

per year in Medicare benefits taken from each of them in order to give 1.1 million of America's richest people a \$20,000 tax break.

Now if the Republicans want to have a substantive debate about how to improve Medicare and rein in its costs to ensure future solvency, then let us have that talk. But the Republicans' current effort is not about that. It is about finding ways to pay for tax cuts for the wealthy under the guise of saving Medicare.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans are not so stealthy that their Robin Hood-in-reverse crusade will go unnoticed by seniors.

MEDICARE

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

Mr. LARGENT. Mr. Speaker, Medicare is not a Republican issue—it is not a Democrat issue—it is an American issue. Recently, a bipartisan group appointed by both Republican and Democrat administrations reported to the Congress that Medicare will go bankrupt within 7 years if we take no action.

I believe we must prevent bankruptcy by simplifying and strengthening Medicare. We must simplify the system so that Medicare patients can more easily understand the program. In addition, we must strengthen Medicare to make it financially safe and secure for both current and future beneficiaries.

We must work to ensure that senior Americans have the same rights to health care services as Members of Congress.

In response to critics who are already claiming that this reform is a cut in the Medicare Program, I say this is simply not true. By enacting these modest reforms, Medicare will continue to increase—just at a slower rate.

In fact, costs per beneficiary will continue to increase from \$4,800 per participant in 1995, to \$6,400 per recipient in 2002. Now you tell me, how is this a cut?

To play politics with this issue does not help in finding a solution to this problem. To do nothing is totally irresponsible, and unacceptable.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

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

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend President Clinton for his eloquent, thoughtful, and perceptive statement on a very sensitive and difficult subject—affirmative action.

The President outlined an approach to this issue which not only conforms to the state of the law, including the Adarand case, but takes into account the muddled history of discrimination in this Nation, and takes into account

the concerns that some have raised about affirmative action.

I agree with the President that fraud and abuse, fronts and pass-throughs, in affirmative action programs should not and will not be tolerated.

I also agree with the President that reverse discrimination, quotas, and promoting unqualified individuals has no place in our society.

The President's words went a long way to begin the important process of healing in America—urging us to “reach beyond our fears and our divisions”.

The President pointed out that, “When affirmative action is done right, it is flexible, it is fair, and it works.”

While we begin to debate the issues surrounding affirmative action we must not get caught up in the political rhetoric and fervor that plays on fears and insecurities. We must focus on the realities and the meaningful, productive, work left to be done.

WHERE IS THE DEMOCRAT'S MEDICARE PLAN?

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

Mr. KIM. Mr. speaker, I would like to talk about Medicare this morning. Let us take a look at this chart closely. The red one is the existing plan which is leading to bankruptcy. The red one, bottom, is trust fund balance. As you can see, in the year 2002 the money will be totally depleted.

The blue one is the Republican plan. What we are trying to do is slow down the increase, slow down the rate of increase.

Right above is the green plan, which is the Clinton plan. As you can see, the Clinton plan, the Republican plan, there are not that many differences. The only difference is the Republican plan tries to save Medicare, which is 7 years, and the Clinton plan is stretching out to 10 years.

My colleagues from the other side are complaining and bashing and attacking us. Let us see what their plan is.

Here it is. Nothing. They have absolutely no plan, no idea, no vision, except attack and attack and bash. I think it is silly.

LET US NOT ROB OUR CHILDREN'S FUTURE

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, there go our Republican friends again. First they cut Medicare to give tax breaks to the rich, and now they are cutting education, our children's future, to give tax breaks to the rich.

A subcommittee today is cutting \$3.9 billion off education, robbing America's children. Goals 2000, setting education standards, cut; safe and drug-free schools, cut; chapter 1 funding to

help our schools, cut; Eisenhower Program for teacher training, cut; and adult and vocational training, cut. And why? To give tax breaks for the rich.

What will this mean to middle class America? More students per class, and local and State property taxes increasing. Student loans were taken away from our children by the Republicans, and now, on top of Medicare, they are going to cut education again.

These are middle-class kids that are going to suffer. Eighty-nine percent of jobs created in this country require postsecondary training. What are the Republicans doing for that? Cut again.

We have a plan. It is a plan of compassion. Let us fix what needs to be fixed, but let us not cut and rob our children's future.

FRAUD IN MEDICARE

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, Medicare was established to help our seniors, not to make unscrupulous companies wealthy at their expense.

Today I am talking about the fraud in Medicare. Listen to the items that ABC Home Health Care put on their Medicare tab: Maid service payments for condominiums; golf pro shop expenses; airplane and automobile expenses for personal trips; and lobbying expenses.

They use promotional and marketing gimmicks such as gourmet popcorn, golf tees, earrings, cufflinks, combs, and sewing kits to recruit new members.

This is not a club but a home health care service. We should all be concerned.

Taxpayers are footing the bill for these luxury items.

Money was no object because ABC Home Health Care put it on the Medicare tab. Medicare was billed to the tune of \$14 million for just 1 year.

We cannot allow this to happen, this fraud to continue in the Medicare Program.

MEDICARE FRAUD AND ABUSE

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

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the GAO issued a report outlining charges against ABC Home Health Care for defrauding American taxpayers through the Medicare Program. The Democrats want to reform the Medicare system, but you do not do it by picking the seniors' health care pockets dry.

What we want to do is to scrap the tax break plan and stop this private sector ripoff of the public sector.

