

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 1045, the bill just passed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

## BROKEN PROMISES TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. BONIOR] is recognized for 60 minutes as the minority whip.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise this afternoon to express my deep concern over the proposed Republican budget cuts in Social Security and in Medicare and Medicaid. What is quite disturbing to me about these cuts is that they are broken promises to the American people, to our seniors who have labored so hard in this country to provide for this great Nation of ours, and what is equally disturbing about these cuts, which will cost the seniors, the Medicare cuts, will cost the seniors in the year 2002, 7 years from now, \$1,000 a year.

What is additionally so disturbing is that in the same budget proposal are tax cuts for the wealthiest people in our society. Over 50 percent of the tax cuts; it is a \$100 billion tax cut over 10 years, over 50 percent of those tax cuts go to people making over \$100,000 a year.

There is something called the alternative minimum tax, and for those of you who are not familiar with that, back in the early 1980's we found that major corporations, in fact, 130 of the top 250 corporations in America, were paying no taxes at all between 1981 and 1985, during at least 1 year, no taxes. And it was, the rest, the burden was picked up by everyone else. So we decided to change that law. Even Ronald Reagan agreed that it was embarrassing, and it was an outrage. We changed the law that required major corporations to pay at least something, a minimal tax.

Well, under the tax proposal we passed last month under the Contract With America, the Republicans got rid of that minimum tax, and now we are back to where we were, where we will have major corporations not contributing their fair share to the tax burden on the American people. So what you have in this tax bill is getting rid of the alternative minimum tax, you have got 50 percent of the benefits going to the top virtually 1 percent, so if you are making \$230,000 a year, you are going to get \$11,000 in tax breaks.

We think the tax cut is weighted very too heavily to benefit the wealthiest people in our society. And to give you an example of that, I should talk to you about one provision we had on

the floor about a month and a half ago that would allow billionaires in our society, and millionaires, very few billionaires, but there are some, to avoid paying taxes if they renounce their American citizenship. We tried to close that loophole on the floor of the House. Republicans defended it all. All but 5 Republicans voted to keep that loophole for the wealthiest people in our society. You might say, "Well who does that?" About 24 people. You know what the cost to us as a country is over 10 years as lost revenue because of that? \$3.6 billion.

So they have got this tax bill that benefits primarily the wealthiest people in our society, and they have got this budget bill that will hit the most vulnerable people in our society, our young people and our older people, and when it comes to Medicare, they take a giant whack out of the disposable income of our senior citizens.

Let me just tell you exactly what they do. The Republicans in Congress are proposing a new budget that will mean serious cuts. It will even cut back COLA increases. Over the next 7 years, Medicare will be cut by 25 percent. Medicaid, which provides the only long-term care many seniors now have access to at all, will be cut by 30 percent. Social Security COLA's will be cut by 0.6 percent a year starting in 1999. For the average senior citizen, this will mean higher out-of-pocket expenses, fewer benefits, less choice of doctors. It will mean higher Medicare premiums, higher deductibles, higher copayments.

By the year 2002, Medicare costs will increase over \$1,000, as I said, for every senior citizen. Social security COLA's will be \$240 less for every senior. Cuts in Medicaid will mean 2.9 million Americans will lose long-term care.

When we talk about Medicaid, it is not only the poor in this country, but we are talking about a program that provides, I believe, about 40 percent of long-term care for our seniors in this country. 2.9 million Americans will lose long-term care, and these cuts will not pay for fixing the Medicare system. Instead they will go into a tax package that provides tax breaks for the wealthiest people in the country and allows some of our wealthiest corporations, as I said, to pay no tax at all. That is not fair. It is not right. It is a broken promise to the American people.

These cuts in Medicare and Medicaid and Social Security are not just going to affect senior citizens. Now, how is the average working family going to pay for additional costs of caring for their parents and grandparents? How will they pay for the rising costs of long-term care, prescription drugs, home health care, and hospital bills? How are the middle-aged children of these elderly people in our society, how are they going to maintain these increased costs for their parents and their grandparents? And if they have kids who may want to move up in our

society through the education system and get a college education and if their kids are on student loans, those kids, in fact, will, in fact, be hit hard because under the same budget proposal the costs of a student going to college who is on student loans now, we call them Stafford loans, but they are better known as student loans around the country, in Michigan, that student will pay an extra \$4,000.

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So, they are getting squeezed on each end. If you got kids, and you got elderly parents, you are going to get hit on both ends.

Mr. Speaker, it was 50 years ago last week that Americans defeated Nazi Germany in World War II, and all over America we celebrated that day by remembering the brave men and women on both the battlefield and the home front who led our country to victory, and, looking at pictures of our parents and our grandparents from back then, they were so young, and they were so full of life, it is hard to believe that they would ever grow old. But they have, Mr. Speaker.

The generation that beat Hitler, built our economy, raised our families, are now America's senior citizens, and today many of them are living on fixed incomes. Their Social Security is the only thing many older Americans have each month to pay their rent, to pay their heating bills, to pay for their food, for medicine and doctor bills, and for most of them it is not easy. They have to struggle to make ends meet. Those of us who go home each weekend in our district meet them constantly. We know of the struggle they have to go through.

But today, instead of trying to make life easier and more fulfilling for them, Mr. Speaker, Republicans in Congress are trying to make their lives harder. In their budget proposal House Republicans have not only proposed cutting Social Security by \$240 a person, they are also asking every senior to pay an additional \$3,500 for Medicare.

Now, as I have said, Medicare, of course, is the system we have in this country for health insurance for our senior citizens. We did not have that before 1965. You did not have Medicare, and, as a result, many seniors, when they got into their senior years, had no health insurance and fell directly into poverty. Social Security adopted by Franklin Roosevelt, a Democrat, in 1935; Medicare, adopted in the administration of a Democratic President, Lyndon Johnson, and a Democratic Congress; changed the lives of tens of millions of American seniors and kept them out of poverty in their senior years.

After sending out press releases after press releases bragging about how they were going to leave Social Security and Medicare alone, House Republicans have broken that promise, and they have targeted our seniors, and the worst part, Mr. Speaker, they are not