

we are going to conduct 153,000 additional special audits of American taxpayers that will cost them \$1.5 billion.

Check this out. You file a joint return, they demand to see the marriage license. You claim children, they demand the birth certificates. They demand all household expenses and want a detailed list of every single financial transaction. A W-2 form is not enough. They want a special affidavit from your boss. After all this, they call it voluntary.

Beam me up.

The truth is, while Congress keeps turning the other cheek on the IRS, the IRS keeps turning the screws on the American people.

Let us get down to business and straighten this tax mess out.

MEDICARE: THE REPUBLICAN VIEW

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

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, since taking control of Congress, Republicans have proven that politicians can go to Washington and actually keep their word. We have not ducked the tough issues and we are not going to start now.

This spring, the Medicare trustees reported that Medicare will go broke in 7 years. Since then, Republicans have faced this issue head-on. We have not tried to duck or hide like some of the Members on the other side of the aisle have. But, you see, many of these Members cannot help it. They are the remnants of the old Washington establishment which was rejected by the voters last November, where it was standard operating procedure to avoid the tough issues, to look the other way, and to run from responsibility. It is outside of their political world view to meet an issue head-on, to take a tough position, to show leadership, and follow through with commonsense solutions.

Medicare is going bankrupt. It may be 30 years old this week, but it is condemned to death at age 37 unless action is taken.

Republicans are working to protect and strengthen Medicare. We ask the Democrats to join us. This is too important an issue to fall into partisan bickering.

TOP 10 REPUBLICAN REASONS TO CUT MEDICARE

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, from the home office of New York's 17th Congressional District in the Bronx, here are the top 10 reasons why Republicans want to cut Medicare:

No. 10, a Republican memo says older Americans are pack oriented and want to follow a leader;

No. 9, on the 30th anniversary of Medicare, Republicans say don't trust anybody or anything over 30;

No. 8, Republicans need the money to pay for a big tax cut for the wealthy;

No. 7, \$270 billion in cuts is a nice round number;

No. 6, Republicans want seniors to choose between buying food and buying medicines;

No. 5, according to DICK ARMEY, Medicare is a program that he would have no part of in a free world;

No. 4, Republicans want to balance the budget on the backs of the middle class;

No. 3, Republicans think if 40 million Americans don't have health care, why should seniors?

No. 2, Republicans want to see seniors go from Medicare to welfare;

And the No. 1 reason why Republicans want to cut Medicare is: Medicare, Schmedicare, Who needs health care in a brave new world!

WASTEFUL PRACTICES COST MEDICARE BILLIONS

(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, the top 10 reasons why the Democrats cannot solve the Medicare problem is they do not tell the straight facts. I can say that 10 times, but I do not want to use all my time.

Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about waste, fraud, and abuse in the Medicare Program, because this program is spending so much money. It is alleged that almost 12 percent of the entire Medicare-Medicaid budget is rife with fraud and abuse.

Let me share some facts. In 1980 Medicare spent \$34 billion. In 1990 that sum had increased to \$107 billion. In 1995 it will spend approximately \$177 billion. When Willie Sutton was asked why he robbed banks, he responded, "That's where the money is."

Is it any wonder with billions of dollars at stake that all manner of scoundrels and ne'er-do-wells would plunder this Government bank account for all it is worth.

Over the next few weeks I plan to talk a good deal about this problem which is costing the taxpayers billions of dollars. I also plan to talk about what we can do to remedy the fraud, waste, and abuse in the Medicare Program.

MEDICARE: THE DEMOCRATIC VIEW

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

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday I turn 55 and Medicare turns 30. I think I have got a better chance of survival than Medicare does because the Republicans do not have quite as much oversight on my future as they do on Medicare's.

I will tell you why they are robbing Medicare—the same reason they rob banks. That's where the money is.

Medicare needs some reforms, we know that. But you take the money you save from the reforms and you put it back in Medicare. If Medicare is in trouble, which we all agree it could be because of the rising cost of health care, you certainly do not take \$270 billion out of it to fund a tax cut.

Look, this is all about a tax cut for the rich. That is all it is about. What we are saying is that it is totally unfair to take the money out of the pockets of the elderly who had planned on this, who had counted on this, and they do not want to see one more Government promise undercut.

PRESERVING MEDICARE

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

Mr. TATE. Mr. Speaker, I have not done a 1-minute on the floor for probably several weeks, but I can be silent no longer.

Every day I turn on and hear the words "mean-spirited" and "callous." I am coming to believe that if those words were eliminated from the minority party's vocabulary, there would truly be silence on that side of the well.

Nothing could be more callous and more mean-spirited than to sit back and do nothing. All I can think of, Mr. Speaker, is retirees back in my district that are on fixed incomes. Grandmothers and grandfathers across this country that are concerned about Medicare.

What do the Democrats do? They do nothing. Absolutely nothing. They have even ignored their own President's report that came out and stated clearly that Medicare would go broke in 7 years if we do nothing. The American people deserve more than scare tactics from liberal Democrats. The American people want to preserve and to protect Medicare.

SHOW US THE PLAN

(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, picture yourself as a homeowner who has just entered a contract for some home repairs. What would you do if the contractor showed up, not with a pickup and some tools on the back but, rather, driving a crane with a huge wrecking ball swinging from the turret? You would say, "Wait a minute. You don't do home repair with a wrecking ball."

Well, that is precisely what the Republicans are proposing to do to Medicare. They are saying, "We're here to fix it." But they have a \$270 billion cut they intend to inflict on this program. That is like trying to fix a home with a wrecking ball. It won't work. It will

inevitably mean higher costs for seniors and restricted choice of physician.

