

Because of this program, every citizen pays a hidden tax that takes money out of the pockets of American consumers to the tune of more than \$1.4 billion every year in higher food prices, according to GAO. This hidden tax has cost Americans more than \$10 billion over the last decade. In addition, the consumer interest group Public Voice has recently estimated that the sugar program has cost the Federal Government \$110 million annually because of higher purchase prices for sugar and sugar containing products used in domestic feeding and food programs. This is money that my constituents could be saving, investing, or using to buy needed items for their families and children. But because of this program, they must pay higher prices on everything containing sugar—all because of the Federal Government interfering in the marketplace.

This fall the House will be debating a new farm bill. We will also be debating the budget reconciliation bill that will balance the Federal budget in 7 years, which will force substantial cuts in farm commodity programs such as wheat, dairy, corn, cotton, and rice. While these programs have faced cuts on average of 40 percent since 1985, sugar has not been cut one iota. This is simply unacceptable.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote for repeal of this program.

#### THE CONTRACT WITH AMERICA: WHAT IT MEANS FOR MEDICARE

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material.)

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, three things will happen if the Republicans get their way with Medicare. No. 1, senior citizens will pay more in premiums. Hold on to your wallet, because House Republicans under NEWT GINGRICH have proposed a 100-percent increase in the monthly Medicare premium. That is right, a 100-percent increase, the largest premium increase in Medicare history.

The second thing that will happen is senior citizens will find it harder to choose their own doctor. Senate Republicans would try to push people into managed care, taking away their right to physician choice.

The third thing that will happen, Mr. Speaker, if Republicans get their way with Medicare, is that the American middle class will subsidize a huge tax break for the richest Americans.

We are starting to see the main effect of the Contract With America, a shift of money from the middle class to the rich. The Gingrich gravy train means at least \$245 billion in tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans. And guess who pays the bill?

Mr. Speaker, Gingrich Republicans want to give the American people the

largest Medicare cut in American history. It is simply not right.

#### WASHINGTON POST SUPPORTS REPUBLICANS ON MEDICARE

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

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, I do not normally go around quoting the Washington Post, because normally it does not agree with the way I see things, being a liberal paper of record. But look what they have said just 2 days ago about exactly what my friend from Ohio, prior speaker, was just talking about. It is called medagogues.

Newt Gingrich and Bob Dole accused the Democrats and their allies yesterday of conducting a campaign based on distortion and fear. They are right. That is precisely what the Democrats are doing. It is pretty much all they are doing, and it is crummy stuff.

Crummy stuff. Those are tough words.

It is crummy stuff. They are absolutely right. And that is exactly what we hear day after day after day from the other side of the aisle.

The fact is, we are trying to simplify. We are preserving, saving, and improving Medicare and, again, that is exactly what they say.

The Republicans have a plan. It is credible. It is gutsy, it is inventive, it addresses a genuine problem that is only going to get worse. What the Democrats have instead is a lot of expostulation, TV ads, and scare talk. It is demagoguery big time.

#### KEEP GOVERNMENT RUNNING

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, Speaker GINGRICH says we do not want to shut down the Federal Government. The majority leader says we do not want to shut down the Federal Government. President Clinton says we do not want to shut down the Federal Government.

Mr. Speaker, I offered an amendment in the Treasury-Postal bill last Wednesday which said we will continue the operations of Government because nobody wants to shut it down. They may want to reduce this program or cut out this program, but they want the Government to continue to serve Americans.

Why then, on almost a party line vote, when we have bipartisan support, the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. DAVIS], the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. WOLF], the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. WYNN], the gentlewoman from Maryland [Mrs. MORELLA], and others of us on both sides of the aisle, say nobody intends to shut down the Federal Government.

Why then do we not pass just a simple little bill that says we are not going to put this into politics. We will not play with people's lives, their abil-

ity to fund their mortgages, their food payments, their college tuition loans? Let us act responsibly. Let us keep our Government running. Let us pass the continuing resolution now.

#### PRESERVING MEDICARE

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

Mr. DICKEY. Mr. Speaker, last April the Medicare trustees reported that if nothing was done to Medicare, that it would go bankrupt. What we have is a proposition that we are making to try to preserve Medicare. The opposition comes and says, no that is terrible, and presents all these scare tactics.

But I think we are in a step process. What I believe is that we do have the knowledge on the side of those people who are opposing these modifications, we do have that knowledge that comes from having control of the Medicare Program for 30 or 40 years.

These people know where we can make modifications, slow down the increases, and save Medicare. What we are probably doing right now is trying to get their attention. They are probably saying, "We do not believe they are going to do it. But if they do it, we can go in there and help."

I ask those people who are opposed to those changes we are trying to make to help us with specific information that you all have so that we can help the American people and save Medicare. That is what we are trying to do.

#### MORE TIME NEEDED FOR MEDICARE HEARINGS

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, it is September 20 and another day has passed, and not one Republican has been willing to come to the floor of this House and level with the American people by spelling out the details of how far they plan to reach into the pockets of American seniors and cut Medicare. I have come to the conclusion it is because most of them do not have the slightest idea. They just know they are on a mission for NEWT to cut \$270 billion out of Medicare, and they do not want the details to get in the way.

Mr. Speaker, we are told that this afternoon they are going to finally spell out some of the details at some staff briefing, and then they will have a 1-day stacked hearing on it tomorrow, all that the American people will get to see in hearings on this plan.

They spent 28 days on Whitewater. Why just have 1 day, unless it is to whitewash this bad Republican cut in Medicare?

Mr. Speaker, I think as long as the Republicans are unwilling to have aVerDate 20-SEP