

WHO IS DRAFTING ECONOMIC POLICY?

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, something does not fit. There is civil war in Mexico. The peso is so low it could walk under a closed door with a top hat on. Mexico's biggest business is narcotics and they end up on the streets in America. Up north Canada just dodged a bullet. They almost voluntarily self-destructed.

After all this I keep reading the papers telling us how great the economy is. Well, if that is the case, how come wages keep going down? Workers are afraid of losing their house.

Tell me, Mr. Speaker, why is individual debt so high in America? Why are savings so low in America? And after all this, this administration wants a free-trade agreement with Chile. I ask today on the House floor, who is drafting our economic policies in America? Larry, Moe, and Curly, or a bunch of bureaucratic masochists who never stood in an unemployment line and are so dumb they could throw themselves at the ground and miss.

THE DEVIL IS IN THE DENIAL

(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, it is always an honor to follow my colleague from Ohio in these morning sessions.

This morning, Mr. Speaker, I thought I would illustrate a couple of differences between our budget plan, the conservative commonsense budget plan, and what the White House has offered. This is the budget reconciliation package. Yes, it is lengthy. Yes, it is exhaustive. But yes, it is complete. We have managed to do in less than 40 weeks what the liberals could not do in 40 years. That is, change the size and scope of the Federal Government.

On the other hand, here is the President's plan, such as it exists. Some interesting charts, a few talking points, but, Mr. Speaker, the devil is not in the details. The devil is in the denial.

As our Speaker and the leader of the other body go down to the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue to meet the President, I wonder which President will show up.

I hope it is the President who says he is for a balanced budget in 7 years. I hope it is the President who says he wants a tax cut for the middle class. I hope it is the President who says he wants welfare reform. If it is that President, Mr. Speaker, let him join with us to balance this budget and get this country back on track.

WOLVES IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING

(Mr. HILLIARD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, just like the wolf that hid in a sheepskin to kill his prey, so have the Republicans attempted to act as though they were trying to save Medicare.

But finally, finally, the Republicans have shown us their true colors, as evidenced by Senator DOLE and Speaker GINGRICH's comments that they are really voting to kill Medicare.

The Republican leaders comments on Medicare shows us that when it comes to delivering to the rich of America the obscene and bloated Republican-sponsored tax break, that they will say anything and even sell out America's seniors to appease their rich masters.

Well, America is finally getting wise to the Republican half-truths and lies.

Senator DOLE opposed Medicare in 1965, and he also opposes it in 1995.

Just like the wolf in sheep's clothing, the Republicans have attempted to lure our seniors into a false sense of security, but Senator DOLE's comments to the Conservative Union and the Speaker's comments to Blue Cross/Blue Shield have helped us sound the alarm bell to warn our seniors so we may avert this disaster.

WHO ARE THE WOLVES?

(Mr. SCARBOROUGH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, talk about wolves in sheep's clothing. My gosh, we have got the Democratic President telling us that Medicare goes bankrupt by the year 2002. Then they backpedal for the next 6 months saying we do not have to do anything about Medicare and anybody who does anything about Medicare to save Medicare is somehow a wolf in sheep's clothing.

Talk about a wolf in sheep's clothing on the budget issue. We have got a President who, as a candidate, said as President I would present a 5-year plan to balance the budget.

The freshman class presented that. MARK NEUMANN presented that. I do not see the President supporting that.

Then the Republicans come up with a 7-year plan that the President opposes. He says we can do it in 10 years. Then in New Hampshire he says, "Well, I think it can be done in 7 years in May." Then in a press conference in October he says, "I think we can reach it in 7 years."

"I think we could reach it in 8 years." "I think we could reach it in 9 years."

I am confused. Help me out, Mr. President, make up your mind and side on the side of the American people.

MEDICARE

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

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, the morning after Halloween, we awake to find that the majority has been out all

night playing trick or treat with senior citizens and Medicare.

The treat was supposed to be fixing Medicare and the trick is that the plan all along was to dismantle Medicare one step at a time.

The leader of the other body is actually proud that he opposed Medicare in 1965. Is this the same person who is assuring seniors that he has come to save Medicare, not to bury it?

And in a second surprise after the budget votes, the majority leadership finally admits that this is the first step in dismantling the program, and that the plan is to let Medicare wither on the vine.

If these guys were doctors, they might be accused of practicing Dr. Krevorkian medicine.

If they were used car salesmen, they might be eligible for salesmen of the month.

But since they are the fix Medicare gang, we need to expose the Halloween charade and defend the best health care program this country offers for seniors. No more trick or treat. How about straight talk on Medicare.

CONTROVERSY OVER CASTRO

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, the award for the most deplorable idolizing of Cuban tyrant Fidel Castro during his recent United States visit goes to my Democrat colleague from the Bronx, who handed the dictator a pair of boxing gloves engraved with "Fidel is #1."

Castro is No. 1 in human rights violations. He is No. 1 in persecution of political opposition. He is No. 1 in detainment of political prisoners. He is No. 1 in the persecution of the free press. So those gloves fit Castro to a tee.

However, given the hugs and accolades my colleague laid on Castro, I doubt that the "Fidel is #1" slogan was intended to refer to those Castro characteristics. It was another pathetic display of the obvious disregard some have for the repression that Castro imposes on the people of Cuba, and for the millions who struggle against his tyranny. Maybe Castro should return the favor by sending our colleague a pair of gloves engraved: "Castro's #1 pawn."

