

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

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

WASTE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

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

MEDICARE TRUST FUND SUMMARY

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, I was not going to speak about Medicare tonight, but I will speak very briefly, and then there is something else that I really want to bring to your attention.

Mr. Speaker, the one thing that I would urge that Americans would do is to get a copy of the summary, the 14-page summary that has been prepared by the trustees of the Medicare trust fund, that is the Medicare and the Social Security and the disability trust funds, get a copy of that. It is a 14-page summary of the annual report of the trustees.

Now, there are a lot of people that do not want the American public to see that. Most of them happen to be on the other side of the aisle. Because frankly, when you read this 14-page summary, it takes about 15 minutes, very clearly written, very simply written, after you read this summary, then finally, it dawns on you and you say, my goodness gracious, we really have a problem here.

These trustees lay it out in black and white, it is very clear, it is not partisan. It is not political, it has not been politicized, it is not subjected to demagoguery, it is very straightforward, it is clear.

Mr. Speaker, you will see that this is a problem that every single responsible legislator in this country has got to address. We have to deal with it at this level. If we do not, the fund will be bankrupt and Medicare will be in complete chaos.

So I just urge you, Mr. Speaker, to let the American public know that if they call their representative at (202) 225-3121, (202) 225-3121, ask for this 14-page summary of the annual report of the trustees, you representative will send it to you and it will lay out in very clear language exactly what the challenges are to the Medicare trust fund. It gives some very specific recommendations with respect to the need for legislative intervention, so that this thing will get fixed.

That is not what I want to talk about this evening, but I did feel that it is just important to bring that to the Speaker's attention.

Mr. Speaker, what I want to talk about, I want to know, is anybody watching what is going on at the Department of Energy? The Secretary of Energy is sending 50 people to South

Africa next week, 3 weeks in advance of the Secretary going to South Africa. That is just the advance team. Fifty people are going to be there 3 weeks ahead of her, I guess to make sure that the beds are turned down properly, I do not know. But this is a tremendous embarrassment to this administration, it is a tremendous embarrassment to the President, and it is time that somebody started to blow the whistle.

The Secretary will herself then follow to go to South Africa with 70 people at extraordinary expense to the taxpayer, and not only that, but with a level and a degree of arrogance that we have not seen in this administration with respect to at least this kind of bizarre appetite for travel. In fact, I saw tonight, and I will bring it tomorrow night, because I think everybody would be interested to see this, the graphic of a T-shirt that the Secretary is having produced, and it says, Hazel O'Leary World Tour, 1994-95." It looks like it is a wonderful color graphic, all at taxpayer expense, thank you very much, of the places that the Secretary has gone around the globe: China, India, Sweden, Egypt, now South Africa, all at taxpayer expense.

Mr. Speaker, here is the real problem. What is the most important charge of the Department of Energy? It is to safeguard, to conserve, to maintain, and to make sure there will be no accidents with respect to our nuclear arsenal. That is the primary reason that the Department of Energy was created in the first place, because we did not want the Department of Defense to be in charge. That was probably bad policy then. But nonetheless, that was the *raison d'être* of the Department of Energy. This money is being taken out of those accounts and being put into the travel account.

Now, Mr. Speaker, it is time that the President look at this very, very carefully. It is time that we blew the whistle on this profligate travel, and it is time that we simply ended it. Because not only is it a wasteful use of the taxpayers' money, but it is taking money away from the much more important responsibilities that the Department of Energy does have at this point.

Mr. Speaker, I know that the gentleman from New York is going to have a very special special order on the Korean war memorial.

SENIORS AT RISK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Connecticut [Ms. DELAURO] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, this Sunday, we celebrate the 30th anniversary of the creation of Medicare. On this date in 1965, President Johnson, with former President Truman by his side, signed into law a historic piece of legislation that would dramatically improve the lives of America's seniors and their families.

Look how far America's seniors have come in the latter part of this century. In 1955, only 46 percent of our Nation's elderly had health insurance coverage. By 1994, 97 percent of our seniors were covered. Medicare has made the difference.

