

are looking for new opportunities. We must also, Mr. Speaker, reduce the tax burden for all Americans. By reducing taxes for single mothers with a \$500 child tax credit, the single parent with 2 children will pay \$7,000 less in taxes over 7 years. By reducing taxes for working families, with a \$500 per child tax credit a 2-income family with 3 children will keep \$10,500 more of their own hard-earned money.

Also by reducing taxes for senior citizens, we will repeal the 1993 unfair tax on Social Security, which reduces the average tax liability of \$7.7 million for our seniors, and this is something that is supported by the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare.

We also will lower taxes for working senior citizens. Right now, Mr. Speaker, seniors under 70 who wish to work are capped at earning \$11,280. If they earn \$1 over, that is deducted from their existing Social Security. Under our plan to reduce taxes for senior citizens, we will be able to have them make up to \$30,000 a year over the next 5 years without having deductions from their Social Security.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, this is a bipartisan Republican-sponsored package to make sure we balance the budget, which is fair to our seniors, fair to working-class families, and fair to all Americans. We are about the business here this week in the House of making sure we return choices to our citizens, we restore fiscal integrity to our country, and we reduce the cost of families trying to move ahead in this country to earn a living, to provide for their education of their family, and to make sure they are secure in their Medicare and their other health care needs as they move on in the years here in the United States.

CUTS IN MEDICARE AND MEDICAID AFFECT ALL AMERICAN FAMILIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentlewoman from Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Mr. Speaker, there comes a time when it is very important for us to reflect upon this Nation and some of the actions of this august body. However, sometimes we cavalierly resort to viewing what we have done as last week's headlines, or yesterday's story on the 6 o'clock news.

Last week on October 19, 1995, this body, controlled by the Republicans, offered to cut, and did, some \$270 billion out of our Medicare Program. Of course, it was under the pretense that seniors themselves wanted to see the program fixed, and certainly no one would argue with that point.

Many of us have stood on the House floor and have said that the fraud, waste, and abuse that has plagued that system needs to be remedied. But nowhere could any of the statisticians and financial experts, and even the

trustees, of which the Republican body has so much relied upon, that is the trustees of the Medicare trust account, none of these persons can justify the \$270 billion in cuts. In fact, one trustee, Deputy Secretary Rubin, wrote a letter and said that such cuts would be harsh, and I paraphrase him, "and devastating."

Was anybody listening? No, they were only gloating over the headlines of Friday and the big articles, and that they now have another victory or another notch in their gumbelt. Why gumbelt, because these cuts destroy the very lives of those who have made this country—senior citizens—by cutting their health care.

Yesterday, I was in my district, the 18th Congressional District in Houston, TX, and visited with a room full of seniors, about 800 to maybe 1,000 seniors at a luncheon program. I did not make a speech. I went table to table, hand to hand, face to face, and looked into the faces of those senior citizens, some worn, some wrinkled, to talk seriously about this issue called Medicare. I told them that I voted against, resoundingly, the Republican plan, but I was prepared to fix this system and to eliminate the waste, fraud, and abuse, and so I voted for a \$90 billion reduction that in fact was responsible, but as well, accepted by the trustees as reasonable to deal with this question of reducing unnecessary Medicare costs acknowledging that unlike the scare tactics of the Republicans, Medicare is not going bankrupt. There is a 7-year life until the year 2002.

I do not know about you, and we do more talking rather than the necessary work to repair Medicare, but I think there could be a lot of fixing in 7 years. Those seniors told me the pain they would experience with increased premiums, not being able to see their own physician, the cuts in the hospital payments would severely hurt our small hospitals, and, as well, the heavy burden on the Harris County public hospital system, of which many of them are part.

As we continue this process, we now approach the budget reconciliation process, in that process you will find \$182 billion in cuts on Medicaid. Some people do not understand. They throw Medicaid to the side, saying "That is another deadbeat program." For those of you who are working and supporting children in college and may be part of the baby boomer generation, Medicaid protects your seniors who are indigent, who may need long-term nursing care. It helps mothers with children and children who need immunization. It is a program that has helped this country become healthier. Do we need to get rid of the abuse? Who would not stand on the House floor and gladly say yes, we do, but \$182 billion in cuts? No. Do you think it is for any reason? Yes, it is. It is to give tax cuts to those making over \$200,000.

My seniors told me yesterday, they said "Keep explaining this to us, be-

cause when the news trickles out beyond the Mississippi and other places, it is portrayed to look like the Congress is being obstructed," but they say "now we understand. What work we, as senior citizens, have done in this country is disrespected and disregarded. When we come to a point in our lives when we need long-term nursing care that will not be there because of the actions of the Republican majority."

I heard my colleague talk about this process of budget reconciliation this week, as I have indicated, this will be done on the backs of seniors and children by cutting the \$270 billion in Medicare and \$182 billion from Medicaid. This budget reconciliation process will hurt the working families of America. I heard a gentleman talk this morning on C-SPAN and mention that he had five children or five persons to take care of, he is doing it himself, and he makes about \$28,000. I applaud him. He was complaining about taxes in this country.

Do you know what the Senate did last week, in conjunction with what we did here in the U.S. House of Representatives? They cut out the earned income tax credit that would benefit those individuals making under \$30,000, a program President Reagan said has been the best program on getting people out of poverty, that he has ever been able to support, a program proposed under the Ford administration. Yet, hypocritically, the U.S. Senate showed by their actions that this earned income tax credit was not a valuable program.