WE CANNOT LET MEDICARE DIE ON THE VINE

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

Mr. WATT of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the Speaker of this House has indicated that he wants Medicare to die on the vine. That is his quote.

I do not want Medicare to die on the vine. I want it to live and to continue to provide health care and security to our older Americans.

The Speaker and the Republicans have been saying for weeks now that what they were trying to do was to save Medicare. We told you that was not their purpose. Now the truth is out. They never wanted Medicare. They never wanted Medicare in 1965. And now they want it to die on the vine.

We have got to fight to keep it living and serving our senior citizens. We cannot let Medicare die on the vine.

MORE ON THE MEDICARE DEBATE

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

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, again, we say the Speaker made a mistake. Last weekend I happened to be in Phoenix with a number of senior citizens at a senior housing project, El Prima Vera, and they were concerned that we were taking away Medicare. I said, what is it, the Democrats in the debate scaring you?

They said, no, our fear has been reassured, reconfirmed, because we have heard the Republican leadership plan and clear, plain English, with the Senate President telling us that he did not support Medicare because he thought it would fail, which is false because that is a safety net that many seniors today rely on to get their medical health care.

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And then to top it off, it was the Speaker who was not concerned about the administration but who wanted to abolish Medicare, and that is the plain English truth.

REPUBLICANS HAVE THE ONLY PLAN

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

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, President Clinton says he thinks we can balance the budget in 7 years. Republicans have passed a bill that balances the budget in 7 years.

President Clinton says he wants to cut taxes. Republicans have passed a bill that cuts taxes for families and promotes economic growth.

President Clinton says he wants to save Medicare from bankruptcy. Republicans have passed a bill that saves Medicare for this generation and sets the stage for the baby boomers.

President Clinton says he wants to end welfare as we know it. Republicans have passed a plan to revolutionize the failed welfare system.

Mr. Speaker, talk is cheap. If the President is going to veto our balanced budget bill, then he is obligated to show us specifically what he would do differently. Balancing the budget is

about more than just press conferences and talking points, it is about specific plans. And right now Republicans are the only ones with a legitimate plan.

THE DEFICIT HAS ALREADY BEEN CUT

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

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Members, we hear talk about the 7-year balanced budget and the 10-year balanced budget.

We did not develop the debt that we have or the deficit in 7 years or even 10 years. In fact, in the 1980's, the deficit exploded, but it took us decades to get the financial house in the shape that we have it now. In fact, in 1992, the last year of a Republican administration in the White House, we had a \$290 billion deficit. This year, that deficit is down to \$163 billion.

Now, whether we talk about 7 years or 10 years, that is all a political game. What we are talking about is that we reduced the deficit under a Democratic President, without cutting Medicare, without cutting education, and without raiding the pension plans.

We do not need to let Medicare wither on the vine, Mr. Speaker.

KEEPING OUR PROMISES

(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, apparently the previous speaker does not understand the difference between the debt and the deficit. We are not talking about paying off a debt that it has taken some 40 years to run up. We are talking about balancing the budget and bringing the deficit from \$200 billion down to zero.

No question about it, when you have a \$5 trillion debt, it would be very difficult to pay that off in a 7-year period. Unfortunately, this budget does not do that. It does not, in fact, pay off any of it, but what it does do is it gets us down to zero in terms of deficit.

Last week we did pass a balanced budget bill for the first time in 25 years. In doing that, we kept our promise. We kept our promise.

The President made a promise 3 years ago he was going to balance the budget in a 5-year period. He did not keep that promise.

In fact, he gave us a bad budget agreement in 1993 that showed \$250 billion deficits as far as the eye can see.

We made the promise to balance the budget. We kept that promise, and that is probably the most important promise that we could have kept.

Because what does it mean? It means lower interest rates. It means more prosperity. It means more jobs. It means we are not going to be taxing our children for our own profligacy.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON VA-HUD BILL TO ELIMINATE ENVIRONMENTAL RIDERS

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, there is going to be an effort this afternoon which I support to try to eliminate environmental riders that were put into the EPA appropriations bill by the Republican leadership. These Republican riders would severely hamper the EPA's ability to enforce regulations that are the veritable backbone of environmental protection in this country, leaving the EPA severely crippled and the environment utterly defenseless.

These provisos, supported by the Republican leadership, would limit EPA's ability to spend funds on activities related to the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, RCRA, and Superfund. They even prevent the EPA from establishing drinking water standards for radon and arsenic, both known carcinogens.

These provisions are criminal in terms of the effects they will have on the environment. Then again, letting the environmental criminals off the hook is exactly what these provisions are all about.

I hope we are successful on a bipartisan basis this afternoon in eliminating these riders that severely hamper our ability to prevent the degradation of the Nation's environment.

IT IS TIME TO SET OUR COUNTRY ON THE RIGHT COURSE

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

Mrs. SEASTRAND. Mr. Speaker, what do the American people want? They want a Federal Government that is smaller, less costly, and less intrusive. They want us to cut spending and balance the budget. They want relief from taxes. They want us to reform the broken welfare system. And they want us to save Medicare from going bankrupt.

This is exactly why the people elected a Republican majority for the first time in 40 years. They wanted change from the status quo, and we have delivered that change. They wanted Republicans to keep our promises to balance the budget, cut taxes, reform welfare, and save Medicare. We have kept our promises.

Now it is our President's turn. Will President Clinton keep the promises he made? It is time to set our country on the right course. It is what the people want.

DO NOT SHUT DOWN THE GOVERNMENT

(Mr. DURBIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1