In 1965, one in three senior citizens lived in poverty, many having squandered their life savings on costly medical care. Today, only 1 in 10 senior citizens live in poverty. Medicare has made the difference.

For the last 30 years, Medicare has made a difference for millions. It is one Government program that has worked so well that people don't even think of it as a Government program at all. In fact, last year, when Democrats tried to pass health care reform, seniors called and wrote to say: "We don't care what you do, just don't get government involved with Medicare."

Yes, Social Security and Medicare are Government programs. They are Government programs that work. Social Security and Medicare are the twin pillars of Democratic reform—one from the New Deal and the other from the Great Society. For decades these two programs have worked in tandem to ensure that our seniors are secure in their retirement.

That's what this debate is all about: security. Making sure that our seniors are secure. But, Republican plans to privatize the Medicare system will remove the security we promised our seniors 30 years ago.

Just ask your self: will higher medical bills make seniors more secure? Will lower levels of benefits make seniors more secure? Will losing their choice of doctor make seniors more secure?

Will seniors be more secure when their copayments go from \$46 to more than \$100? Will seniors be more secure when they are asked to pay \$1,000 more?

The answer to all these questions is "no." But, GOP opposition to the Medicare program should come as no surprise. Just look at the record.

Thirty years ago, 93 percent of Republicans in this body voted against Medicare and instead supported a plan to privatize the system. Today, Republicans are closing in on a 30-year goal—to end the program they never wanted in the first place.

In 1995, Republicans say they are cutting Medicare in order to save Medicare. They would like America to believe that they are simply pruning the Medicare plant so that it may grow healthy again. But, in reality, they are pulling Medicare out by its roots and using it as fertilizer for their favorite crop: tax cuts for the wealthy.

This plan uses \$270 billion of cuts to finance a \$245 billion tax cut for the wealthy.

Now, I believe that the solvency of the Medicare trust fund needs to be dealt with, but it needs to be dealt with in the context of health care reform. Medicare is growing at the rate

it is, because it needs to keep pace with rising medical costs. The way to get a handle on rising medical costs is to reform our entire health care system, not to punish seniors by "slowing the rate of growth" of Medicare.

Slowing the rate of growth is popular Washington-speak these days. Slowing the rate of growth means that the Government would only cover seniors' health care costs up to a certain amount. After that, seniors would be left to make up the difference out of their own pockets. Higher costs and lower level of services that's what slowing the rate of growth of Medicare would mean for America's seniors.

Thirty years ago, the U.S. Government made a pact with America's seniors. We said: "If you pay into this trust fund all of your working life, we will take care of you, when you can work no longer." Seniors have kept up their end of the bargain, but now Republicans in Congress want to walk away from the deal. Medicare is the real contract with America. Congress has no right to break that sacred pact.

□ 2320

THE KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL UNVEILING

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KIM). Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from New York [Mr. SOLOMON] is recognized for one-half of the time remaining before midnight as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of my special order tonight.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, let me call attention to the Members that the acting Speaker in the chair is a United States citizen, and he is a native of Korea, and we are very proud of him, and this is the subject of this special order this evening, the country of Korea, the brave Korean people.

Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 50th anniversary of the end of WWII, a devastating war that brought an end to the inhumane expansionist regimes of Germany and Japan.

And tomorrow July 27 marks the 42d anniversary of the end of another war—the forgotten war of Korea.

Well, Mr. Speaker, finally after all these years the Korean war—the war that stopped the spread of deadly atheistic communism dead in its tracks—will no longer be a forgotten war—because tomorrow we will unveil one of the finest memorials ever dedicated to young men and women who lost their lives in service to this great country of ours.

Mr. Speaker, the Korean war was the first battlefield test of our resolve against communism.

And make no mistake about it—we won that war.

We stopped the spread of deadly, atheistic communism dead in its tracks.

Up until then, communism had appeared invincible.

It had gobbled up half of Europe and seemed everywhere on the march.

Mr. Speaker, it's about time to rewrite all those textbooks that say the Korean war ended in a draw.

Our show of toughness in Korea—for the first time—showed the Communists that we were not going to let them expand their empire throughout the world.

