impending bankruptcy of Medicare.

As I reported yesterday, the Post wrote the Republicans have, "forcefully taken the right position on the basic issue of controlling costs."

Then the Wall Street Journal said "the emerging GOP plan—to save Medicare—so far looks like the best news for American health care in years."

There we have it. The most liberal paper in America and the most conservative paper in America both agree that the Republicans are on the right track and they both chide the Democrats for playing partisan political games with one of the most important issues in the land.

It is not too late for my Democrat colleagues to put aside the partisan rhetoric and join us in saving Medicare.

□ 1315

WHERE IS THE MEDICARE PLAN?

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, as the saying goes, the devil is in the details. Today was the day that the Republican leadership was supposed to reveal the details of their secret plan to cut \$270 billion in Medicare to pay for a tax cut for the wealthy. But they lost their nerve. And, I do not blame them.

You see, the Republican leadership wants to keep this plan under wraps for as long as possible, because they do not want America's seniors to see a plan that would double their copayments and force them to give up their doctors.

The House leadership has also announced that they will only allow 1 day of hearings on Medicare. One day. This amounts to a gag order on America's seniors.

Instead of a plan, we got platitudes today. Instead of revealing the details of the GOP plan to cut \$270 billion from Medicare, Speaker GINGRICH instead revealed his goal to, quote, "tell the truth." Well, Mr. Speaker, the truth is that 37 million Americans rely on Medicare for their health care. The truth is that they deserve to be heard. The

truth is that they deserve to know how your plan will impact their lives.

GET OUT OF BOSNIA NOW

(Mr. BAKER of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BAKER of California. Mr. Speaker, America is a great country because the Government is run by free people, bound by a great document, the Constitution.

Despite our overwhelming strength, our Nation walked softly and carried a big stick. But in Bosnia we changed all the rules. Lines were drawn creating a government which forced orthodox Serbians and Catholic Croats to live presumably under Moslem rule. Ethnic rivalries and hatreds were inflamed by the thought of 500-year-old villages being ruled by long-time enemies.

Our Government now is bombing our World War II allies, the Serbs, one of the belligerents in the civil war started by the drawing of these lines.

What right do we have to use our military might 6,000 miles away from home? Has Congress been consulted?

Since there is no NATO country involved, how can it legally be a NATO action? Is this another unauthorized U.N. action? Who will pay the \$5 billion for our involvement in this misguided war?

America will remain a free and great country only if we continue to live under our Constitution. Get out of Bosnia now.

SAVING MEDICARE: DO NOT HARM SENIOR CITIZENS

(Mr. GEJDENSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I think we have to look at history when we are trying to examine a debate. Our friends on the Republican side of the aisle come today with a masked proposal, a hidden proposal to tell us they are going to save Medicare.

The Democrats over the years have repaired the Medicare system over and over again. This is not the first time the trust fund has had some problems. In the 1970's and 1980's, time and time again we repaired it. We started off from a position where we believed in Medicare. We wanted the system to serve our senior citizens.

Let us listen to the words of the gentleman from Texas [Mr. ARMEY], the majority leader. If he had his way, he would have no part in Medicare. If he had his way, I think what we would do is we would all have no Medicare.

Our mothers and fathers and grandparents worked hard, fought in the wars to protect this country. We now need to keep the contract with them, not put them into bankruptcy, not raid the Medicare system, but fix the program to make sure that it is there for