

The cuts in the budget are certainly not painless for the seniors in my district or across the United States. In fact, the Republican majority has proposed to slow growth or, as most of us would say, dramatically cut billions from Medicare over the next 7 years.

The Republican cuts would result in an increase in copayments, deductibles, and premiums for senior citizens in Houston, TX and across the country. The budget plan is a broken promise to working families and their parents.

The Republican majority has promised us they would balance the budget without devastating families and senior citizens. That is one promise they cannot say they kept. While I understand and promote the need for a balanced budget, there is a right way and a wrong way to do it. Balancing the budget on the backs of senior citizens while you give tax breaks is not what the American people want or hopefully the Republican majority would want.

BASIC MATH

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

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I spent 24 years of my life as a teacher, and I thought for a few moments today we might go back to school.

Here, as you might remember from kindergarten, is a number line. What we were supposed to learn from that was that 3 is greater than 2 and 6 is greater than 4. But apparently some of us are slow learners.

As you will see from this next graph, these are the numbers for Medicare payments per recipient. On a scale that is uninterrupted so it is not distorted, as a result of the Republican plan to balance the budget. Please notice that we are now spending \$4,700 per recipient in Medicare. By the year 2002, that will increase to \$6,300. That is bigger than, larger than \$4,700.

Let us see if we have got it right now: \$6,300 is bigger than \$4,700. So Republicans are not cutting Medicare.

HANG TOUGH ON AUTO TRADE SANCTIONS

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks and include extraneous material.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, at this very moment our United States trade ambassador is announcing proposed trade sanctions against Japan for its unfair trade practices. After a decade, the executive branch of our Government has taken seriously Congress' mandate to open Japan's auto market.

Imposing penalties on Japan has my full support. In the weeks ahead, as Democratic cochair of the auto caucus here, I urge United States representative Mickey Kantor to hang tough for America and fight as hard as he can to

increase our access to Japan's market. If this Nation were to achieve auto trade equity with Japan we could build 100 new factories in this country, each employing 5,000 people. That is how big the gap really is.

The United States has trade balances with every other major trading partner in the world but for Japan. So for Japan, the time has come.

□ 1200

TOP 10 TACTICS OF THE NEW MINORITY IN THE POSTCONTRACT PERIOD

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

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, from the home office in Scottsdale, AZ—here are the top 10 tactics of the new minority in the postcontract period.

No. 10. Change the name of "Medicare" to "Mediscare";

No. 9. Hire Freddy Krueger as the new liberal Democrat spokesman;

No. 8. Get Leon Panetta to take likeability lessons;

No. 7. Set up a new political action committee—the "Whine producers"—w-h-i-n-e;

No. 6. Insist that it is relevant to carp, complain, and sit on the sidelines instead of offering policy alternatives;

No. 5. Put an ostrich ranch here on the Hill to mimic the practice of putting heads in the sand to hide from problems;

No. 4. Insist that a bigger Federal Government is the only way to meet any challenge;

No. 3. Get the Department of Education to change the name of "addition" to "subtraction";

No. 2. Revise history to say the credibility gap was a good thing;

And the No. 1 postcontract tactic of the new minority—grouse, grouch, grumble, and mumble—do anything but cooperate.

SIMPLE ARITHMETIC: TAX BREAKS FOR THE WEALTHY PROVIDED BY BUDGET CUTS

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

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, and people back in the Ninth District, those who I talked to while I was out there, it is flim-flam time. You heard the Republicans on the other side say they are not cutting Medicare. CBO says they are cutting Medicare. They say the increase they give is far below the level that is estimated that is needed to maintain the current level of Medicare benefits required under current law. They say "Yes, we are increasing it," but what about all the other people, for current beneficiaries, they say, "What about all the other people that are coming?"

Mr. Speaker, if you take the tax break, the big tax break out of the

budget, out of their budget, there is no need to cut Medicare one penny. There is no need to cut student loans, there is no need to cut agriculture and veterans' benefits, there is no need to do those things. They are doing it in order to give tax breaks to the wealthy.

It is very simple arithmetic. We had a gentleman there talk about classrooms. Yes, do the arithmetic. Take the tax break for the wealthy out of the budget and see what that equals. That equals more than the Medicare cuts for the elderly and the agriculture cuts and the student loan cuts.

IT IS TIME TO BALANCE THE BUDGET

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, once again I think we can see clearly that Medicare spending goes up from \$4,700 per recipient up to \$6,300 per recipient. It is not a cut, it is as simple as the figures right here.

Mr. Speaker, in 1969 Neil Armstrong set foot on the moon. Joe Namath predicted a Jets victory in Superbowl III and my home State, Ohio State, won the Rose Bowl. In 1969, that was the last time that Congress passed a balanced budget.

Today, 26 years later, the Republican majority is trying to repeat history. We have submitted a historic plan to once again balance the Federal budget. For the past 26 years, Congress let the Federal budgets grow and grow and grow. The social spending programs of the sixties ballooned and blossomed. They raised taxes, but they could not kick the spending habit. It is time, finally, that we balance this budget. We begin this week.

THE BOLD REPUBLICAN BUDGET

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

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, we have seen the charts, but there is one line they do not have on the charts, where they say that there is an increase because it goes up to \$6,300 by the year 2002. They do not have the chart that shows where there is a \$1,000 cut for every senior citizen beyond what their expenses would be. They do not have the chart that shows the increased co-pays for senior citizens. They do not have the chart that shows the increased deductibility. They do not have the chart that shows the increased insurance premiums, not only for senior citizens, but for all insurance premium payers. They do not have those charts, because they do not want to show them to you.

The fact of the matter is cutting Medicare goes for a tax cut for the upper income. Mr. Speaker, I have