last week, he has missed 31 consecutive days of congressional session, including every day this month.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully submit that no Member should be paid for a month in which he completely failed to report for work and was sentenced to jail. Under the law, the Speaker has the authority to deduct from Members' salaries for each day they are absent from the House, unless the Member was absent for his sickness or family sickness.

Mr. Speaker, today I am submitting a letter to Speaker GINGRICH, signed by quite a few Members of the House, requesting him to stop this Member's collection of over $11,000 of taxpayers' money for September's salary. The National Taxpayers Union has led the investigation into the Speaker's authority into this matter and strongly supports this urgent request.

ETHICS INVESTIGATION REQUIRES CONSISTENCY

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

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, the credibility in this institution requires that both the public and the Members serving here know that there is consistency in the application of the processes by which Members are investigated for alleged wrongdoings. Specifically, that the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct follows the same process for each and every Member.

Simple due process for anyone requires that they know what to expect, and know what the procedures are. That is why I have some concern when I read that the gentlewoman from Connecticut, the present chair of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, was quoted as saying recently that, and I quote from the Hartford Courant, ''The letter of the law is not compelling to me. I will work with the rules. Our rules have a certain amount of flexibility. Our goal is to have a process that the committee members feel good about.''

Mr. Speaker, justice and Committee on Standards of Official Conduct investigations are not best conducted in a hot tub, feel-good atmosphere. I am concerned when an aide of hers quotes Speaker GINGRICH in 1987, when he said that investigation requires a high standard. I urge it to be followed today.

READ ALL ABOUT IT

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

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, read all about it. The Washington Post, Thursday, September 28. Democratic former Member of Congress, Tim Penny, ''Medicare Mistake.'' ''My party is making a big mistake. The Democratic Party is closely identified with Medicare, and rightfully so. Democrats first conceived of Medicare, put it into law. As architects of Medicare, we have a responsibility to shore up the program before it collapses.''

Democratic Congressman Tim Penny says:

> We cannot afford to ignore Medicare's shaky financial situation or put it off until after the next election. It is just too important. Medicare trustees have given us a 7-year warning. Those 7 years shouldn't be squandered in indecision, stall tactics and politicking. We should view this time as an opportunity to devise and employ creative solutions. Democrats should be the leaders in this debate, not the obstructionists.

Mr. Speaker, my parents are on Medicare. I love my parents. As Republicans, we are promoting protecting and preserving Medicare for this generation and future generations. Democrats, take Mr. Penny's comments seriously. Join us in the fight to protect it and stop the demagoguery.

THE EFFECTS OF A $270 BILLION CUT IN MEDICARE

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

Mr. PAYNE of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, in a few weeks this House will have a profound choice. We can cut $270 billion from the Medicare Program, or we can scrap big tax cuts and move forward with a reasoned program of Medicare reform.

Many of my constituents have made that choice. I have spoken to hundreds of them, both elderly and young people, about Medicare. They have looked at this budget and decided that it is unfair to pay for big tax cuts at the expense of health care for the elderly.

Mr. Speaker, I toured hospitals that are typical of the 13 rural hospitals in my district. One administrator told me that 56 percent of his facility's revenues are derived from Medicare and that Medicaid accounts for another 13 percent. This hospital is 50 miles from another acute care facility and, like many rural hospitals, it operates at the margins.

The hospital administrator told me that if cuts of the magnitude being proposed now in the Republican plan are adopted, they could well force this facility to close. Where will the elderly go then? If we move forward recklessly or cut too deeply just to pay for a tax cut, we will do irreparable damage.

Mr. Speaker, I urge this body to move responsibly and to reject $270 billion in cuts in Medicare.

DEMOCRATS: COME IN FROM THE RAIN

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

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, last week the Democratic leadership sat outside in the rain moaning and groaning and grandstanding for the television cameras about the Republican plan to preserve and strengthen Medicare and increase spending on Medicare.

What do others have to say about that? The Washington Post calls them ''medigogues.'' Former Congressman, Democratic Congressman, Tim Penny calls their tactic the ''Medicare mistake.'' He says:

> There was a time when Democrats were willing to act responsibly, but by politicizing the issue, Democrats are threatening the viability of the very program they created.

He goes on to say:

> We cannot afford to ignore Medicare's shaky financial situation or put it off until after the next election. It is just too important.

So, what have the Democrats done? Nothing. Where is their plan? Nowhere.

Mr. Speaker, that is not surprising for people who do not even know enough to come in from out of the rain.

THE REPUBLICAN RECORD AFTER 7 MONTHS

(Miss COLLINS of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Miss COLLINS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to inform you of the Republican record after 7 months. The Republican agenda is strictly an agenda that caters to the rich and powerful special interest and alienates and belittles the rest of us. For example, the Republicans have given families earning more than $100,000 a $245 billion tax cut while on the other hand they are cutting Medicare spending by $270 billion. Talk about robbing Peter to pay Paul—Paul must be an awfully happy camper.

Mr. Speaker, not only do the Republicans want to save the wealthy money—they want to give them money also. The Republicans are giving an average tax break of $20,000 a year to the richest 1 percent of taxpayers while senior citizens are going to experience an average reduction in Medicare benefits of more than $1,000 a year. I ask you, does this sound like a fair agenda for our seniors that have worked so long and hard for their benefits?

Finally, Mr. Speaker, the Republicans want to hurt our educational system by making changes in our student loan program that would increase profits for banks and guarantee agencies while the spending cuts would make college students pay $4,500 to $7,500 more for each student loan.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues, does this sound like a fair agenda for our seniors who have worked so long and so hard?

Mr. Speaker, these uncalled for tactics show you why the American people are becoming more disgruntled with the Government.