Might I add as I close, Mr. Speaker, that one of the seniors I met at the luncheon yesterday was an older woman living alone. In her face I saw pain and distress, and she said to me "Can you help me with my utility bill?" That is the kind of person whose Medicare and possibility Medicaid that this Congress will cut. Is this the kind of person we want to face. It was not a pretty picture, it was a sad, sad picture.

I do not want to sit by idly, watching while our seniors and children suffer. What about you?

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS IN HAITI?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. GOSS] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, the Washington Post took valuable editorial space last week to alert anyone who might be paying attention to what is going on in Haiti to the fact that the Presidential election process seems to be falling off track. In fact, the United Nations said last week that they need 110 days to do the job correctly, putting those elections—not the inauguration of a new Haitian President—into the first week of February.

Unfortunately, this is just one of a host of signs that things may be beginning to unravel in that small Caribbean nation. October 15 marked 1 year since more than 20,000 American troops returned President Aristide to his demisland nation.

Even as Vice President GORE traveled to Haiti to celebrate the first anniversary of that happy event, wire services began to report the Haitian Prime Minister, Smarce Michel, unable to get the support of the President for his vital economic reform proposals, had tendered his resignation.

While the American media was quick to suggest on Monday that he stepped down because of pressure from the incoming Parliament, the fact is that Prime Minister Michel has been fighting for many weeks against the rear guard action of left-leaning, antireform elements, and apparently anti-American activists in the Aristide government.

Why is this so important? Because the inability of the Aristide government to summon the collective will to make the economic reforms required to access \$1.2 billion international aid package means that Haitians could face their worst economic crisis to date.

For Americans, this ultimately could mean another costly refugee interdiction operation in the windward passage. While the Aristide government has been talking reform with the international community, there are troubling reports that, as happened in 1991, it may be actually working behind the scenes to gain control of key industries like flour, cement, sugar, and rice rather than privatizing as promised.

Already what were very promising bidding cycles for the cement and flour plants have been suspended indefinitely—not for lack of bids.

An unnamed international official quoted in the New York Times last week summed up well the frustration of working with a government that appears to be working dual agendas: "The President is not playing straight with us and that means we are on a collision course * * * it is unacceptable for him to give aid and comfort to the international community behind closed doors and then say something completely different to his own people." With the overwhelmingly Lavalas National Assembly seated last weekend with the blessing of the Clinton administration—but not of the Haitian political parties—President Aristide and his supporters now have a Parliament to rubberstamp the creation of a new cabinet and what is apparently their real agenda—the consolidation of power for the left and leftist authoritarian rule.

It should come as no surprise then that, after publicly stating his intention to depart, Aristide has said he will let his new Lavalas Parliament guide him with regard to his tenure in office. We may be further from the Presidential elections in Haiti than any of us dared to think—even though the 1987

Haitian Constitution says that President Aristide must go come February.

The U.S. House of Representatives has even passed the Goss amendment to encourage the Haitians to stick to that Constitution and elect a new president to lead them forward.

With almost \$3 billion American tax dollars on the line, rest assured that Americans across the country, myself included, are going to be looking to Port-au-Prince come February expecting a new Haitian President to take office and to help his people take the fate of their country back into Haitian keeping.

If that isn't going to happen, then the Clinton administration owes this Congress and the taxpayers of this country an explanation about what is happening and what is not happening, as they have promised.

These things matter for lots of reasons. They matter because we are the champions of democracy, and they matter because we have a lot of taxpayers' dollars invested, and when we do that we have an accountability to the world and to our taxpayers, and that accountability time has come.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. There being no further requests for morning business, pursuant to clause 12, rule I, the House will stand in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 18 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 12 noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

We know that Your words of grace and truth reign in all eternity, O God, and today we pray that those same words will live in our hearts and minds and souls. O gracious Creator, from whom we have come and to whom we shall return, we pray that Your message of good will and understanding, of life and peace, of faith and hope and love, will prevail not only in the wonders of the heavens, but lead us in our tasks, guide us in our thoughts, forgive us in our errors, and bring us in the way everlasting. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Chair's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Evidently a quorum is not present.

Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I, further proceedings on this question are postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. TRAFICANT] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TRAFICANT led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

TOURISM

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

Mr. ROTH. Mr. Speaker, I am proud as can be today, as chairman of the Travel and Tourism Caucus, to announce that as of last Friday, we had our 300th Member sign up as member of the Travel and Tourism Caucus. This is a most propitious time, because a week from today we are going to have the White House Conference on Tourism.

As my colleague, the gentleman from Ohio, PAUL GILLMOR, representing the Fourth District, who became our 300th member knows, if you want to have jobs in America, then you have to be in sync with travel and tourism. It is the second largest employer in America. Travel and tourism employs 11 million people. That is why I am so delighted to point out today that the largest caucus in the Congress is the Travel and Tourism Caucus.

Next week we are going to have 1,700 people from all over America, every congressional district in America, will be converging on Washington for the White House conference on travel and tourism. From this conference, we are going to develop a strategy for the 21st century, because, as Nesbitt points out in his most recent book, in the 21st century travel and tourism is going to be the key to economic success.

In my district alone, Mr. Speaker, we have some \$700 million coming in from tourism. We have 302 members today. There is room for more. Please come and join.