Mr. Speaker, the United States showed them we were willing to pay the price, and a terrible price it was with over 54,000 dead, and 103,000 wounded, 7,000 taken prisoner of war, and 8,000-plus still listed as missing in action, all that in just 3 short years, and so I would suggest, my colleagues, that the Berlin Wall may have fallen in 1989, but the first cracks appeared in 1953, far away in a place called Korea.

And yes, Korea was the most brutal war in our history.

A lot of it was fought in 30-below winters by outnumbered American troops—many of them green and untried—because America was not militarily prepared.

The communists nearly drove our troops off the Korean Peninsula, but they were halted at the Pusan perimeter, and 5 days later allied forces launched the last great amphibious landing in history at Inchon.

The U.S. Army and Marines drove them all the way back to the Yalu River.

And the war was almost over, until the Chinese communists came swarming across the border, outnumbering allied forces by more than 10 to 1, trapping thousands of American Marines behind enemy lines.

And thus began one of the bravest battles ever fought by American troops anywhere in the world.

The full weight of the veteran 100,000-man communist Chinese Army came crushing down on a sorely outnumbered 7th, 5th, and 1st Marine Regiments.

One of these 21-year-old Marines was my high school pal Lance Corporal Stephen Olmstead, who 30 years later would attain the rank of lieutenant general, recanted many times how the Chinese attacked during the night in temperatures approaching 30 degrees below zero, cutting the main supply routes, and isolating the Marines into four close perimeters.

Although the vastly outnumbered marines held their ground, the situation was grave.

And on 1 December 1950, General O.P. Smith ordered a breakout from the reservoir, which he termed an "attack in a different direction."

Supported by the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, which flew nearly 4,000 sorties during the entire operation, the 1st Marine Division blasted its way through seven Chinese divisions to reach safety at Hungnam by 12 December—eleven days and nights in blinding snow—over near impassable, frozen, mountainous terrain.

Mr. Speaker, the Chosin Reservoir campaign cost the marines over 4,400 battle casualties, including killed and wounded, and uncounted cases of frostbite and pneumonia, but the Chinese forces had suffered a catastrophic 25,000 dead.

Yes, the 1st Marine Division fought its way out of that trap at Chosin Reservoir, bringing their wounded with them, and writing one of the most glorious chapters in Marine Corps history.

And as General Olmstead told me:

It was in a spirit of prayerful thanksgiving that Americans read about the column of grimy, parka-clad marines who came out of the mountains of Northeast Korea on 11 December 1950.

They had come out fighting; they were numbingly cold and bone weary.

They had brought out with them their wounded, most of their dead, and most of their equipment. They were the chosen few.

Mr. Speaker, during the Korean war, I spent my time with the 2nd Marine Division and never saw combat with those brave Marines at Chosin Reservoir, but those acts of heroism personify the history of our beloved corps.

Mr. Speaker, tomorrow at 3 p.m., and we are going to roll votes from 2 to 4 so Members of Congress can attend tomorrow at 3 p.m., along with veterans from all branches of our military, we will gather at the first unveiling of the Korean War Memorial in remembrance of those who served in a war called Korea that is no longer forgotten.

□ 2330

Mr. Speaker, I yield to someone I am very proud of. He is a brand new Member of this Congress. I came here 17 years ago, but now, 17 years later, joining me is another former Marine, and he happened to go through boot camp, Parris Island with me, 17 years ago. Never in this world I thought there would be another one here in Congress, but there is, and his name is FRED HEINEMAN from Raleigh, NC.

Corporal, would you like to get up and say a few words?

Mr. HEINEMAN. Thank you, JERRY.

Mr. Speaker, "First to Fight" has always been a proud tradition of the U.S. Marine Corps. As we pause during this week of commemoration and reflection to recall the early, critical weeks of the Korean War, I am proud to recall the outstanding performance of our Marine Corps in taking the fight to the enemy and recapturing the South Korean capital city of Seoul.

After the successful amphibious assault on Inchon in mid-September 1950, the 1st Marine Division maintained their unremitting pressure on the North Koreans, forcing them into a contest for the South Korean capital.