

the Atomic Energy Commission. A Spartan missile warhead test was scheduled in the Aleutians, and there was widespread fear that it would cause an earthquake and a tidal wave known as a tsunami in that area. Rachel packed up her two daughters and her husband and moved them to the island where the test was to take place. The family's presence was widely publicized and calmed much of the alarm in that area.

Rachel traveled with Jim on an extended trip to Asia in 1975 when Jim became the first United States Secretary of Defense to visit Japan for many years. It was after the fall of Saigon, and there were widespread demonstrations. But the trip also generated an outpouring of support, due in no small part to Rachel Schlesinger's presence by Jim Schlesinger's side.

Rachel served as college editor of *Mademoiselle* magazine after graduation from Radcliffe with honors in American history and literature. After her marriage to Jim, she did some freelance writing for a time, but she soon devoted herself entirely to their growing family, and of course she was very, very proud of their eight wonderful and successful children. After their eight children had grown up, she became active again in charitable and cultural affairs. One of those eight, their daughter, Clara, served very ably in my office as an intern in 1985.

Rachel was a violinist with the Arlington Symphony since 1983. She was on the board of directors and on the executive committee of the symphony. She served on the overseers' committee of the Memorial Church at Harvard, was a deacon and Sunday school teacher at Georgetown Presbyterian Church, and distributed food on many, many occasions to the homeless over a large number of years.

Rachel was absolutely committed to mental health, and she worked closely with the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, including testifying before the Congress. Rachel always retained her love of the land, from her childhood days on the family farm in Ohio. In the 1980's, she began to raise Christmas trees in the Shenandoah Valley, delivering them herself near Christmastime, including the delivery of several to the Nunn home just in time for our Christmas celebration.

Rachel's long battle with cancer is now over, but the memory of her rare spirit will comfort and sustain those she loved and cared for in a life of courage and a life of commitment.

I thank the Chair.

RACHEL SCHLESINGER

Mr. JOHNSTON. Mr. President, sadly we learned yesterday of the death of Rachel Mellinger Schlesinger, the wife of Jim Schlesinger and the mother of his eight children. On behalf of the Senate, I want to convey to Jim our deepest sympathy on the loss of his beloved companion of more than 40 years.

I also want to say something about Rachel who, quietly and without fanfare, did those good works that the Book of Proverbs praises. She genuinely did open her hands to the poor and reach out her hands to the needy, distributing sandwiches to the homeless and testifying before Congress on the problems of the mentally ill. Rachel was a gifted, energetic, and compassionate woman, but such a private person that few Americans know of her contributions to the quality of our community life. I would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation of what she did for us.

Rachel Line Mellinger was born on a farm in Springfield, OH, and always considered herself a country girl. She loved gardening, and in the 1980's, she bought a farm in the Shenandoah Valley to raise Christmas trees which she delivered personally to satisfied customers and delighted children. Thanks to her interest in the preservation of historic sites and rural land, Americans will have more of both to enjoy in times to come.

Like Thomas Jefferson, a fellow Virginia farmer, she was a talented writer and musician. She played the violin, not only for her own pleasure, but to give pleasure to others. She played with the Arlington Symphony Orchestra for 12 years and served on its board of directors. She was the founder and first chair of the Ballston Pops, a May festival which she originally organized 10 years ago.

She was active in the community both publicly and privately. She served as deacon of the Georgetown Presbyterian Church and on the overseers committee of the Memorial Church at Harvard, but on Sundays she could be found in the Sunday school where she taught classes. She was active in the mental health movement, and worked with the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill.

We all know that in public life, public service can be hard on families. Jim Schlesinger served in Cabinet positions in three administrations. Rachel Schlesinger also served, in strength and dignity, preserving the privacy of her children and supporting her husband with the warmth of her presence. It is not an exaggeration to say that in all the agencies in which her husband served, she was universally loved.

Rachel Mellinger Schlesinger was a wonderful person, wise, kind, and thoughtful, who did good and not harm all the days of her life. She will be missed.

Mr. President, I was please to be able to see her 3 days ago and can report that in her last days she was cheerful and reassuring to all of those around her. She will be greatly missed. I yield the floor.

THE POLITICS OF FEAR

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, my Minnesota office is located in the town of Anoka, the Halloween capital of the world.