The GAO said that this Georgia company did do this: \$140,000 for airplane costs; \$21,000 for a pilot's salary; \$16,000 for alcohol at a leadership conference.

Get this one: \$84,000 for gourmet popcorn. My mother and father have never done this. This is, again, a ripoff by the providers and the private sector of the public sector. Scrap the tax break plan and stop picking at our senior citizens.

PERMISSION FOR SUNDRY COMMITTEES AND THEIR SUBCOMMITTEES TO SIT TODAY DURING THE 5-MINUTE RULE

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the following committees and their subcommittees be permitted to sit today while the House is meeting in the Committee of the Whole House under the 5-minute rule: The Committee on Banking and Financial Services, the Committee on Commerce, the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities, the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, the Committee on International Relations, the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Resources, the Committee on Small Business, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

It is my understanding that the minority has been consulted and that there is no objection to these requests.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. EMERSON). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

Mr. McNULTY. Reserving the right to object, Mr. Speaker, my colleague from New York is correct. We have consulted with the ranking members of these committees, and we have no objection to the request.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

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

There was no objection.

PROVIDING FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2058, CHINA POLICY ACT OF 1995, AND HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 96, DISAPPROVING EXTENSION OF MOST-FAVORED-NATION TREATMENT TO THE PRODUCTS OF CHINA

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 193 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 193

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 2058) establishing United States policy toward China. The bill shall be debatable for ninety minutes equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on International Relations. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit. The motion to recommit may include instructions only if offered by the minority leader or his designee.

SEC. 2. After disposition of H.R. 2058, it shall be in order to consider in the House the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 96) disapproving the extension of nondiscriminatory treatment (most-favored-nation treatment) to the products of the People's Republic of China. The joint resolution shall be debatable for one hour equally divided and controlled by Representative Wolf of Virginia and Representative Archer of Texas or their designees. Pursuant to sections 152 and 153 of the Trade Act of 1974, the previous question shall be considered as ordered on the joint resolution to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to table, if offered by Representative Wolf or his designee. The provisions of sections 152 and 153 of the Trade Act of 1974 shall not apply to any other joint resolution disapproving the extension of most-favored-nation treatment to the People's Republic of China for the remainder of the first session of the One Hundred Fourth Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York [Mr. SOLOMON] is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, for the purposes of debate only, I yield 30 minutes to the gentleman from California [Mr. BEILENSON]. During the consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

(Mr. SOLOMON asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material.)

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this rule was unanimously adopted by the Committee on Rules, and I am proud to say that the arrangement worked out by this rule was unanimously agreed to on a bipartisan basis by the principal parties involved with the legislation.

What the rule does is to first make in order in the House the bill, H.R. 2058, the China Policy Act of 1995, as introduced by the gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. BEREUTER].

The rule provides for 90 minutes of general debate, equally divided between the chairman and the ranking minority member of the Committee on International Relations. While we originally considered limiting this to 1 hour of debate, we expanded the debate time at the request of the bipartisan group that had negotiated a compromise with Mr. BEREUTER.

The rule further provides for one motion to recommit the bill, which, if containing instructions, may be offered by the minority leader or his designee. I would point out to my colleagues that this latter provision is in keeping with the new House rule adopted on January 4 of this year which guarantees to the minority the right to offer a motion to recommit with instructions, and I quote from rule XI, clause 4(b), "if offered by the minority leader or his designee." That is what is contained in the House rules.

This is a guarantee we Republicans were denied on numerous occasions when we were in the minority but which we promised to give the minority if we became the majority.

Mr. Speaker, the rule goes on to provide that after the disposition of H.R.

2058, the House may proceed to the consideration in the House of House Joint Resolution 96, introduced by the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. WOLF], disapproving the extension of most-favored-nation status to the products of the People's Republic of China.

The rule provides for 1 hour of general debate, divided equally between the gentleman from Virginia and the chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. ARCHER].

Pursuant to the terms of the fast track procedures, the previous question is considered as ordered to final passage on the joint resolution, except that one motion to table the resolution is in order, if offered by the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. WOLF] or his designee.

Finally, the rule provides that the fast track procedures of the Trade Act shall not apply to any other disapproval resolution relating to MFN for China for the remainder of this session of Congress.

Mr. Speaker, before I turn to the policy aspects of the measures before us, I just want to comment on the cooperation we have received from the parties on all sides of the issue involved here in crafting this rule. As I mentioned earlier, this was reported from the Committee on Rules on a unanimous vote, thanks to the gentleman from California [Mr. BEILENSON] who is managing for the minority. This was also due in no small part to the cooperation and compromise among all concerned that has taken place in crafting the legislative bill made in order by the rule.

I especially want to pay tribute to the gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. BEREUTER] for his open-mindedness and willingness to listen to other Members. I also commend the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. WOLF] and the gentleman from California [Ms. PELOSI] who have labored for so long in these vineyards, for their accommodating attitudes in reaching agreement on a consensus bill.

I would be remiss if I did not single out the distinguished chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. ARCHER], and the ranking minority member of the committee, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. GIBBONS], and the Committee on International Relations chairman, the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN], and the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. HAMILTON] for all their work on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, this is a good rule, a fair rule and a bipartisan rule that will enable us to debate the issues and vote on two distinct yet related propositions relating to the People's Republic of China. I hope that we will adopt this rule.

Turning now, Mr. Speaker, to the substance of the issue itself, I cannot avoid making the observation that two things have remained constant since the House began having this annual