

States announced a record increase, 17.4 percent, in the premiums that Medicare beneficiaries will be forced to pay, a record not matched in the 38-year history of Medicare. Why this increase? Because of the President's prescription drug bill, a drug bill written by the insurance industry, written by the drug industry.

□ 1015

Twenty-three billion dollars in direct subsidies go from the pockets of seniors, with their premium increase, into the coffers of the insurance companies, \$180 billion dollars extra profits for the already record profitable drug companies.

And this has happened over and over on the House floor: middle of the night votes, literally a bribe offered on the House floor during the passage of Medicare. That is why Democrats are unveiling today the New Partnership for America's Future to take our country in a new direction, to take our country in a better direction.

JOE LOCKHART SHOULD LEAVE THE KERRY CAMPAIGN

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, CBS has publicly apologized for airing the story on President Bush's National Guard service which relied on fraudulent documents. The fallout from this story will be felt for a long time. CBS has discredited itself as a news organization.

Some were surprised to learn that the man who produced those forged documents, Bill Burkett, was in contact with the Kerry campaign. A series of e-mails has surfaced showing that Burkett spoke with Max Cleland, an adviser to JOHN KERRY's presidential campaign about assisting the Democrats with a counter attack on Bush.

Also, a senior adviser to KERRY, Joe Lockhart, said that on the advice of CBS producer Mary Mapes, he spoke with Burkett about Vietnam and the Presidential campaign shortly before the piece aired. Lockhart's role in this attack is particularly disturbing.

Fraudulent political attacks by anyone are reprehensible. Joe Lockhart is talented and intelligent, but I believe he should excuse himself from the Kerry campaign.

WAR IN IRAQ IS COSTING U.S. LIVES AND DOMESTIC PROGRAMS

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

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I am sick and tired of waking up every morning to the news that more men and women are being killed in Iraq. I am as patriotic as anybody, but why are we in Iraq? We have discovered that we were

misled. There are no weapons of mass destruction. But our young men and women are dying every day.

At the same time, we are spending \$1 billion per week on this war. We are spending \$1 billion a week, but we have 44 million Americans without health insurance. We have rising poverty. We have men and women who work every day but cannot afford to pay rent. Yet this administration is cutting the section 8 program that would support families in their ability to have a house.

What are we doing in education? Far too many dropouts, not only in our inner cities but in our rural areas. This President says, leave no child behind, but it is empty rhetoric. He is not putting his dollars where his mouth is.

RECOGNIZING 10 YEARS OF RE- PUBLICAN MAJORITY IN U.S. HOUSE

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, several of us are coming to the well this morning to celebrate the decade since those revolutionary, visionary Republicans gained a majority in this House and helped put America back on the right track.

Today, Americans are paying lower taxes. We have a stronger, more well-trained military, and we fight every day to decrease regulation and to get at the heart of waste, fraud and abuse in our government. None of this, not any of it, would have happened without those passionate patriotic Republicans.

We understand that small businesses are what fuel this economy, so we have worked to help create and expand jobs. We have created health savings accounts, which give Americans more control over their health care dollars, greater choices.

Our historic tax relief has helped push America out of recession and helped to protect the American Dream for future generations. Republicans know that government does not create jobs; small business does. And we celebrate 10 years of success.

TEN YEARS: ADVANCES

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, Republicans have been in the majority here in the House of Representatives for 10 years now, and a lot has changed. We have helped to free working families from the heavy tax burden, but we need to make our work permanent. We need to make a child tax credit, elimination of the marriage penalty tax and the elimination of the death tax permanent. Only the Republicans are committed to doing this.

We have established a more optimistic welfare system that encourages

self-sufficiency and has shortened the welfare lines. But there are still families on welfare who want to get off, so there is more work to be done. Only Republicans are committed to doing this.

Since 1994, unemployment rates are lower. Median household income is higher. A greater percentage of Americans are graduating from college. Home ownership rates are higher. And the violent crime rate has decreased.

Mr. Speaker, the numbers prove that American families are better off, much better off with Republicans making the laws.

GOP 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

(Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, Americans celebrate the 10-year anniversary of Republican majority in this House of Representatives. Let us remember that it was President Reagan's emphasis on security that provided the legacy that we now use as the starting point for the Grand Old Party.

If Congress does not see to it that every American is safe, does anything else matter? Republicans answered this question by strengthening our military, equipping our troops, confronting terrorists on their turf and taking care of our veterans when they return home. From the fall of the Iron Curtain and the demise of communism to the liberation of Iraq and Afghanistan, Republicans have driven policy that has transformed unsafe nations while protecting our own.

Republicans recognize that we do not need to seek a permission slip to defend our Nation and that nothing is more important than a safe, secure America.

HOUSE REPUBLICANS: A PROUD AND POSITIVE 10-YEAR RECORD OF ACHIEVEMENT

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, for the last 10 years, the House Republican majority has built a proud and positive record that has improved the lives of American families. In 1994, Republicans were overwhelmingly elected to bring leadership and accountability to Washington. Republicans had a clear vision to restore fiscal responsibility, rebuild our defense and intelligence, and create jobs through relieving the tax burden and reforming welfare, improving education for our children, protecting the lives of the unborn and the sanctity of marriage, and leading with honesty and integrity.

