

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to take strong exception to the Republicans' proposed massive Medicare cuts.

These cuts will force senior citizens in my district and around the country to pay \$3,500 over 7 years. Many seniors will have to make hard choices between food on their table or the medical attention that they desperately need to survive.

Slashing Medicare will not only hurt seniors, it will hurt all Americans. Medicare cuts will hurt many hospitals that rely heavily upon Medicare reimbursement.

Republicans argue that these cuts are necessary to save the system. However, the very same Republican budget that cuts Medicare contains a \$288 billion tax giveaway for the most affluent Americans.

Senior citizens have worked hard and contributed all their lives to this country. They deserve affordable health care. Let us end these shameless cuts and consider real health care reform.

REPUBLICANS FIGHTING FOR SENIORS

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

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, the fact is that the Republicans have in fact looked at the problem and seen that the Medicare trust fund will go out of business by 2002. We will have no Medicare. But under our proposal, there is an increase from \$4,700 to \$6,300 for the Medicare recipients.

This is not a cut. Only in Washington, DC can an increase be a cut.

Working in a bipartisan fashion, we want to make sure our seniors are protected.

Not only are we going to protect Medicare but we are making sure that Social Security is off the table. More importantly, we just recently rolled back the 1993 increase in Social Security taxes and we allow seniors under 70 years old not to be capped at \$11,280 for income but be able to make up to \$30,000 a year over the next 5 years without deductions from Social Security.

We are fighting for senior citizens. We ask that everyone join together and work with us so that we can make sure that Medicare is preserved, protected, and improved.

CALL FOR AN OUTSIDE COUNSEL IN SPEAKER'S ETHICS CASE

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

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, the Speaker of our House is an intelligent person. He is a student of history. He has been a professor of history and indeed he has helped write a lot of recent history. He knows well the historical precedent to avoid even the semblance of conflict or impropriety.

Now the House and the House Ethics Committee faces an important question on ethical violations—

Questions concerning the activities of GOPAC under the control of the Speaker; questions concerning possible conflicts of interest with a book deal and a publisher who might have involvement and interest before this body.

Despite promises that the Ethics Committee would approve any signing of a book deal, the Speaker went ahead and signed it, anyway, and then received a letter from the Ethics Committee saying you should not make any assumptions about our signing or approving that conduct.

In previous high-profile cases, 22 out of 46 since 1968, an outside counsel has been appointed including for the most recent Speaker under investigation, Speaker Wright. Today the Ethics Committee is deadlocked on partisan lines.

Historical precedent is clear here—avoid even the semblance of a conflict. I would urge the appointment of an outside counsel.

THE ANSWER IS NO

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

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, on June 4, 1992, on "Larry King Live," then-candidate Bill Clinton said, "I will present a 5-year plan to balance the budget."

About 3 weeks ago, President Clinton said that he would balance the budget within 10 years. What do we have today? We have got nothing. It is 3 years later from the original promise and the American people are still waiting to hear from this President on a balanced budget.

Two nights ago on "Larry King Live," the President once again artfully dodged Larry King's question about the lack of any attempt by the administration to balance this budget.

We have got to balance the budget in this country. We have a huge problem in this country that is accumulating at a rate of \$33 million an hour.

What does our President do? He goes out and vetoes the first serious attempt in a long time to cut spending.

Does he have an alternative? The answer is no.

Can he balance the budget in 5 years? The answer is no.

Can he balance the budget in 10 years? The answer is no.

Is he even going to try? The answer is no.

Mr. Speaker, it is up to us, the Republicans in the U.S. Congress, to balance this budget.

EDUCATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS BRIGHTEN WITH PRESIDENT'S VETO OF RESCISSIONS BILL

(Mrs. MALONEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to commend President Clinton for vetoing a bill that took food out of the mouths of children, heat out of the homes of the elderly, and trees out of national forests.

The bill cut student loans and summer jobs for young Americans trying to do something with their lives. It used money for those programs to provide timber barons with massive Government subsidies. This is a clear-cut case of clearcutting.

The new majority has taken a chain saw to education funding and to our disappearing natural resources. But the President's pen was mightier than the chain saw.

His first veto was a defining one. He stuck up for education and the environment.

The Republicans stuck up for corporate welfare and environmental destruction.

Mr. Speaker, the new majority has passed some awful legislation. I hope the President's veto pen has plenty of ink.

THE TRUTH

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

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, one after another after another of our liberal colleagues take to the well to carp, to moan, to deceive and to distort. * * * They can say the most outlandish things with such ease, you would swear that it was Mephistopheles himself that was up there speaking.

For instance, they say that Republicans are drastically cutting Medicare. It is not true and they know it. Far from cutting Medicare, Republicans are strengthening the program and saving it from certain bankruptcy as said so by the trustees of the program itself. * * *

It is there. Why are my—

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would ask that the gentleman's words be taken down. Twice during this time, he called the Members of Congress liars and I would like to have those words taken down or an apology issued.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). The gentleman will suspend and the Clerk will report the words.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRIES

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state it.

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, if the appropriate rule with respect to accusations of untruths arise, does it require