

The other one is to pursue a diplomatic settlement. It is not going to happen. Do you know that war in Bosnia has been going on for over a thousand years? It was going on before Columbus set sail for the New World. And never in the history of this country have we successfully intervened in a civil war, and that is exactly what is going on in Bosnia. We have never successfully intervened in the civil war of another country, and this will not be an exception.

I think the elements we have to look at before we commit any further money or troops or time to Bosnia really is three- and fourfold:

One, do we have a national security interest in Bosnia? The answer is no.

Number two, do we have a clear objective? When we went to Kuwait, we had a clear objective. Iraq had invaded Kuwait. We had a border. We know that one party had gone over a border that they were not supposed to go over. Do we have that kind of objective in Bosnia? The answer is no.

What is another objective? Are our allies facing a national security threat in Bosnia? The answer is no. Is there an economic threat to our country because of the civil war in Bosnia? The answer is no.

My opinion is, there is no clear objective in Bosnia. I think we have to take a look at what kind of commitment the President is willing to make.

First of all, the President relies on the United Nations. Mr. Speaker, take a look at this headline. And by the way, that number has gone up in the last couple of days. It says, "United Nations, for the 78th Time, Condemns the Serbs."

Folks, the United Nations is nothing more than a paper tiger. What is going to happen is, the United Nations is going to be put in there in a stronger and more forceful way and it is going being that burden. It is going to be our young sons or daughters or grandsons and granddaughters that are going to be in Bosnia fighting a war that cannot be won.

What happens if we do find peace in Bosnia? The only way we can do it is to make a massive commitment of military ground troops, may be at least 100,000 troops. And the worst thing about it is, we are going to have to keep them there.

What happens if we do get that peace? How are we going to keep it? The only way we can keep it is a long-term military commitment, and this country is not prepared to make that kind of commitment with military ground troops in the country of Bosnia.

What do I suggest we do? I think it is fairly complicated, but rather simple on its face. One, lift the arms embargo on the Bosnian Moslems. Let them have a fair fight. What we have done is gotten engaged in a fight where we have tied the arms behind their back of one party in the fight and let the other one go at it.

We need to pull out of Bosnia.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for the time. I urge that we pull immediately out of Bosnia and lift the arms embargo.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Mississippi [Mr. MONTGOMERY] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. MONTGOMERY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

#### THE STATUS OF SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE AS REVEALED IN THEIR ANNUAL REPORTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. HOKE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Members who are showing their appreciation tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I want to share with you and our viewing public tonight on C-SPAN a little booklet, called The Status of Social Security and Medicare Programs: A Summary of the 1995 Annual Reports.

I want to tell you about this because I want to urge you, if you are a senior citizen, if you are some day going to be a senior citizen or hope to be a senior citizen, or if you are just a citizen of the United States, this is essentially an annual report on Social Security and Medicare.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, the debate on Medicare has become so utterly politicized that it is difficult for the public and for average Americans to cut through the political rhetoric and the demagoguery and the posturing that is going on to be able to find out what the truth is and what the facts are; and I commend this to you, to read it.

It is only 14 pages. It is short, it is clear, and it lays out very clearly exactly what the facts are. It is written by the Medicare trustees and the Social Security trustees and it includes 3 members of the President's Cabinet.

It is not a Democratic piece, it is not a Republican piece; it is a nonpartisan piece. It is very well written and lays out clearly what the programs are. It is informative in that it does not just talk about recommendations and problems and all of that, but it also tells you exactly what the tax bases are, how much money is raised, where the money goes, how much is in the trust funds of each one, how long we can expect them to last, and if there are problems that ought to be addressed.

I want to read just a couple of quotes from this, because I think it is very instructive. Again, call your Representative: the switchboard at the Capitol here is area code 202; the switchboard people do not like it when I do this, but it is very important that you do this.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. FIELDS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I have a point of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Louisiana will state his point of order.

Mr. FIELDS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, is it proper for the Member to address the C-SPAN audience? Should not the Member address the Speaker of the House?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Ohio is reminded to address his remarks to the Speaker.

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, I want to remind you, so that perhaps you could remind the public, that the switchboard number here at the Capitol is 202-224-3121; each citizen might call their Representative and ask for the summary of these annual reports.

I will say, and I am not suggesting that the gentleman from the other side of the aisle who made this point of order is a part of this, but I have got to tell you, the Democrats do not want you to read this report. They are trying to keep this report secret. They do not want you to see what is in this report.

Let me read a couple of things. It says,

The Board of Trustees are pleased to present the summary of the 1995 annual reports of the Social Security and Medicare Trust Funds. In particular, we encourage current and future beneficiaries to consider what these reports mean for them as individual citizens. Based on the trustees' best estimates, the reports show,

And I am going to cut to the part about Medicare,

... the Medicare Trust Fund which pays in-patient hospital expenses will be able to pay benefits for only 7 years and it is severely out of financial balance in the long range.

Then it has a lot of stuff on the summary of the reports and explains the analysis and how they go through this.

I am just going to go to the back where it has a message from the trustees. It says,

This is the fifth set of trust fund reports on which we have reported as Public Trustees.

During the past 5 years there has been a trend of deterioration in the long-range financial condition of the Social Security and Medicare programs and an acceleration in the projected dates of exhaustion in the related trust funds.

Then they go on to say the most critical issue relates to the Medicare program.

Both the Hospital Insurance Trust Fund and the Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Fund show alarming financial results.

The Medicare program is clearly unsustainable in its present form. We had hoped for several years that comprehensive health care reform would include meaningful Medicare reforms. However, with the results of the last Congress, it is now clear that Medicare reforms need to be addressed urgently as a distinct legislative initiative.

The number is 202-224-3121. Mr. Speaker, I am asking that you advise the public that they can request this summary from their Representative and get a copy of it, because we have got to get out of the partisan rhetoric