should ever have to choose between putting food on the table and taking the medicine their doctor has prescribed. But today's advanced medications are expensive.

The Republicans in the House have a plan to modernize Medicare by adding a prescription drug plan. This plan is fair, sensible and necessary. Under this plan, seniors will be able to choose the coverage that best suits their needs. It will protect seniors from high out-of-pocket costs and be completely voluntary. The President and the minority party in Congress owe it to our seniors to stop the politics of fear and to support this bill.

FOOD OR MEDICINE?

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, after a lifetime of hard work, our senior citizens should be able to enjoy their golden years. But unfortunately, instead of enjoying their retirement, the rising cost of prescription drugs forces many seniors to choose between putting food on the table or buying lifesaving medications. Forcing seniors into this type of decision is wrong and it must stop.

The Republicans have brought forward a responsible, common sense prescription drug plan that provides our seniors access to affordable prescription drugs. Under the Republican proposal, seniors will have the power to choose prescription drug plans that best fit their needs instead of being forced into the Democrats' inefficient, dangerous, big-government, price control scheme. The Republican plan assures that no senior citizen or disabled American will have to choose between food and medicine again.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the administration's dangerous one-size-fits-all, government-dictated drug scheme which fails to meet the needs of our seniors.

WHO IS LYING ABOUT WACO?

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, who is lying about Waco? Scientist Carl Ghigliotti said the FBI lied, that they did fire automatic weapons into the burning building. But Vector Data Systems of England said the FBI did not lie. Two scientific groups totally disagree.

But something stinks. Vector gets hundreds of millions of dollars in contracts from the FBI. Carl Ghigliotti was just found dead. To boot, FBI audio tapes of the burning building are now lost. To boot, FBI autopsy reports confiscated of victims are now missing.

Beam me up, Mr. Speaker. This is not a Justice Department. This is a cover-up. We need an investigation. Congress should pass H.R. 4105 and put some oversight on what is developing into a police state in America.

VOTE NO ON PNTR

(Mr. HEFLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, every year for the last 30 years we have granted China most-favored-nation status. The presidencies of Reagan, Bush and Clinton have all stated that most-favored-nation status will open China to freedom and democracy. Let us look at the scorecard a little bit regarding this strategy.

We gave most-favored-nation status and they continue their policy of population planning with forced abortion. We gave most-favored-nation status and they continue not to tolerate any dissent of any kind. The imprisonments, the torture and the killings go on. We gave most-favored-nation status and they continue to try to stamp out religion that is not state-supported religion. We gave most-favored-nation status and they made plans to invade Taiwan. We gave most-favored-nation status to them and they have the biggest buildup of nuclear missile development of any country on the face of the earth. We gave most-favored-nation status and they continue to occupy Tibet. We gave most-favored-nation status and they pour money into American elections.

Are we nuts? Can we not learn? America sometimes has the reputation of being willing to do anything for a buck. On this vote, we are set to prove that that is true.

CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR AMENDMENT

(Mr. BACA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I am offering an amendment to the defense authorization bill that will bring honor and distinction to America's most highly decorated veterans. As a veteran myself who served in the 101st Airborne Division and 82nd Airborne Division, I was surprised to learn that the Congressional Medal of Honor awarded to our veterans as this Nation's highest honor for their heroic efforts is made primarily of brass.

Congress awards its own gold medal to distinguished Americans, and this medal costs as much as $30,000 and is made of solid gold. My amendment would replace the brass in the Congressional Medal of Honor we award to America's brave Americans with gold.

I do not think it is too much of a price to pay for our most heroic Americans. It would only cost about $2,000 per medal. Many of the recipients of the Medal of Honor already paid the ultimate price for our Nation and for our freedoms and liberty. We need to remember our veterans and think about them every day.

There are more than 25 million veterans in the United States. There are more than 3 million veterans in California. That is why I am holding a veterans' fair on Saturday recognizing veterans.

Today, I invite my colleagues who honor and respect America's veterans to join me in supporting my amendment for a more fitting Medal of Honor to individuals.

VETERANS GROUPS OPPOSE PNTR

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

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, almost every day a new veterans group comes out against PNTR. The Military Order of the Purple Heart, chartered by Congress, said yesterday:

''Speaking as patriots and combat wounded veterans, we believe that granting PNTR status to China would relieve them from the current pressure caused by annual congressional review of their trade status.

''Today China represents the most dangerous of the emerging threats to U.S. national security.''

It goes on to say, ''Many of America's combat wounded veterans sacrificed life and blood to repel Chinese aggression during the Korean conflict. Fifty years after that war, China remains an unabashedly communistic regime. It is time for China to change if she wishes to be a truly welcomed participant on the world's stage. It is also time for Congress and the administration to reflect upon the sacrifices of its combat wounded veterans and ensure that China will not once again become our enemy. In the view of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, this objective must be reached before PNTR status should be granted to China.''

PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE FOR SENIORS

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, seniors deserve prescription drug coverage and Republicans have a plan to provide it for them. Last week, the Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Health had a hearing on the President's prescription drug plan.

As a member of the committee, I was pleased to learn there are several ways where we can agree. But history must not repeat itself. This issue must not be used in this election to scare our seniors. Scare tactics serve no purpose and do not help one senior get the drugs they need.

Republicans are ready to roll up our sleeves and give seniors a choice in their Medicare prescription drug coverage. I welcome my Democrat colleagues and the President to join us in this important effort.