Indeed, we even saw a previous speaker who had an ad up, or an editorial up that headlined, Bribes for Doctors. I happen to be the only person in this room tonight that was actually in the room when that discussion was held.

Doctors are given back, over 7 years in prospective revenue to doctors, $26.1 billion. The original conversion factor that the House provided for them which I believe is $24.60 was changed to the Senate conversion factor of $35.42, and that difference is $300 million. The House decided to agree with the Senate in terms of the conversion factor.

That is what they call a bribe. That is hardly what the National Council of Senior Citizens would argue that they got, those very seniors who came seeking information, which was 70-some million dollars.

Ninety percent of their entire operating budget comes from the taxpayer to come and lobby the taxpayer. In point of fact, the Republican proposal for saving Medicare has no cuts to beneficiaries. None. Every single beneficiary can choose to stay in the same system at the same service, at their same doctors.

Mr. Speaker, we do reduce revenues to providers, both hospitals and physicians, although we reduce it less than the Clinton proposal and the Democrat proposal. We do provide major, major fraud, bribery, kickback, false filing, false swearing, major fraud aprovisions, and we believe that between the provider reductions, the hospital reductions and the fraud provisions, plus those seniors who choose to opt out of current Medicare and into a Medisave account, into a high deductible and private insurance account with a medical savings account, we think, and the Congressional Budget Office believes, that 25 percent will opt out.

The Congressional Budget Office tells us that with those opting out and the savings to providers and fraud, we will save $270 billion. We are delighted with that. None of that constitutes a reduction of a single dime in terms of a provider benefit.

On part B there are some things that are slightly different. Part B is the doctor portion to pay for doctor visits. Currently the law says they pay $46 per month. It is a tax, really, off their Social Security benefit of $46 a month for part B. That constitutes them paying, our seniors paying roughly 31.5 percent of the cost of their part B. We propose to keep it there.

Most of the seniors that I talk to are not proud of the fact that their grandchildren are paying 68.5 percent of their benefit, but that is something that has been established here over the last year in the formula. The Republicans intend to keep it there, at 68.5 percent subsidy of seniors part B. We know that costs go up with increasing seniors and with inflation, and so the typical senior is going to expect to raise their part B contribution, that 31.5 percent that they choose to pay is going to raise about $7 a month over 7 years. In fact, the Democrat plan goes up nearly as fast, but from a lower base.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for us to understand that most of America now agrees with us that Medicare is going to be bankrupt in 7 years if we do not make changes. This year, this year, for the first time, we will be giving to you to spend more money on part A than we bring in.

Now, it is true, it is true that Medicare has been said to be running out of money in the past, several times in the past, and sometimes in the past running out of money in shorter than 7 years. The Democrats' proposal was to raise taxes on our children and grandchildren 23 times in 27 years. We propose not to do that.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from New York [Mrs. MALONEY] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mrs. MALONEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

REPUBLICAN MEDICARE PLAN WILL DESTROY MEDICARE

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

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, before a Democratic Congress against almost total Republican opposition enacted Medicare into law in 1965, one out of every two senior citizens has no health care coverage at all. Today, with Medicare, 99 percent of senior citizens have health security. The drastic cuts the Republicans propose in Medicare, $270 billion, would savage the Medicare Program.

The Republican Medicare bill will make older Americans pay more and get less, not to prevent Medicare from going bankrupt as they falsely claim, but to finance a huge tax cut, $245 billion, for the very wealthiest Americans.

The Republican plan will, among other things, according to the Washington Times, so increase the Government's burden of proof in prosecuting Medicare fraud that the Government would lose about one-quarter of what it recovers from the crooks and the cheats today.

The Republican plan will increase out-of-pocket costs for all seniors. It will double premiums and increase deductibles. It will drastically reduce reimbursement rates to doctors and other health care provides so much so as to drive many doctors out of the Medicare system and endanger the quality of care provided to seniors. Altogether, the Republican bill would cost the average beneficiary at least $2,825 in premium and co-payment increases over 7 years, and the average couple at least $5,650.

Americans must know the truth, that the Republican Medicare cuts will go straight into the Republican's tax cut for the wealthiest Americans.

The Medicare trustees tell us Medicare needs $90 billion, not $270 billion, to remain solvent. The Republicans tell us we have ample funds to balance the budget in 7 years, and still pay for a $245 billion tax cut. If the Republicans are not lying to the American people, if their purpose is, as they say, to save Medicare, why not simply reduce the size of their tax cut for the wealthy by $90 billion and place the revenues saved in the Medicare Trust Fund? There is no need to force seniors to leave the doctors they know and to join unfamiliar managed care plans. There is no need to double part B premiums. There is no need to increase copayments and deductibles by thousands of dollars.

Mr. Speaker, to our Republican colleagues we say, simply take $950 billion from your tax cut for the wealthy and put it into the Medicare Trust Fund. You will still have a $155 billion tax cut for your wealthy friends and contributors, or is that not enough? Or is the full $245 billion gift to the very rich so important that you must destroy Medicare in order to save it?

The New York Times recently published an article detailing some individual cases, where even with the help of Medicare, medical costs are already devastating the financial stability of many seniors. Take, for example, Susie Meade, a 78-year-old woman from Florida. The Times reports, ''Out of the $6,600 she gets in Social Security a year, she pays $1,116 for supplemental insurance, $553 for Medicare, and $1,000 for prescriptions. She is left with $328 a month to pay her rent and to live on.''

How can the thousands of seniors like Mrs. Meade be free to finance a tax break for the very wealthiest Americans?

Here are just some of the many thousands of letters I have received from my constituents opposing these cuts, and there are very many stories of people who cannot possibly imagine them.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is a sneak attack on Medicare. The Republicans did not campaign last year on a platform of savaging Medicare. They did not tell the voters they would double Medicare premiums and increase copayments and cut Medicare by $270 billion. Then they kept their bill secret until last week, in the hope that the American people will not find all of the jokers hidden in the fine print until it is too late, until the bill is passed, the deed is done, the money for the $20,000 tax cut for people making $300,000 a year is provided.

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Mr. Speaker, the American people know how to react and deal with sneak attacks. We have endured sneak attacks before. Admiral Yamamoto is reported to have said on December 7, 1941, after he received the congratulations of his subordinates for the successful sneak attack on Pearl Harbor,