

My colleagues heard that Medicare was at a \$270 billion cut. Yet it has gone from \$4,800 per year to \$6,700 per year with more people in the system in 7 years, an increase. Plus it has a lockbox provision so any savings goes right back into providing more health care and not for tax breaks for the rich like we would hear some other people allegedly saying.

And tax breaks for the rich; let us talk about that. When he knows that women who have three children are driving to work this morning so they can provide for those children and the tax breaks, I want that young woman to know that she will get \$1,500, \$1,500, of a tax break. She is not rich, she is poor.

So where is the credibility? Listen, Jay. The truth is that we are going to balance the budget to preserve a future for the children. We are going to preserve and protect Medicare. We are going to reform welfare, requiring work, bringing the work ethic back in, and we are going to give tax breaks to families, all under the 7-year balanced budget Reconciliation Act.

□ 1130

SUPPORT THE COALITION BUDGET

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

Mr. PAYNE of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, if you could vote for a bill that would balance the budget in 7 years, cut the deficit faster and deeper than any plan now on the table, and achieve real budget process reforms, would you?

That's the choice every Member of this House will face tomorrow when the House votes on the Budget Reconciliation Act. We can vote for the bill that was written by the Republican leadership, or we can vote for a better plan, the substitute bill that was developed by the conservative Democratic Coalition.

It is the coalition's budget that spends less of our constituents' hardearned money over 7 years.

It is the coalition's budget that contains real budget process reforms like a line item veto that applies right now and a deficit reduction lockbox that can't be picked.

And it is the coalition's budget says its wrong to borrow money from our kids to pay for big tax cuts right now. But that's not all, Mr. Speaker.

Because the coalition rejects tax cuts and doesn't backload its spending cuts as the Republican plan does, we are able to provide \$100 billion more for Medicare and \$100 billion more for Medicaid than their plan. And we don't slash spending for student loans and agriculture.

The conservative Democratic Coalition's budget is tough and it is fair. It's a better deal for your constituents and mine. I urge my colleagues to vote for it.

SUPPORT TAX CUTS

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, last week in my home State of Texas the President admitted what Republicans and the American people already knew—he raised taxes too much.

Two short years ago Mr. Clinton and the Democrats raised America's taxes by \$258 billion, the largest tax increase in American history.

Republicans now want to return that money back to hardworking Americans by providing tax cuts for families, for seniors, and for America's jobcreating businesses. It is time to put the people back in charge of their wallets. Let's get government out of our pockets.

It's nice to see the President admit his own mistake. Fortunately it's not too late for him to right his wrong, he can let all Americans keep more of what they earn. Support tax cuts and sign the budget. It's good for America.

REPUBLICAN BUDGET CUTS SCORN 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, this week we will vote on proposed budget cuts that ignore the past, disregard the present, and worse: Scorns the future, especially for rural America.

Scorn is a harsh word to use in describing the impact of Republican budget cuts on our children, but consider what these cuts will do to rural children in North Carolina.

Almost a quarter of a million needy children in North Carolina, and 4½ million nationwide will be dropped from Medicaid.

More than 60,000 North Carolina young people will be denied a summer job, 4,000 will lose Head Start, and all 129 school districts will lose money for Safe and Drug Free Schools, affecting threequarters of a million rural children.

Nutrition assistance for North Carolina children is cut by more than 20 percent, \$500 million, affecting 320,000 children.

When combined with housing cuts affecting thousands of North Carolina children, the elimination of heating assistance from 200,000 children, and the denial of child care help for 20,000 children—scorn may not be a harsh enough word—cruel and inhuman might be more appropriate choices.

HELP THE POOR BY CUTTING TAXES

(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, as we debate tax cuts this week, I think we should look to the example of President Reagan.

In 1981, President Reagan cut taxes, setting off the longest peacetime expansion in American history. What happened during the ensuing decade?

More than 19 million high paying jobs were created.

Real median family income increased 13 percent.

The number of Americans trapped in poverty dropped by 4 million.

The rich carried a greater percentage of the tax burden.

Now listen carefully. Of those in the bottom fifth income bracket in 1979, 65 percent jumped at least two income brackets during the 1980's. And more made it to the top income bracket than stayed in the bottom.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle: Do you want to help the poor? Well then, cut taxes.

FOCUS SHOULD BE ON THE CHILDREN

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

Mr. JOHNSTON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, Hubert Humphrey once said that "the moral test of government is how that government treats those who are in the dawn of life, the children; those who are in the twilight of life, the elderly; and those who are in the shadows of life—the sick, the needy and the handicapped."

I would like to focus on the children. In the United States today, a child is born into poverty every 30 seconds.

Yet my Republican colleagues are systematically throwing millions of lower middle class families with children into poverty.

By cutting Medicaid, school lunch programs, student loans, low income heating assistance, the earned income tax credit, Federal housing assistance, aid for families with dependent children, and education they are cutting short the hopes of the children of this country.

These cuts will push millions of children into the shadows of life, and into lives of uncertainty, insecurity, and poverty.

In the United States, every 30 seconds a baby is born into poverty. Are we now shooting for every 15 seconds?

At some point, Mr. Speaker, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle must ask themselves if giving a tax break to the wealthiest Americans is worth the cost of our children.

PASSING THE RECONCILIATION BILL IS THE BEST THING CONGRESS CAN DO FOR THE AMERICAN ECONOMY AND THE POOR

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

Mrs. WALDHOLTZ. Mr. Speaker, we have heard a lot from the other side of the aisle about why we should not balance the budget, we should not reduce Federal regulations, and why we should not cut taxes. Let me recommend to my doubting colleagues that they get hold of the recent DRI-McGraw-Hill report on the economic impact of the reconciliation bill we will soon be considering. According to that study, the reconciliation bill will "bring down interest rates for fixed rate mortgages by 2.7 percentage points, and those for adjustable mortgages by 1.7 percentage points by the year 2000."

