

Permian Basin oil patch to the outdoor exhibit which consists of the world's largest collection of the antique drilling and production equipment. I congratulate the petroleum museum staff and volunteers on 20 wonderful years and look forward to their second 20 so our children and our children's children may continue to discover and explore the inspiring story of the domestic oil and gas industry. In my 10 years in Congress, I have worked consistently to make sure that evidence of the domestic oil and gas industry should not be found only in museums.

FIXING MEDICARE WITHOUT CUTTING BENEFITS

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

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, I rise because I think Americans are concerned that they need some straight talk on Medicare. The Medicare system is not bankrupt; do not be fooled. Yes, the Medicare system does need adjustment; that is what the trustees said in a Los Angeles Times article last week, and I think we on the Democratic side are willing to make adjustments.

Mr. Speaker, the point is we can make adjustments, we can even make reasonable cuts, without affecting benefits, but on the Republican side, however, they want to cut benefits, and the fact is that seniors will be harmed when we cut benefits, and they will be harmed not to save Medicare or not to reduce the deficit, but specifically to give a tax break to the wealthy.

Let us look at the figures. I say to my colleagues, "If you are wealthy and make \$300,000, you'll get a tax break of \$20,000. If you make \$200,000, you'll get a tax break of \$11,000. But if you're an average American and make about \$35,000 to \$50,000, you'll only get \$500. That's a tax break for the wealthy."

I will make a deal. Cut the tax break for the wealthy, and we can work out a reasonable Medicare Program.

THE CHOICE IS CLEAR

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

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I am holding in my left hand appropriately the Clinton Democrats' budget plan. Let us just take a look. As my colleagues know, there is nothing in here about balancing the budget, and there is nothing in here about saving Medicare either. Cutting taxes? Well, no, there is nothing in here about cutting taxes either. It kind of makes my wonder if my liberal friends got the message from the American people last September.

Please see the American people want a budget written for them, not for the liberal social engineers in the west wing of the White House. They want a

budget that our new majority is ready to approve, a balanced budget, a plan to save Medicare and tax cuts for the middle class along with genuine welfare reform.

Mr. Speaker, the choice is clear. This fall we can enact the agenda of the American people or we can follow the tired old remedies of the liberal do-nothing Democrats. I hope all of my colleagues in this Chamber will do the right thing, reject this plan and adopt a true rational budget plan for the American people.

REPUBLICAN BUDGET UNDERMINES SENIORS' ECONOMIC SECURITY

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

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I think what the American people want is economic opportunity and economic security. Let us just talk a minute about correct security. One of the things that the Republican budget does is to undermine one of the most effective aspects of that economic security that has been established in this country over the last 30 years. That is the Medicare Program. Speaker GINGRICH last Sunday would have us believe that his cuts amount to only \$7, but his own budget office tells us that those cuts, the amount of money coming out of seniors' pockets, will be as much as \$56 a month.

Mr. Speaker, we know what is going on here. They do not like the Medicare Program. They want to privatize it. They want to put it on vouchers and coupons so people will go back to the old days when they did not have any economic security, when they had to worry about health care and when families had to worry about their elderly parents and grandparents. Let us not do that. Let us not balance this budget on the backs of the senior citizens of this country in order to give a tax break to the wealthiest people who do not need it and most of whom have the good sense not to want it.

WHY LIBERALS ARE AN ENDANGERED SPECIES

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

Mr. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, back home, the crustiest old farmers, who are not as conservationist as our generation, deal with endangered predators the way liberals have dealt with Medicare.

Their expression for the easy way out is this: "Shoot, shovel, and shut up."

In the same way, Washington liberals—who tried to dismantle the health care system one short year ago—today are trying to bury the Medicare crisis for political reasons.

Here is the drill:

First of all, they shoot. On the air and on the floor, liberals attack those working to salvage Medicare, claiming the effort will require terrible, draconian measures.

Second, they shovel. My colleagues know what I mean.

Liberals float numbers with no basis. They spread misinformation and use scare tactics with the flimsiest of evidence.

Third, they shut up. They refuse to discuss the fact that Medicare is going broke.

The White House strategy of "Shoot, shovel and shut up" is backfiring as people who know Medicare is going broke see the plan to save it as responsible and sound.

Maybe that is why liberals are an endangered species around here.

DEMOCRATS CANNOT WAIT TO SEE THE REPUBLICANS' PLAN

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

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, let me just tell my colleagues what continues to be referred to here as somehow Democrats on my side of the aisle are concerned about what all my colleagues are about to do to Medicare. Well, we are, and the fact of the matter is we do not have the evidence about what our colleagues are going to do yet. Where is it? Our colleagues have been telling us now for months that they are going to fix it, they are going to cut it, they are going to cut its outlay problems and all the rest, and then they tell us, "But it is going to be an increase; we're going to increase Medicare by a couple of percent." Whatever it is; let us say it is 4 or 5, they are going to increase it. That sounds good. The problem is health care costs are going up at 9 or 10.

Well, some of us think back from third-grade math class that that is a cut of 4 or 5 percent. Now that is a cut unless we are going to freeze wages and prices. As my colleagues know, their party has done that before. Some of us remember when Dick Nixon did it. Is that the plan?

We are interested in knowing what the plan is. My colleagues are right. We do not have all the evidence. We are waiting. We cannot wait to see our colleagues' plan because I am afraid that what our colleagues are going to do is adversely affect all senior citizens in America.

REPUBLICANS GIVING THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WHAT THEY WANT

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

Mr. BAKER of California. Mr. Speaker, I think a short history lesson is in order, especially after the previous speeches. First of all, in the private