For most of my neighbors there, a good scare means nothing more than a Halloween visit to a haunted house, or maybe a roller coaster ride at the amusement park, or an evening in front of the TV watching old horror movies. So who would have ever guessed that, in 1995, the list of ways to give somebody a good scare would include handing them a letter from their U.S. Congressman.

There is a campaign of fear and misinformation being waged around us, Mr. President, and I come to the floor today to share with you my absolute contempt for it, and my sincere sympathy for its innocent victims.

The perpetrators? My colleagues in the minority party, in both Chambers, who are sinking to new lows as they fight desperately against the tide of public opinion that came crashing down on them last November.

Their victims? Senior citizens, who have done nothing to deserve this kind of treatment, except, apparently, to grow old.

Let me tell you about one of those victims.

She is 91 years old, and for the last couple of years, she has lived in a nursing home in the town of Cambridge, MN.

Her name is Ethel Grams, and she is my grandmother. My grandmother received a letter, delivered right to her nursing home bed, from her Representative in the House. And I am appalled that older Americans, who are among the most vulnerable in society, are being subjected to these kinds of scare tactics, fear-mongering, and blatant, self-serving distortions.

The letter is about Medicare, and is sprinkled—liberally—with inflammatory phrases like drastic cuts and benefits coming under attack.

Her Congressman writes of Republicans, quote "coercing seniors into health plans" and "herding as many seniors as possible into managed health care programs."

"Republicans in Congress are proposing to cut Medicare by \$270 billion over the next 7 years," he writes, "in order to pay for a tax cut of \$245 billion for the wealthiest of Americans—those making over \$350,000 a year."

Those assertions would be laughable if they were not so serious.

Mr. President, imagine suggesting to a 91-year-old woman, bedridden in a nursing home, that her health care plan is under attack, that with Republicans in the majority, the medical benefits she is relying upon will be slashed.

What is she supposed to think? How could she not be scared?

I cannot speak for every senior citizen, but I know how much it frightened my grandmother.

Unfortunately, this is not the only example of the damage being spread through this campaign of fear.

Another of my colleagues has mailed out his own letter to seniors, at taxpayer's expense, and portions of it were printed recently in the St. Paul Pioneer Press and Dispatch.

This Congressman wrote of drastic cuts and proclaimed that "the GOP plan in Congress would force seniors to give up their personal doctor."

"Millions of seniors would be forced into managed care programs. * * * While older Americans pay more for Medicare," he wrote, "the privileged will pay less in taxes, with some receiving lavish tax breaks."

Newsweek aptly labels the Democrats' campaign as "Medi-Scare" in a cover story last month. Let me quote a paragraph for you:

"Democrats depict the GOP's Medicare plan as a bloodthirsty attack on the elderly. "More people will die," declares a hysterical new ad from the AFL-CIO. "And it's only for the sake of tax cuts for the rich," says Democrat Ed Markey of Massachusetts.

"That's hyperbole, for sure," writes Newsweek.

It is more than hyperbole. Anywhere else, this would be labeled, at best, a blatant distortion of the truth and the State attorneys general would be called in to investigate.

In Washington, we call the practice spin control. This is the only city I know where once a lie is repeated three times, it is accepted by most as being a fact.

Mr. President, it is time we hold our colleagues accountable for their misrepresentations, and, beginning today, that is what I intend to do.

They say our plan to preserve Medicare, cuts benefits to seniors—I say "show me." They say the majority of our tax cuts will go to the rich—I say "show me."

They say we are forcing seniors to give up their doctors—I say "show me." But I know they cannot, because the facts say otherwise.

Fact No. 1: We have to reform Medicare to ensure quality health care for our seniors at a cost we can honestly afford. Unless we do, there are only two options.

Either the Medicare hospital insurance trust fund, which has provided health care services for 37 million Americans, will go out of business, bankrupt in 7 years, or we can raise taxes on our seniors and working families by \$388 billion over the next 7 years.

That is the option the Democrats have chosen seven times over the past three decades—they have reduced benefits and raised taxes.

But going to the taxpayers for more money is the easy way out, and Americans have said "enough." They are demanding reform, not higher taxes.

Fact No. 2: We are going to save Medicare by increasing spending, but at a slower rate not with the dangerous cuts breathlessly predicted by the Democrats.

Medicare spending under the Republican plan will increase by 40 percent,

from \$4,800 per beneficiary this year to \$6,700 in the year 2002.

