

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GANSKE. Mr. Speaker, I agree with my colleague from Texas on waste, fraud, and abuse in Medicare. Today my committee is holding hearings on waste, fraud, and abuse, a necessary part of the solution. But the Saint Paul pioneer press on June 27 had it right on Medicare. The headline blared, "Elderly win if budget is balanced: Despite cuts in Medicare growths, benefits would increase overall."

Under the GOP budget, Medicare will be one of the fastest growing programs in the Federal Government. In fact, comparing Medicare in the GOP budget with President Clinton's budget, one will find that the President calls for total Medicare spending of \$1.679 trillion between 1996 and 2002, while the GOP budget calls for \$1.601 trillion, and in 2002, the Republican balance the budget. We will be spending \$274 billion on Medicare. The President, under his proposal, will be spending \$289 billion. So what is the beef? Republicans plan to save Medicare period, and do not let anyone tell you differently.

□ 1020

EXPOSING THE EMPIRE OF THE GENTLEMAN FROM GEORGIA

(Ms. MCKINNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year while my colleague from Georgia was leading the Republicans in cutting school lunches, he managed to deflect some criticism by making a big deal out of a pet project, "Earning by Learning."

In Monday's Wall Street Journal, however, we learned exactly who was doing all the earning: it was none other than Mel Steely, a close friend of the Speaker and head of this program. According to the Wall Street Journal, 90 percent of the money that comes into "Earning by Learning" goes to Mr. Steely who is also authorized to write the official biography of Mr. GINGRICH.

Is this a new kind of child labor, by exploiting children's education as a way to take care of the Speaker's official biographer.

Mr. Speaker, it is time the empire supporting my Georgia colleague's cult of personality be exposed for what it really is—a scam.

SAVING MEDICARE WITHOUT MUCH HELP

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

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, we have a choice in this House.

We can preserve, protect, and improve Medicare—or we can watch it go bankrupt—as President Clinton's Cabinet has warned will happen—in less than 7 years.

These are facts. Doesn't sound like much of a choice, does it?

But liberal Democrats are going to try anything possible to frighten our senior citizens into believing Republicans want to cut Medicare.

Meanwhile, the G-O-P plan calls for increasing each Medicare patient's annual spending from \$4,800 to \$6,700 per year by 2002.

I'm a graduate of the Kentucky public school system—and back home that's not a cut, that's an increase.

I encourage our friends on the left to offer more ideas and fewer scare tactics.

We can preserve, protect and improve Medicare. The people in the real world, the private sector, have improved their health care system these past few years.

I'd say we ought to try and do the same.

SAVING MEDICARE

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

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the pollsters have told the Republicans they need to start telling the American people they are saving the Medicare system. But do you save it by cutting it by \$270 billion? The American people are not stupid. The American people can clearly see that a \$270 billion cut to their senior citizen health care system to finance a tax break is *not* saving the system.

Only in "Washington speak" could the Republicans say this: We are cutting \$270 billion from the Medicare system in order to save it from bankruptcy. And by the way, we are giving a \$245 billion tax cut. But we are really saving Medicare by cutting it. How can the Republican majority make this palatable? They say, "Tell the American people this is a steep cut to 'save' the system." Great idea, but the people in my district are much smarter than that. You do not save Medicare by cutting \$270 billion from it. The Republicans are not trying to save the Medicare system any more than Hugh Grant was asking for directions.

AUDIT RESULTS

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

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday marked another important step in our efforts to reform the internal operations of the House of Representatives. As a member of the Committee on House Oversight, I heard the testimony offered by the outside auditors retained to evaluate the books of the House, the first outside audit of House finances in over half a century.

The auditors state that they had "No opinion." That is a CPA's term for saying they could not express an opinion

because they could not even figure out the books in order to know whether or not they were in order.

Things are in such disarray in terms of the House finances and the House books that the auditors said we have to revamp the entire system.

I believe it is very important that we brought this situation to light. It is extremely important that we address the situation. As the Committee on House Oversight, we are pledged to bring this to the attention of the House of Representatives, to put the books in order, and to make sure that all the money spent by the House of Representatives is fully accounted for and properly expended.

REPUBLICAN SECRETS CONCERNING MEDICARE

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

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, it is becoming clear that the details of how the Republicans will cut Medicare are being held secret for as long as possible. At a time when millions of seniors are beginning to wonder, will my costs really go up more than \$1,000 a year out of my pocket, will my choice of physicians really be restricted, no hearings are being held and no details are being discussed.

We all know that the Republican budget, with its tax cuts for America's most privileged, means the cuts are just around the corner. There will be higher out-of-pocket costs for seniors, very considerable higher out-of-pocket costs. There will be restrictions on physician choice. But exactly how, the Republicans are not saying, because they are going to try and sucker punch the American people by floating the details of the plan only days before the vote, notwithstanding the fact that our seniors deserve the chance to see, to evaluate and to let their Members of Congress know what they feel about these plans.

The us how you will cut Medicare, Mr. Speaker.

The American people deserve to know.

PRESERVE AND PROTECT MEDICARE

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

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, liberal Democrats would like nothing more than to frame the debate over Medicare in terms of generational conflict, where senior citizens are pitted against young people. This line of reasoning is beyond ludicrous.

The crisis that faces Medicare is something that affects everyone. Medicare must be protected and must be preserved for everyone. It must not be used to drive a wedge between people.