Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor to express concern about the European Union's first step in a decision against Microsoft, one of the most creative engines of economic growth in American history. The reason we all ought to be concerned about this European Union decision is it essentially breaches and disturbs, if not destroys, a carefully wrought-out resolution of antitrust issues in the American judicial system.

Whatever one thinks of our judicial system, we ought to know one thing, that it is better that these matters be resolved in the American system than internationally when the international groups now could turn into a feeding frenzy, if you will, of upsetting this apple cart after we have worked for years and millions of dollars of effort to have a very carefully calibrated resolution of these antitrust issues.

We hope that our government expresses and does not acquiesce in this issue since we need to have comity and a consistent application of antitrust rules across borders. We hope that our government will take that position.

MEDICARE

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

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, like many other Members who voted for the addition of prescription drugs to Medicare and Medicare reform on both sides of the aisle, I have been out in my district talking to people about this first significant change in Medicare in 38 years. What I am finding is a tremendous reception to the changes we have made:

The prescription drug card that will be available in June where people can call in and find out, based on the medicines they take, which card is best for them; the significant assistance to low-income seniors who not only get that card for free but also get $600 of credit on that card; and as we move into the full Medicare program in 2006, get their premiums paid if they choose to get their premiums paid. But, of course, as you are dealing with seniors and many of us who are not all that comfortable with change, the most important thing you can say is, You don't have to do anything if you don't want to, but you can look at these new options and see if these options are better for you than what you've got. If they aren't better for you than what you've got or you just don't want to change, you don't have to.

The addition of prescription drugs to Medicare brings Medicare in line with medicine. It is about time, Mr. Speaker. I am glad we did it.

SUPREME COURT TO RULE ON PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE CASE

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, Thomas Jefferson wrote those transcendent words in the Declaration of Independence, that our founders believed that we were endowed by our Creator with certain unalienable rights. Abraham Lincoln, in establishing the first National Day of Prayer, quoted scripture as he affirmed that which had been truth throughout the ages, that only those nations are blessed whose God is the Lord.

Nevertheless, at this hour across the street the Supreme Court of the United States of America is hearing a case about whether the American people may acknowledge that we are one Nation under God in our Pledge of Allegiance. This case today I offer, Mr. Speaker, is less about the facts than it is about who we are as a Nation, a Nation with a Congress that opened this day in prayer, and a court, a Supreme Court, that actually opened their work today with the words ''God save the United States and this honorable court,'' about a government that displays the name of God throughout its buildings and in its best traditions, telling the American people that they cannot do likewise.

Let us hope and pray that those nine jurists on the Supreme Court see the freedom of religion and not the freedom from religion in the first amendment of our Constitution.

MEDICARE TRUSTEES REPORT

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, the Medicare trustees have reported that the Medicare trust fund is in trouble. Imagine what would happen if the Democrat minority had successfully passed their bill. The reforms that we passed to preserve the life of the Medicare system would have disappeared and the trillion-dollar-plus price tag of the Democratic bill would have ended Medicare as we know it. We would have no choice but to make painful cuts or increase taxes to pay for the Democrats' Medicare bill.

The irony is that now that we are so close to finally implementing the law and finally getting cheaper prescription drug benefits for seniors, the Democrats want to repeal it. What we should do, Mr. Speaker, is not take away the prescription drug coverage for American seniors, but rather we should try to improve upon it, modify it and eventually make it fiscally responsible and highly workable.

MEDICARE REFORM

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

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, following on the comments of my colleague from Florida, I will say that this Medicare bill that the House passed last year, which adds a prescription drug benefit, is good medicine. It comes after years and years of this Congress talking about adding a prescription drug benefit for our seniors. Lots of rhetoric, no action. Finally, late last year, this House got together on a bipartisan basis and passed a benefit that truly helps seniors.

It is a good bill because it adds prescription drugs, but it is even better than that because it adds another great, exciting new tool for our seniors, but also for all Americans, to be able to save tax free for their health care: health savings accounts. You make a contribution tax free, it builds up tax free, and when you pay for your health care needs, it is tax free.

This will help in a few different ways. One, it will encourage preventive health care, people taking care of themselves, reducing costs in Medicare as a result. Second, it will add more competition to the health care system. It is your own dollar now that you are spending. That also will reduce costs in Medicare. Finally, it will help with the uninsured.

Many small businesses who do not now provide coverage for the uninsured will now be able to provide that coverage and individuals will be able to make contributions to an account like this to be able to cover their own health care needs.

Mr. Speaker, it is a good part of a good bill.

MEDICARE

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

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the importance of the new Medicare-endorsed prescription drug discount card. Starting in May, seniors across America will have the choice to enroll in a drug discount card plan. At this time, over 100 companies have applied to offer a prescription drug discount card. In June, older Americans can begin using those cards to save anywhere from 10 to 25 percent on their prescription drugs. Low-income seniors who choose to enroll in a drug discount plan will receive $600 of Federal assistance in 2004 and 2005 to further defray the costs of their medications.

The discount cards enable seniors to save money on their prescription drugs now while work is being done to implement the new Medicare Part D benefit. For those older Americans with no prescription drug coverage, waiting is not an option.

It is vital that we communicate to seniors their options regarding prescription drug assistance. I encourage all of my colleagues to reach out to seniors in their districts to explain the choices and benefits that older Americans now have.

I encourage seniors to visit Medicare on the Web at www.medicare.gov or to