Like Americans do every month around their kitchen tables, we have set a budget we can afford, and then decided the best way to deliver the benefits.

We are not promising benefits and then raising taxes again and again to pay for them.

Fact No. 3: Medicare reform has no connection at all to our efforts to provide tax relief to the middle-class taxpayers, the working families who so desperately need it.

With or without tax cuts, Medicare is in severe financial trouble. Even President Clinton, who has been virtually absent during the Medicare debate, realizes that.

In fact, the budget he proposed last June combined slowing the growth in Medicare spending with \$110 billion in tax cuts.

The Washington Post addressed the attempt to link tax relief and Medicare reform in a September 25 editorial:

The Democrats have fabricated the Medicare-tax cut connection because it is useful politically. It allows them to attack and to duck responsibility both at the same time. We think it's wrong.

Fact No. 4: The vast majority of the tax relief in the Republican budget is directed right where it is needed most—to middle-class American families.

Every family with children will benefit from the \$500 per child tax credit, and more than 85 percent of the children eligible for it live in families with incomes at or below \$75,000.

These families are not the privileged or the wealthiest of Americans. They are average folks who are struggling to meet their tax burden while trying to make a good life for themselves.

Those are the facts, Mr. President. They are an honest attempt to look at the options, the costs, and the consequences—we are not taking some figures and then blatantly distorting them and proclaiming them as truth.

If my colleagues want to write and distribute fiction, they ought to label it as such and sell it through the Book of the Month Club.

The taxpayer-financed fiction like the letter received by my grandmother—and similar letters received by hundreds of thousands of other senior citizens—must come to an end.

Government does have the power to do good, but the minority party undermines everyone's credibility when it preaches the politics of fear.

I suggest the next time someone wants to scare a senior citizen, they should invite over a willing relative and pop in a videotape of "Frankenstein" or "The Silence of the Lambs."

Do not threaten the security of strangers, and do not prey on their fears, because it is immoral and it is wrong, and it should be shame on them, Mr. President.

I yield the floor.

WALTER T. STEWART

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to an exemplary citizen from the State of Utah, Walter T. Stewart, and to recognize his extraordinary service to our Nation in World War II.

It is my privilege and honor to report that Walter Stewart is being awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, our Nation's second highest military medal, for his extraordinary heroism and gallantry in the most decorated military battle in U.S. history.

At that time, he was a 25-year-old pilot with the 330th Bombardment Squadron, 93rd Bombardment Group, based in the North African city of Benghazi, Libya. A dedicated veteran of the air war, Stewart had already flown 30 dangerous bomber missions.

Walter Stewart was skilled and he as courageous. Although only a first lieutenant, he was selected as deputy force leader of a large formation of B-24 heavy bombers assigned to attack the Ploesti oil refineries in Nazi-occupied Romania in a massive low-level assault. The target, 1,200 miles in distance from Libya, was so vital to the Third Reich that it was the most heavily defended stronghold in Europe, well exceeding the defenses of Berlin itself.

On August 1, 1943, Stewart's combat unit fearlessly spearheaded the enormous on-rush of 176 American heavy bombers over the Romanian countryside. As the attacking force neared its target, murderous antiaircraft fire erupted from a fully alerted and prepared enemy. The 93rd Bombardment Group heroically pressed on in its attack, defying extremely heavy fire from hundreds of enemy guns and cannons.

Only minutes from the target, the force leader's bomber and wingman were shot down in flames, and it fell to Lieutenant Stewart to take command at this perilous moment. Under his leadership, the attacking force swept over the target in waves, at roof-top altitude, and inflicted devastating damage upon its. As the lead aircraft, Lieutenant Stewart's B-24 Utah Man, dropped the first bomb on target.

Utah Man sustained heavy battle damage and became separated from the rest of the attacking force. Utah Man had been hit with hundreds of shells and bullets, sustained damage to its cockpit instruments, and was heavily leaking fuel. Yet, Lieutenant Stewart skillfully piloted Utah Man over the long and perilous route over rugged alpine mountains and across the Mediterranean Sea back to its home base in North Africa. Lieutenant Stewart's crew suffered no casualties.

On that August day in 1943, 310 men of the 93rd Bombardment Group died, 185 were taken prisoner, and 150 were wounded. Fifty-four aircraft never returned.

Sadly, that was a fate that eventually befell Utah Man as well. In November 1943, after Water Stewart's reassignment to the United States, Utah