

of \$300 billion and cut Medicare \$270 billion.

Mr. Speaker, it is simply not right.

HOUSE AUDIT IS SYMBOL OF REPUBLICAN COMMITMENT TO OPENNESS

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

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, on opening day of the new Republican Congress we voted to have an independent audit of all House financial records. This week we fulfilled our promise.

Republicans are committed to having regular future audits. We will continue to monitor our progress and instill faith in the American people.

This audit is a symbol of the new Republican Congress and our commitment to openness and reform.

The auditors found that the Democratic controlled 103d Congress had gross disregard for financial controls, business-like practices and frequently waived congressional rules.

We Republicans have already implemented a number of reforms suggested by the auditors. This audit is a road map for future management improvements and for the sake of the American taxpayer we must stay on this course.

The American people deserve this type of government. That is what they voted for on November 8, and that is what the Republican Congress will deliver.

LAWS ARE MEANINGLESS WITHOUT ENFORCEMENT

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

Ms. FURSE. Mr. Speaker, question: What is the best way to gut a law when you do not want people to know what you are really doing?

Answer: Do what the new majority is doing, cut all the funding for enforcement, and call it fiscal responsibility.

It is obvious that they do not want to be seen for what they really are, anti-environment. So they have decided to take all the money away from enforcement. Everybody knows a law is meaningless if you cannot enforce it.

The new strategy is so simple, but it is so wrong. Here is how it works. If you and your cronies do not like the Clean Air Act regulations, just slash the enforcement funding, and you gut the act without having to vote against the act.

If you and your special interest friends do not like the environmental protection of the Clean Water Act, just zero out the enforcement budget. If you and your buddies do not like the Endangered Species Act and wildlife protection laws, cut all the enforcement money, and poachers and habitat destroyers will go scott free.

The cuts this Republican Congress is making to our environmental protec-

tion laws are extreme, unwise, and underhanded.

MEDICARE

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

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, it is common knowledge that liberal Democrats have absolutely no plan to save Medicare. None. The closest they come to saving Medicare is Bill Clinton's alleged balanced budget. And even here, the Democrats would just delay Medicare bankruptcy by just 3 years—which is not really saving Medicare.

We can also see that liberal Democrats will not even recognize the report of the Medicare Trustees that says Medicare will be stone, cold bankrupt in just 7 years.

After all this, though, Democrats breathlessly defend this program and denounce any Republican effort to save Medicare. Well, my friends you can not have it both ways.

If Democrats want to continue Medicare, but reject the Republican plan, you really only have three options: First, you must increase payroll taxes by 44 percent; or, second, you must immediately decrease Medicare spending by 30 percent; or, third, you must dramatically increase premiums paid by our seniors.

Mr. Speaker, to Republicans none of these possibilities are acceptable. But they show why the Democrats have been so silent about honestly dealing with Medicare.

FOUR JAPANESE TRADING COMPANIES NOW LARGEST IN THE WORLD

(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, for years the biggest company in the world—General Motors. Not any more. The new Fortune 500 list, the biggest company in the world, Mitsubishi of Japan; No. 2, Mitsui of Japan; No. 3, Itochu of Japan; No. 4, Sumitomo of Japan; and General Motors, No. 5, barely holding off Marubeni of Japan.

Unbelievable. Mitsubishi is now so big, they are bigger than AT&T, duPont, Citicorp, and Procter & Gamble combined. And, guess what, ladies and gentlemen? All these Japanese companies have one thing in common. They are all trading companies. They make their money selling to America, exporting to your town and my town. And while Japan is selling to America, Congress is fighting over food stamps.

Beam me up. There is no intelligence life left here. No wonder we have a record trade deficit. I yield back my yen.

WE ARE NOT CUTTING MEDICARE

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

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, according to the President and I quote.

Today, Medicaid and Medicare are going up three times the rate of inflation. We propose to let it grow at two times the rate of inflation. That is not a Medicare cut or a Medicaid cut. So when you hear all this business about cuts, let me caution you that that is not what's going on.

While this statement is an excerpt from a speech given to the AARP in 1993, the President's words are very relevant to the current debate on Medicare.

House Republicans are not proposing Medicare cuts. In fact, under our balanced budget plan Medicare will still be one of the fastest growing programs in the Federal budget. And spending per Medicare beneficiary will increase from \$4,800 this year to \$6,700 in 2002.

Mr. Speaker, saving Medicare from bankruptcy is too important for politics as usual. Instead of scaring seniors with imaginary Medicare cuts, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle need to acknowledge the pending crisis in Medicare, roll up their sleeves, and help us preserve, protect, and strengthen this vital program.

REPUBLICAN PLAN TO CHANGE MEDICARE

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, the Republicans have discovered the crisis in Medicare. We did not hear much about it last year when they stonewalled health care reform. We did not hear a thing about it during the contract in the first 100 days of the Congress or during the elections.

Suddenly they have discovered it. We have got to cut \$270 billion out of Medicare. That is the bottom line, they tell us. And these cuts are to be revealed on the 22d of September, not before, and adopted on the 1st of October; 8 or 9 days for debate, discussion, hearings. The largest changes ever in Medicare, in 8 days.

Why 8 days? I think it is because what they are proposing. Beneficiaries who want to enroll in MediGap plans, they are going to penalize them. They are going to make them pay more for Medicare. They do not think you should have MediGap insurance, and the rich people do not need it, so why should average Americans?

MediGap coverages would be prohibited from covering part B expenses. They would increase premiums for Medicare recipients, impose a 20-percent coinsurance on home health services, a 20-percent coinsurance on skilled nursing, a 20-percent coinsurance on clinical laboratory.