If you were the homeowner, you would say, "Well, wait a minute. Show me the plan on how you're going to fix my home with that wrecking ball."

We in Congress and the seniors of this country should say, "Wait a minute. Show us the plan in terms of how you're going to fix Medicare with that \$270 billion cut."

They have no plan. They have not shown the plan. We deserve no less.

HELP US SOLVE THE MEDICARE CRISIS

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

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, Medicare will be bankrupt in 7 years. No amount of accusations against each other about robbing banks or telling stories is going to solve the problem. We cannot stick our heads in the sand. Medicare will go broke in 7 years. We must work together to solve the problem rather than just spit out rhetoric.

Many of you have a parent or grandparent who is 58 years of age and expecting Medicare benefits when they turn 65. They have worked hard all their lives, paid their taxes, and saved for their retirement. When they reach 65, however, and are getting ready to retire, there will be no Medicare waiting for them.

Mr. Speaker, for 30 years Medicare has enabled the seniors of this country to get the medical attention they need, and now the Democrats seem to want to stand by, yell a lot, but let the program die.

We Republicans will not stand for it. We are working to strengthen and preserve Medicare. I hope my Democrat colleagues will stop the rhetoric and help us solve the Medicare crisis.

DO NOT BREAK OUR 30-YEAR COMMITMENT TO SENIORS

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, this week we celebrate the 30th anniversary of the creation of Medicare, and it is an event that is worth celebrating. Thirty years ago we made a commitment to the Nation's seniors when we said to them, "Never again will you go without health care. Never again will you be forced to squander your life's savings to pay a doctor's bill."

But now Medicare is in danger, real danger. The Republican budget, which cuts \$270 billion from Medicare, would end Medicare as we know it today. Thirty years ago, 93 percent of the Republicans in this body opposed the creation of Medicare, and now Republicans are closing in on a 30-year goal to end what they never wanted in the first place.

In 1965 we made a deal with seniors. We said, "You pay into this trust fund all of your working life and when you are unable to work any longer, we will use that money to pay for your health care costs."

Seniors have kept up their end of the bargain but now Republicans want to back down on our end. Medicare is the real Contract With America and Republicans should not break it.

IF YOU CARE ABOUT SENIORS, SAVE MEDICARE

(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, as you are well aware, this is the week of the 30th anniversary of Medicare. Republicans are working hard to make sure Medicare is available over the next 30 years. We wish the President was doing the same.

Instead, President Clinton is using the White House's resources and energies, not to mention taxpayers' dollars, to raid seniors' pension funds—not to save Medicare.

By promoting economically targeted investments [ETI's], which take into consideration the investment's benefit to society rather than the financial benefit to the retiree, the Clinton administration is depriving seniors of the most profitable return from their pension fund.

The Labor Department is supposed to protect your pension fund from being raided, not be the raider. And President Clinton is supposed to care about seniors, not shaft them.

THE CONTRACT WITH AMERICA IN 1965: MEDICARE

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

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Mr. Speaker, 30 years ago, we made a contract with the American people, particularly our elderly. We said, if you work hard and pay your Medicare taxes, you will have a guaranteed insurance program for your medical care that will free you from the threat of financial disaster in your retirement years.

The fact that one of the first things the Republicans have done since they took over Congress in January is to launch an assault on the Medicare Program by voting for \$270 billion in Medicare cuts to pay for tax cuts for the wealthy should come as no surprise. The Republicans never wanted Medicare, they never liked it.

Suddenly, 30 years after they tried to block the program, they have come up with a plan for Medicare; a plan that will limit choice of doctors and hospitals, will double premiums, and will mean higher deductibles.

In just 6 months, House Republicans have passed, adopted, proposed, and

drafted significant changes to the Medicare Program. Changes that will effectively take away the security that the Medicare Program represents to our seniors and that a single fact best summarizes: Before Medicare, 1 in 3 elderly Americans lived in poverty. Thirty years later, it is close to 1 in 10.

Can our elderly afford \$1,650 more for premiums to cover their doctor bills? Can the elderly really afford \$1,700 more for the same or less health care in 1 year alone? Will the proposed vouchers cover them against sudden premium increases if they get sick? Is it fair to make older Americans give up their doctors and be forced into managed care? As President Clinton stated yesterday, the answer to every single one of these questions is no. No.

While House Republicans believe they have devised a contract to meet the political whims of the day, Democrats made a commitment with Americans in 1965 when Medicare was enacted. Let me assure you that President Clinton and the Democrats intend to keep that commitment. Our seniors deserve no less.

MEDICARE IS A FAMILY ISSUE

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

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, Americans celebrate the 30th birthday of Medicare and Americans will celebrate the medical security that Medicare gives to our senior citizens.

I am sure there are people listening who just turned 30 who are thinking: "This doesn't affect me? Why should I care?" I'll tell you why you should care.

When the Republicans cut \$270 billion from Medicare and use most of that to give tax breaks to the wealthiest handful of Americans, those cuts will make Medicare too expensive for many seniors who will have no place to turn for help except to their adult children.

How else will seniors pay a deductible that has doubled, or pay a monthly premium that has doubled, or pay a new copayment for home care? How else will they pay the specialist not covered by the managed care plan they have been forced into?

Young people cannot ignore the Republican attack on Medicare; 30-year-olds, seniors, and everyone in between should remember that Medicare is not just a seniors issue, it is a family issue.

□ 1240

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

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the following committees and their subcommittees be permitted to sit today