

the decision of what kind of care you will get, whether you will get an operation, whether you will be able to say, stay in the hospital a few extra days, have that decision be made by the physician and his patient, in consultation with the patient, and not by the insurance company.

Too many people have been denied care under their HMO policies or their managed care policies, and that should not be the way it is in this country. We have quality health insurance, but people have to be able to assure, if they need a particular operation, if they need a particular procedure, that they can have it.

That is what Democrats stand for, and that is what we will be fighting for over the next four weeks.

CUBAN TERRORISM AGAINST AMERICA CONTINUES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning first of all to commend the FBI. They yesterday carried out a very important operation in furtherance of United States national security, along with, obviously, other law enforcement agencies and the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Florida.

The United States is indeed blessed to have agencies such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation and our other law enforcement agencies, as well as the intelligence community generally, that works day in and day out to protect the national security of the American people.

Yesterday, the arrests that were made, ten in all, were of spies for the Cuban dictatorship, agents of the Cuban dictatorship engaged in activities, in espionage activities, to infiltrate U.S. centers of military, political, economic and academic power, as well as means of communication. That is the mission of the state security intelligence services of the Cuban dictatorship.

So when we see an action such as the one carried out yesterday by the FBI, all of the American people have to feel pleased, supported and protected, and in exchange I think it is the duty of all Americans to support the FBI, to commend the FBI and our other law enforcement agencies.

I think yesterday's arrests of Cuban spies in the United States underlines the true nature of the terrorist state in Havana. These arrests by U.S. authorities of numerous Cuban intelligence agents, I am sure, will serve to remind the American people of the genuine nature and continued threat posed by the Cuban totalitarian regime, just 90 miles from the shores of the United States.

Despite what is evident on behalf of the majority of the media and the

means of communication is a total ignoring of the reality of Cuba. Just the night before, how ironic, CNN, that television network that has sometimes been referred to as the "Castro News Network" because of its fetish for seeking to make Castro at all costs look good, and I know that is something that is impossible, but it is continuously attempted to be done by CNN. CNN had provided one hour of prime time to the Cuban tyrant, one hour of prime time, with the main objective of giving him an opportunity to white-wash and somehow project that he did not in fact in writing call for a nuclear first strike upon the United States of America during the missile crisis in 1962.

Castro, some of you may have seen the interview, pulled out these books of reports and tried to somehow say, obviously with no follow-up, absolutely no follow-up questioning by the CNN reporter, that no, he did not really mean to say that the Soviet Union should launch a nuclear first strike.

Well, how ironic, that just the next day, and a generation later, it is that same regime led by that tyrant that has spies in the United States that were arrested for precisely caring out activities against U.S. military and political centers of power.

So I commend the FBI. There is so much more that has to be done. There is an indictment that is prepared, it is ready, it was prepared by the U.S. Attorney in South Florida, against the Cuban regime. This was leaked out of frustration, by the way, by the U.S. Attorney to the press, when evidently from Washington the order came down that the indictment was not to be issued.

Prosecutors have an indictment ready charging the Cuban government as a racketeering enterprise for a 10 year conspiracy to send tons of Colombian cartel cocaine through Cuba to the United States. This indictment is ready. The evidence is available. It is overwhelming. The Clinton Administration has in fact ordered this indictment to be placed in a drawer and hidden. Because of the frustration, it was leaked to the media.

I have not even had time to address the dangers this morning to our national security from the nuclear power plants that Castro is building, but, Mr. Speaker, in coming days I will address on this floor those threats.

REPAYING THE SOCIAL SECURITY TRUST FUND

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BENTSEN) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, first of all, to commend my colleague from Washington (Mr. SMITH) who spoke earlier today. I was sitting in my office going through correspond-

ence from my constituents when I heard his comments on the plan to spend the interest on the Social Security trust fund on a tax cut that is part of the Republican Party, the majority party's plan either to have this year or next year.

I think this is one of the largest mistakes that we could make in this country. I think we have to go back and take a look at the economic history, the fiscal economic history of the United States, to see where we are, how we got there and the risk that this plan provides to the American people.

It was not too long ago in 1992 when the country was looking at fiscal deficits in the range of \$292 billion a year. In fact, if we go back to 1981, we see since that time the national debt has quadrupled to \$5.4 trillion. In terms of our gross domestic product it has doubled to the level of 677 percent to the level of our Gross Domestic Product, something that no business or no state or local government in our country would allow their finances to get into. Interest on the debt has become the third highest Federal program since 1981, tripling over that time.

Now, after many years of very strong fiscal medicine to get our fiscal house in order, starting with the 1990 budget agreement that was passed by the Democrats in the House and the Senate, the 1993 budget agreement that was passed by the Democrats in the House and the Senate, and followed by the 1997 bipartisan Balanced Budget Act, the Congress has now been able to show the country that we can live within our means and get the budget in balance, and this year in fact we are looking at the possibility of a surplus in the range of \$65 billion in the unified Federal budget.

But that should not cover over the fact that we still have this enormous debt, and it should not evade the fact that the total unified budget would only be in balance because of the huge surplus in the Social Security trust fund.

Some of my colleagues have suggested that perhaps the interest on the Social Security trust fund is not really the property of the Social Security trust fund or the beneficiaries. I would remind my colleagues, and I contacted the Treasury Department to get a copy of the bond that the Social Security trust fund is invested in, and that is a bond just like any American or anyone could go down to their bank or to their brokerage House and buy, and it is a bond backed by the full faith and credit of the United States Government, just like any other Treasury bond. It is not just the principal, but the interest that is paid.

The interest on the Social Security trust fund belongs to the beneficiaries of the Social Security trust fund. The idea that somehow you could bifurcate the trust fund, only giving the principal and not the interest, makes no sense at all. Certainly those of us who come from the business world, and I