In the last 10 years, the stock market has more than doubled in value. Poverty has decreased. Unemployment has

declined. And household income has risen substantially. We have reformed welfare, passed the Defense of Marriage Act and promoted quality education in our schools, fulfilling the Reagan revolution.

As a lifelong member of the Republican Party, I have never been prouder of our party. Under the leadership of our Speaker, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HASTERT); our majority leader, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY); the chairman of the Republican Conference, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. PRYCE); and our majority whip, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), working with President George Bush, this team will continue to promote America's families.

In conclusion, may God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

GOP 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, in 10 years of majority, Republicans have made a difference and a difference not by over-legislating but by having confidence and faith in the American people and the American individual.

My Republican colleagues and I believe that it is the individual American and not the government who can best improve their lives. Financial decision-making is best done by the family and not by the Federal government. The taxpayers' money belongs in the taxpayers' pockets. They work hard for it, and they know how to spend it best.

Republicans created across-the-board tax cuts for working Americans, giving them a greater chance to spend and to save their money as they deem fit, giving them options, giving them independence. The benefits of our tax relief have rolled on to jump-start the economy, with 1.7 million new jobs this past year, with the current unemployment rate lower than the average rates of the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s combined.

Mr. Speaker, in the next 10 years, the Republicans will continue to respect the American individual and, in turn, build on our successes and on the success of this great Nation.

SUPPORT THE PLEDGE

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

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, amidst the controversy surrounding the Pledge of Allegiance, I fear that we have forgotten our Founding Fathers' true intentions behind the establishment clause in the Constitution. While our critics argue that the words "under God" violate the establishment cause, our founders actually encouraged this type of religious recognition.

As George Washington said in his farewell address, and I quote, "Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports. The mere politician, equal with the pious man, ought to respect and to cherish them."

Washington encourages us to respect religion, and I think he feared that the government might misapply the establishment clause to things like the Pledge. Even Thomas Jefferson, who advocated the wall of separation between church and State, articulated this, and I quote, "No Nation has ever yet existed or been governed without religion, nor can be."

Considering our Founding Fathers' clear statements, it is hard to say that the Pledge establishes religion or crosses the wall of separation. I urge my colleagues to embrace the founders' original intent and support H.R. 2028.

REPUBLICAN MAJORITY AND FAMILY HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, in the 10 years of Republican majority in the House, we have always put families first. We recognize that protecting our Nation's families means in part creating access to better health care, providing affordable prescription drugs to seniors and ensuring the best doctors and care for our children. These are critical and necessary commitments.

In 1994, when Republicans took the majority, many of our citizens were being left behind without access to rapidly developing medical technology. Last year, we passed the most sweeping modernization to Medicare legislation since its creation in 1965. For the first time, our seniors now have a prescription drug benefit. Americans know that their parents and grandparents will be taken care of and that they are in safe hands.

We have provided better options to our Nation's low-income families by making doctors' appointments and necessary checkups available through community health centers; 15 million families nationwide now have a place to count on for health care through these centers.

America's families will always receive the best existing health care. Republicans recognize the importance of family health care, and we will continue to recognize it as a top priority in the future.

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF REPUBLICAN MAJORITY

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

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, 10 years ago, 25 hearty souls met for 3 hours

every week to decide whether we could change the course of America, led by then House Minority Whip Newt Gingrich. We said that if you gave us the authority and the power, we would change the way America works, and we did it with a specific Contract With America; 9 million additional people voted in that election and gave us the opportunity to lead.

We believed that too many people were on welfare, and they deserved an opportunity to get off, so we changed that. We balanced the budget and paid down debt. Some of that is going by the wayside now with a war to fund, but when we stood before the American people in 1994, we stood for something solid, and we can do it again.

We want to thank the American people for giving us the opportunity. And, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Newt Gingrich, who would be our Speaker ultimately, for leading us to that majority.

□ 1030

THE RECORD OF THE REPUBLICAN-CONTROLLED CONGRESS

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

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, the Republicans have reminded us that it has been 10 years since they have controlled this Congress, and I think it is important to reflect upon that record. Since they have been in the majority here, they have managed to shift the tax burden from the most affluent people in America to the white and blue collar working class, raising taxes for working Americans, lowering them for multimillionaires. They have established the conditions for, and presided over, the Enron and other corporate scandals. And since they have controlled not just the legislative branch but the executive branch as well, they have managed to increase the poverty level in America in the last 4 years by 4.3 million people now living in poverty.

They have reduced the average income of the average American family by more than \$1,500. They have raised the energy costs of the average American family by more than \$1,000 a year. They have raised the number of people who are without health insurance, bringing it up to 45 million people without health insurance. The list goes on. And we will have other opportunities to discuss it, I am sure.

PLEDGE PROTECTION

(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, this week we will vote on keeping "one Nation under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance. The Pledge is