This law has been protected for many years because it takes Federal taxpayer money and puts it in the pocket of a small, but powerful interest in the form of a wage subsidy.

The repeal of Davis-Bacon will open up the Federal construction market to fair and open competition and will eliminate the current monopoly on Federal jobs held by a few large companies.

It will open up more construction jobs to semiskilled workers who wish to break into the construction field but are now prevented from doing so.

The bottom line, Mr. Speaker, is the repeal of Davis-Bacon will give all American taxpayers a break on Federal construction costs.

The Budget Committee has acted on this mandate. It is time for the rest of Congress to do the same.

THE GINGRICH STANDARD

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

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, both Common Cause and I insist that ''in order to carry out the responsibilities of an outside counsel effectively, it is necessary for the counsel's authority and independence to be clearly and publicly established.'' The special counsel must have the ''authority and independence necessary to conduct the inquiry in an effective and credible manner.'' The House of Representatives, as well as the American public, deserve an investigation which will uncover the truth. At this moment, I am afraid that the apparent restrictions placed on this special counsel will not allow the truth to be uncovered. ''The rules normally applied by the Ethics Committee to an investigation of a typical Member are insufficient in an investigation of the Speaker of the House. Clearly, this investigation has to meet a higher standard of public accountability and integrity.'' Prophetic words, indeed, Mr. Speaker.

These are the words of the current Speaker of the House in 1988 referring to the investigation of a former Speaker of this House. This House cannot and must not tolerate a double standard. The Ethics Committee must follow the standard set by Speaker GINGRICH.

We need an outside counsel to investigate Speaker GINGRICH and we must not restrict the scope of that counsel's investigation.

□ 1015

MEDICARE GOING BROKE

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

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, Medicare is going broke. The trustees tell us that in 7 years, Medicare funds will be completely depleted. This fact cannot be disputed.

Some 61 percent of the American people want us to do something about this, now. So why is it, how is it, that liberals fail to understand the urgency of this issue? The citizens are sick of Congressmen playing politics with vital programs such as Medicare. But still the Democrats engage in blatant demagoguery, or medagoguery as the Washington Post calls it.

Contrary to the liberal distortions, the Republican plan increases spending per beneficiary from $4,800 to $6,700. It gives seniors real choices in health care management by providing for medical savings accounts. But the liberals do not want the people to know that.

It is time to stop the half-truths, the fibs, and the fabrications. It is time to stop the scare tactics and demagoguery. It is time for honest debate to take place. It is time to save Medicare.

NEW JERSEY STATE LEGISLATORS SEEK TO SHIELD MEDICARE

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I want to report how more and more conservative Republicans at the Jersey shore, which I represent, are coming out against Speaker GINGRICH's Medicare cuts. If I could read from the Asbury Park Press in my district yesterday: State Senator Leonard T. Connors and Assemblyman Jeffrey W. Moran and Christopher Connors, all Republicans from Ocean County have written to BOB DOLE and Speaker GINGRICH to ask them to back off on the proposed cuts because of the impact they could have on senior citizens, and I quote: ''Americans want Congress to cut the pork, but balancing the staggering Federal deficit or financing tax breaks for the rich on the backs of our elderly is morally bankrupt,'' the lawmakers stated in their letter.

Mr. Speaker, they also said, ''Jacking up Medicare part B coverage from $552 annually to $1,100 under your announced plan is signing a death warrant for millions of senior citizens across America. To save electricity, the seniors live in darkness. Their diet is poor. They scrimp and save for goods and services middle-class Americans often take for granted. A $564 increase in their Medicare premium is a stake in the heart,'' the Republican legislators wrote.

DEMOCRATS THREATEN VIABILITY OF THE PROGRAM THEY CREATED

(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, I would like to quote another publication this morning. This is the Washington Post, and this is written by our former colleague, who was with us last year, Mr. Tim Penny, former Democratic Representative from the State of Minnesota, and he says:

> Medicare has been a success, helping to provide health care to millions of Americans who otherwise could not afford it. Yet today, with Medicare facing a financial crisis, Democrats are playing politics instead of coming up with constructive solutions. As the architects of Medicare, we have a responsibility to shore up the program before it collapses.

He goes on to say that:

> Members of both parties should work together on this important issue, just as Republicans joined Democrats in voting for Medicare in 1965. Unfortunately, Democratic leaders in Congress have decided otherwise, choosing to attack Republican Medicare plans rather than offering an alternative. By politicizing the issue, Democrats are threatening the viability of the very program they created.

Mr. Speaker, this is from former Representative, Democrat, Tim Penny of Minnesota.

What I would say, on top of that, is that not only is it bad policy what is being done here in terms of the Democrats attack, it is also bad politics. It is not going to work.

PRESERVE HEALTH CARE FOR ALL AMERICANS

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

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Mr. Speaker, last Friday eight Democrats remained steadfast listening to the hogwash in the Ways and Means so-called Medicare hearings. I regret to say that as the hearings ended there was a paltry three Republicans remaining expressing how little sincere interest they have in this so-called document that preserves Medicare.

Today I have just heard from my Republican colleague, the prior speaker, saying that Republicans joined Democrats in the 1960's to put Medicare forward. Let me tell Members that my historians tell me there was not one single Republican vote that helped past Medicare legislation, but yet there are today a whole bunch of votes to undermine it by cutting $270 billion from Medicare in order to put the blame on our senior citizens.

What is in this so-called Medicare preservation package sponsored by Republicans. Well, I will tell Members, it is to dispossess and put out senior citizens, who need long-term care in nursing homes. It is the blame game on doctors and hospitals in rural and urban communities. It is high premiums for senior citizens who have to make choices between frequent prescription drugs and the ability to keep the lights on and the doors open in their residences.

Do we want to save Medicare, Mr. Speaker? I do and I am ready to discuss with my Republican colleagues any time they want to the elimination of $270 billion in draconian Medicare cuts.