The result, said DRI, would be an 8-percent boost in home values, and an increase in household net worth for Americans of over \$1 trillion, \$1 trillion.

Mr. Speaker, passing this reconciliation bill is the best thing we can do for the people of our country, the middle class and the poor. No Government spending program could ever come close to achieving what balancing the budget will do, if we just have the courage to do it.

Mr. Speaker, I hope the President will put aside politics for a while and join us to balance this budget.

URGING MEMBERS TO COSPONSOR BILL TO CREATE A NATIONAL COMMISSION TO STUDY GAMBLING

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

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I want to let the Members know that we now have 92 cosponsors on our bill to create a national commission to study the impact of gambling in the United States. Twenty years ago only two States had gambling. Now almost every State but Hawaii and Utah has gambling.

This is a bipartisan bill. We have the majority whip and the minority whip. It is time we pass it, whereby we can have a study to see, is there a problem of corruption? We know corruption does follow. Is there a problem of crime? Is there a problem of organized crime? Is there a problem of teenage addiction? Let us find out. Let us have a national commission to examine it.

The bill is being cosponsored in the Senate by Senator SIMON from Illinois, and Senator LUGAR from Indiana. We hope to pass it in the House this year and pass it in the Senate this year. I urge all my colleagues who are not cosponsors, please call my office today to cosponsor the bill, H.R. 497, National Commission to Study the Impact of Gambling.

THE REPUBLICAN BUDGET: THE BIGGEST GAMBLE OF THE DECADE

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

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, the House, with its budget, is set for the biggest gamble of the decade. The gamble is to reduce the deficit. I do not think it will do that. More important, it is going to increase the human deficit, the human suffering in this country. It reneges on the basic commitments we have had to decency and to families.

In fact, speaking of unfairness, last week's Wall Street Journal pointed out that the Republican tax breaks increases taxes for those under \$30,000 income, because it eliminates part of the earned income tax credit; because the child tax credit you have been hearing about does not help low-income people.

In fact, of course, it cuts programs like education, Medicaid, school lunches. The Medicaid program is completely decimated by this Republican budget measure. We are going to see the reopening of the institutions for the disabled in our States. There is going to be inadequate funds to meet basic health needs.

The Governors in this country, good Governors they may be, are not capable of the miracle of loaves and fishes. They cannot make something out of nothing. That is what they are being handed by the GOP proposed programs. A block grant. This has all the grace of cement blocks being dropped on our States. These block grants are going to deliver stones back home in place of help. This Republican plan will especially hurt children—16 million kids receive Medicaid; they need their health care, education, and nutrition programs.

Mr. Speaker, reject this, reject the tax breaks for the affluent. Let us keep our commitments to our American families and to the kids, our hope for tomorrow. Let's not gamble away the children's milk, health, and school money.

ACCURATE PERSONAL REMARKS TAKEN OUT OF CONTEXT BY THE DEMOCRATIC MINORITY

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

Mr. HEINEMAN. Mr. Speaker, the depth of the Democratic agenda is no deeper than a bumper sticker. Their whole agenda in this 104th Congress has been out of context remarks, lies, and distortions. That is the depth of their initiatives.

The minority leader, in his failure to keep his party together, is now desperately clutching for straws. The remarks of myself, FRED HEINEMAN, in an informal discussion with his hometown paper as to what and who are rich, were completely taken out of context. Now they have been incorporated into the Democratic platform to defeat the Republican initiatives to save this country.

My remarks were directed to my situation and my situation alone. Each person can better judge where he or she

stands as it relates to the variables of their economic status. Mine were accurate for me and others like me.

BULK SALES OF BUDGET RECONCILIATION PACKAGE

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

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, we've heard a lot lately about possible bulk sales of NEWT GINGRICH's book.

Yes, reports say GINGRICH is doing exactly what he accused a former Speaker of. But, guess what? His \$2 million book is not the only thing NEWT GINGRICH is trying to sell in bulk. Here's the new book—the GOP's 1,500 page, budget-busting reconciliation package. In it, NEWT GINGRICH is going to try to sell—in bulk—some gems of fiction that you just won't believe.

He'll try to sell you on the idea that we should give a tax cut to the wealthy few while we cancel tax credits for the working poor. And he wants you to buy into the fiction that students don't ever need a college loan.

NEWT GINGRICH called his first book: "To Renew America."

He should call this one: "How to Undo America," undoing decades of what is good and decent and fair. This book might not be a best-seller, but it certainly is a good example of how to sell-out.

REQUEST FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION OF S. 1060, LOBBYING DISCLOSURE ACT OF 1995

Mr. SKAGGS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the Senate bill (S. 1060) to provide for the disclosure of lobbying activities to influence the Federal Government, and for other purposes, which has passed the Senate, and proceed to its immediate consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska). The Chair does not recognize the gentleman for that purpose at this time.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. DOGGETT. I have a parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Speaker. I have here the Republican whip notice saying here that the first item of business this morning will be the legislative branch appropriations, and the very gift ban and lobby reform the gentleman refers to.

Is it true that after the vote of the Democratic Caucus calling for immediate gift ban reform this morning, that that has been pulled from the agenda and we will not have a chance to have a gift ban reform and lobby reform considered today?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair cannot comment on that particular inquiry. The Chair will recognize the gentlewoman from Utah [Mrs.