

Mr. Speaker, as a long-time free trader I'm proud to see Ohio leading the way in the global marketplace. It's further proof that protrade policies are benefiting Ohio companies and Ohio workers.

MEDICARE CUTS

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

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I consider H.R. 2425 to be the latest and most blatant act of legislative terrorism aimed straight at our Nation's older Americans. Older Americans are being held captive by the Republican Medicare proposal.

Mr. Speaker, when I say captive, I really mean captive. That was proven beyond a shadow of a doubt Wednesday morning when the chairman of the Commerce Committee had 13 senior citizens handcuffed and taken off to jail simply for trying to voice their concern about the Republican draconian cuts.

Mr. Speaker, I will never forget the words of a 90-year-old senior citizen who, while being placed in a police paddy wagon, looked at me and said, "If I had to do it all over again, I would."

I ask my Republican colleagues, when will they cease waging generational guerrilla warfare against the elderly and the disabled in this Nation?

I yield back the balance of my time.

INCREASING MEDICARE, BUT AT A SLOWER RATE

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

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, President Clinton's Medicare trustees told us Medicare will be bankrupt by the year 2002. As a physician, I am one of a few Members of Congress who has treated Medicare patients. I understand how important this program is for the seniors and the future generations.

Under the Republican plan, Medicare spending increases from \$4,800 to \$6,700. This is per senior. This is an increase of \$1,900 and exceeds the projected inflation rate. For those in the other party and in the media who keep calling this a cut, I should put it another way. If you had a basket with 48 apples in it, how do you get to 67? Do you add apples to the basket or do you take apples out?

Republicans agree that you add 19 apples to the basket in order to reach 67. Mathematics agrees with us. We are increasing Medicare, but at a less than 10-percent rate increase. This is responsible and reasonable, and we will preserve and protect the Medicare plan. I urge all of my colleagues to support the Republican proposal.

MEDICAID CUTS WILL HURT RURAL AMERICA

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

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, the Medicare cuts will hurt, but, for rural America, the Medicaid cuts will inflict unbearable pain. The majority proposes to cut Medicaid by \$182 billion. What do these cuts mean?

They mean that my State will lose \$6.76 billion in Medicaid funding over the next 5 years—882,000 Medicaid recipients will be affected in North Carolina and that number is growing.

Almost 8 out of 10 of the 31,600 North Carolina nursing home residents are covered by Medicaid—who will take care of them at an average cost of \$38,000 per year? Thirty-one thousand, three hundred seniors and other disabled people in North Carolina receive home care through Medicaid—who will pay for that?

Nineteen percent, close to half a million of North Carolina's children, rely on Medicaid for their health care needs—these children are the poorest of the poor—who will help them? What will happen to families and spouses when incapacitated seniors go broke?

This plan takes us back to the days when the whole family will be left with nothing when faced with unexpected, costly illness. Hurting our seniors, our indigent, and our disabled is not the way to balance the budget—in the end—it only hurts us all.

Our seniors should grow old with grace, dignity, and security. Next week, let's reject this hastily done, insensitive, unthoughtful majority plan to take from the poor and give to the rich.

THE TOP 10

(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, from the home office in Scottsdale, AZ, here are the top 10 reasons why liberals refuse to help in the effort to save Medicare from bankruptcy.

No. 10, they are not in charge anymore.

No. 9, they are just mad because they will not be getting a pay raise this session.

No. 8, fearmongering. What a blast.

No. 7, they might throw a collective tantrum and explode.

No. 6, they are just stalling until they can get into the witness protection program.

No. 5, responsibility? Why act responsibly?

No. 4, that Trojan horse thing. What a breakthrough in modern political communications.

No. 3, forget that going from \$4,800 per year to \$6,700 per year is really an increase. Forget that. We have some really neat color pictures to show you.

No. 2, with all their scary disguises they did not know Halloween was at the end of the month.

And the No. 1 reason why liberals refuse to help us in our efforts to save Medicare from bankruptcy, well, that would actually mean caring about seniors instead of the next election.

MEN, WOMEN, AND CHILDREN SHOULD MARCH TOGETHER

(Mrs. SCHROEDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks and include extraneous material.)

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, we are told that a million men will be marching on Monday in this city, and we are told that the march is to strengthen and rebuild families, but where are the families? They are to be at home. This is to be a sex-related march with no women. It is to be an age-related march with no children.

I think, Mr. Speaker, men professing to celebrate family in a family free zone makes no sense. If women went off to spas saying they were rebuilding themselves to celebrate family, they would be attacked. The way we need to celebrate and build America's families is shoulder to shoulder and marching together.

I certainly hope the organizers rethink and make this an inclusive march of men, women, and children, marching together to rebuild the family structure of America that is so desperately in need of rebuilding.

THE SEVENTH ANNUAL CONGRESSIONAL BASKETBALL CLASSIC

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

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, so far this year the Democrats and the Republicans have squared off on the House floor, we have squared off in the committees, we have squared off on the baseball diamond, but next Tuesday we will meet each other on the basketball court and finally we will have the answer to whether or not STEVE LARGENT can actually dunk.

Mr. Speaker, next Tuesday is the seventh annual congressional basketball classic. Every 2 years we play this game in support of Gallaudet University, the only university in the world specifically devoted to students who are deaf and have a hearing impairment.

This year's game is being sponsored by the NBA, the Washington Bullets, Abe Pollin and Wes Unseld, the Denver Nuggets, with Walter Davis and COM-SAT and many other businesses. The game is going to be played at the Gallaudet fieldhouse which is close to the Capitol, next Tuesday, 7:30. Tickets are available, so if you want to have fun, support a good cause, see some good action, come to the fieldhouse and see