

immediately increase to between \$1,229 and \$1,564 just to ensure that Medicare survives 25 years.

Mr. President, as I have told Georgians and Americans all across the country, the era of passing these problems on to another generation is over. It is absolutely over. Within a decade, Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, Federal retirement and the interest only on our debt will consume 100 percent of the U.S. Treasury. It does not take a rocket scientist or a brilliant economist from one of our major universities to understand that that will wreak havoc on every family and every business. It will destabilize the world's greatest democracy.

This problem is going to get worked out. We are either going to take charge of it and lead our way out of it or we are going to stumble into it, and world markets and the economy will come crashing down on our heads.

I am reading from the Washington Times, Wednesday, June 5, 1996. It opens by saying:

The Clinton administration today is expected to confirm that Medicare will go bankrupt by 2001, but prospects for resolving the problem this year look dim.

So, as we approach this train wreck, we continue to turn away from it and we run the risk of destabilizing the lives of millions of Americans. But the more important thing that I read in this article is the following. It reads, "Democrats said they are not that concerned that Medicare will go broke," that is interesting, "because Congress has always acted at the last minute to avert a disaster."

The last minute part is correct. But the averting of a disaster is not. We have been moving with each succeeding year towards an ultimate disaster which has been called to our attention, once again, by the trustees. It says:

"I think Congress would default on Treasury bonds first," said Rep. Pete Stark, California Democrat.

It is interesting. Mr. Stark is the ranking member on the subcommittee on Ways and Means that deals with entitlements. This is a most interesting statement that he makes on this dilemma. He says:

Mr. Stark acknowledged the \$90 billion Democratic plan does not go far enough to reform the system, even in the near-term, and does not even begin to address what all sides say is a massive insolvency problem in 2010, when the Baby Boom generation starts to retire.

He goes on to say, and this is the key:

To fix the longer-term problem, Mr. Stark said, Democrats probably would resort either to a government takeover of the hospital and health-insurance payment system or raising payroll taxes.

I hope everybody across our land has a chance to hear that solution. This is the solution he is offering up that produced the 104th Congress. This was the idea that the administration and the President and the First Lady took all across the country and said, look, the

way to solve this problem is to have the Government take over medicine, have the Government take over another 17 percent of the American economy. And Americans said, "No way." They were so offended by this idea that they turned the majority of the Congress over.

But the idea has not left, and I believe that this statement by Representative Stark means that we are going to enter into, through the issue of Medicare, the whole question of our plan to modernize it, to create new options, to keep it in the private sector, to make it competitive, versus their plan, which is the old standard status quo, let the Government take it over and increase the economic burden on the American family and the American worker.

Mr. President, an average family in the State of Georgia today makes \$45,000 a year. By the time the Federal Government gets through going through their checking account, and the State government, and FICA for Social Security and Medicare, and their cost of regulatory reform, and their share of the higher interest rates because of the national debt, they end up with 49 percent of their wages to run their families' business. The suggestion that Mr. Stark is coming forward with is: That is not enough. Let us take another 10 or 20 percent out of their checking accounts.

What America needs is for Washington to return these resources to the checking accounts of the average American family and to reject the administration and Mr. Stark's everlasting plea for more government and bigger government and more taxes and higher taxes.

I think Mr. Stark, knowingly or unknowingly, wittingly or unwittingly, has drawn an enormous benchmark for us to debate over the balance of this year and the balance of this Congress as we talk about Medicare and talk about life in the American family and community in this great United States of America.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BENNETT). Without objection, it is so ordered.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. McCathran, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(the nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill, previously received from the House of Representatives for the concurrence of the Senate, was read the first and second times by unanimous consent and referred as indicated

H.R. 3448. An act to provide tax relief for small businesses, to protect jobs, to create opportunities, to increase the take home pay of workers, to amend the Portal-to-Portal Act of 1947 relating to the payment of wages to employees who use employer owned vehicles, and to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to increase the minimum wage rate and to prevent job loss by providing flexibility to employers in complying with minimum wage and overtime requirements under that Act; to the Committee on Finance.

The following bill was reported by the Committee on Armed Services, with amendments, and referred to the Committee on Governmental Affairs for a 30-day period provided in section 3(b) of Senate Resolution 400, 94th Congress, except that if the committee fails to report the bill within the 30-day limit, the Committee shall be automatically discharged from further consideration of the bill in accordance with that section:

S. 1718. A bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1997 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and for the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-2886. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act, case number 95-13; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-2887. A communication from the Secretary of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report entitled "Effects of the Immigration Reform and Control Act: Characteristics and Labor Market Behavior of the Legalized Population Five Years Following Legalization"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2888. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation to strengthen federal child protection laws; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2889. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation entitled "The Anti-Gang and Youth Violence Control Act of 1996"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2890. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation entitled "The Runaway and Homeless Youth Amendments of 1996"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.