

Now I do not believe that every member of the Democrat Party is wrong and doing scare tactics, but I would say there is a good number of you doing that, and it is kind of—I will be glad to yield to my friend from Miami who is above this and I hope would not be described by the Washington Post.

Mr. DEUTSCH. Actually could I have the last poster, please? The previous one you cite the—

Mr. KINGSTON. Reclaiming my time back, I am on this poster now, and, when we get to your plan, I will give you that poster—

Mr. DEUTSCH. Does the gentleman yield for 1 second?

Mr. KINGSTON. One second.

Mr. DEUTSCH. You know you have a quote from the trustee report up on the last poster, and would the gentleman agree with the trustee report which does not call for \$270 billion in cuts?

Mr. KINGSTON. Now let me reclaim my time. As the learned gentleman from Miami knows, that they did not stipulate it. Now you guys came up with this \$89 million kind of a late hit. I am sure—

Mr. DEUTSCH. Eighty-nine billion.

Mr. KINGSTON. Eighty-nine billion. I am sure they would hold it up and say what are we going to do? You know we got to get off the book deal on GINGRICH, come up with a plan this year. Well, you know, here is a program for us. We are going to go ahead and jump on Medicare.

You know, to my friend, the distinguished lawyer, I want you on the team. You have a lot to offer, and I am sure that with all the intelligent men and women on your side of the aisle and on our side of the aisle we could do what is right for mom and dad. We can give them that choice of physician. We can give them the plan that is going to be there tomorrow. We can let them have the same choices we have when we go into our insurance situation, and we would not have to tell them, you stay with that 1964 Blue Cross plan that we designed for you because you are not driving that 1964 Chevrolet Biscayne any more. We want to bring you into the nineties on health care.

That is what we are trying to do, and I think itself so irresponsible for us, and it is really just tacky, and it is not what we are sent here to do, is to say, oh, look what's happening. This is a tax cut for the wealthy and so forth. So I will be glad to yield to my friend when I get some time later on.

□ 2230

SENTIMENT AGAINST REPUBLICAN MEDICARE PLAN RUNS HIGH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Connecticut [Ms. DELAURO] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, if we want to deal with the war of the newspaper clippings, let me read a few headlines: "House GOP Medicare Bill Wins

Over Doctors with Hidden Enticements, Promise of Profits," "Keep Nursing Homes Standard," "GOP Medicare Bill Seems to Favor Fraud."

Washington Times, not a liberal newspaper in this town: "Ride for Doctors," "Beneath the Surface, the Health Care Plan is Offering Booms," "GOP Changes May be Worth Hundreds of Millions to Doctors and Hospitals."

Let us see what else we have here. "Bills Would Relax Federal Controls on Nursing Homes."

So, let us deal with it. There are lots of newspaper articles and lots of commentary about the Republican plan.

Mr. Speaker, tomorrow we will vote and the Congress will vote cut \$270 billion in Medicare to pay for a \$245 billion tax cut for the wealthy. I will vote against it. I will vote against it, because the people that I represent have asked me to vote against it. My constituents have sent me petitions, they have called my office, they have written heartbreaking letters, all to tell me to vote against the Republican pay-more-get-less plan.

I want to share some of their thoughts and feelings here tonight. Let me hold up this stack of Medicare questionnaires that have been collected throughout Connecticut's third district by wonderful senior volunteers.

The question put to my constituents was, would you support a plan to cut Medicare in order to finance a tax cut? The overwhelming response was no. In fact, more than 12,000 petitions were collected by our Medicare team captains in a little over 5 weeks. That is 12,000 signatures opposing the Medicare cuts.

The sentiment against the Medicare cuts runs high. Let me read a letter from Helen Patent of New Haven, CT, because I think that she speaks for so many seniors.

She writes, and I quote, "I am very, very upset that Congress wants to put such devastating cuts in Medicare and Medicaid programs. There are so many people that rely desperately on these programs. My husband and I are both very dependent on Medicare. After raising seven children, my husband is retired. We both have had triple bypasses within the past six years and have tremendous hospital, doctor and medical bills. Without the help of Medicare, we would have lost our house and all that we have worked so hard for. Please preserve our Nation's health care system to ensure that every individual has the right to health care now and in the future."

I say thank you kindly to Helen Patent for her letter. Helen and seniors like her all across this country depend on Medicare. They know that it works, and they do not want this Congress to destroy Medicare.

It is time for Congress to put the public interests before the special interests. Read the headline on this article.

But that is not what we have seen in this body when it comes to Medicare.

In fact, in the last week, two groups came to Washington because they had concerns about the GOP Medicare bill. Members of one group were treated to a closed-door meeting with the Speaker; and members of the other group, they got arrested.

The first group was the American Medical Association. The AMA got a back-room deal worth billions of dollars.

The second group was the National Council for Senior Citizens. The National Council and the 15 seniors got a trip to jail. They closed the light in the hearing room, they put handcuffs on these senior citizens, they put them in the car, in the wagon, and they took them downtown to be arrested, and they held them for 2 hours. Yes, indeed, they did.

What was the crime of these seniors? They came to the people's House. That is where we are. We are in the people's House. They came here to ask questions about a Medicare bill that affects their lives every single day. They wanted to participate in our democracy.

Mr. Speaker, we serve at their pleasure. That is what we do, is to bring their voices here. They wanted to see the details of a proposal that has such a deep impact on their life.

Medicare cuts are not an abstract issue to American seniors, and these cuts mean pain for our Nations seniors.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2425, MEDICARE PRESERVATION ACT OF 1995

Mr. LINDER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 104-282) on the resolution (H. Res. 238) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2425) to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to preserve and reform the Medicare Program, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

DEMOCRATS' FAIRY TALES REQUIRE A RESPONSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. LINDER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I really did not come intending to speak on this, but I have heard so many fairy tales in the last 20 minutes that I thought it was worth responding.

Mr. Speaker, those poor seniors that came to the Committee on Commerce seeking information, only seeking information, made a phone call before they came to the police department in Washington DC and said, what must we do to get arrested? They did it, and they were arrested. They were immediately released. That is a fact, and they were sent on their way because they in fact did disrupt a committee hearing.

We have heard a lot about doctors' hidden enticements in favor of fraud.