

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

□ 1110

H.R. 25—THE FAIR TAX

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

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow is Tax Day. I am sure there are some folks out there who haven't quite filled out all of their forms yet, who haven't quite finished up all of that paperwork yet, but it doesn't have to be that way. There are alternatives to change the Tax Code in this country, and one of those alternatives is the Fair Tax, H.R. 25, which was introduced in this House.

The Fair Tax, H.R. 25, is the only bill in Congress to eliminate the incentive that American companies have to move American jobs overseas. The Fair Tax is the only bill in Congress to change the Tax Code so that those jobs that have moved overseas and so that those dollars that have gone overseas have an incentive to return. The Fair Tax is the only bill in Congress that abolishes the payroll tax—that 15.3 percent FICA tax, which is the highest tax that 80 percent of working American families pay.

The Fair Tax, H.R. 25, is a different way and a better way, and we can make April 15 just another spring day.

PRESERVE MEDICARE

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

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, we have an obligation to our generations who built America. That's why we will not allow the Republicans to terminate Medicare with extreme prejudice.

We will not allow them to turn a guarantee for seniors into a voucher program for the insurance industry. We will not allow them to turn Medicare into "Medi-gone." We will not allow them to give us 6,000 reasons to vote against their hair-brained scheme because they want to put \$6,000 worth of more costs on our senior citizens.

This is a noble obligation. It should not be shredded. We should reduce medical inflation, not put this burden on senior citizens. Preserve Medicare and reject the Republican scheme.

OBAMA'S BUDGET GROUNDHOG DAY

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

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, the White House has presented its sequel budget plan for America, but this sequel looks strangely like the prequel—filled with rhetoric, flat on vision for economic growth, and heavy on new taxes for America's small business owners and job creators.

As a CPA who operated my own practice, I have filed thousands of tax returns for individuals and small busi-

nesses. I have not only met payroll myself, but I have examined the bottom line of businesses that are trying to keep their doors open. The sequel plan offered by the White House will tax those who are trying to expand and invest. It will ultimately cripple job growth and recovery in America.

Chairman PAUL RYAN has presented a plan with a vision for job growth. It supports many of the concepts that as a CPA I have long advocated for, such as simplifying the Tax Code and reducing tax levels for small businesses and families. As a CPA, I know the Ryan plan presents a path to prosperity for America, and I will support it tomorrow.

NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Autism Awareness Month and to express my support for ongoing efforts across the Nation that are devoted to improving the treatment of those individuals with autism, and their families.

Today, one in 110 children is affected by autism, and my home State of New Jersey has the highest rate of autism in the country. With the help of treatment and support centers, the lives of individuals and families affected by autism are improving every day. I am proud that such a facility exists in my district.

The Center for Autism at The North Ward Center provides the highest quality of care to individuals and families in the greater Newark area. Under one roof, the center offers a seamless and comprehensive range of services for the lifespans of individuals with autism, treating the whole person and the whole family, focusing on strength-based interventions. The center represents a one-stop approach in relieving the burden on already stressed families dealing with autism.

The Center for Autism at The North Ward Center in Newark is only one example of how concentrated care can greatly better the lives of individuals and families affected by autism.

IT IS, PERHAPS, THE END OF THE BEGINNING

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

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, this day marks an historic moment for our country. The rise in Federal spending that has defined the last 3 years has ended.

The bill that we will pass in the House today contains the largest cuts in our budget since the end of World War II. This bill is by no means perfect, and I, like many Americans, want more cuts, and I believe we will get them. These cuts are just the start.

MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

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

Ms. JENKINS. I have the honor and privilege of representing Fort Riley, home of the Big Red One; Fort Leavenworth, host to the Army Command and General Staff College; the 190th Coyotes out at Forbes Field; and nearly 12,000 National Guard and Reserve members.

With this strong military presence comes a large number of military families and children. I rise today in recognition of April as the Month of the Military Child. This is a time for all my colleagues to applaud the strength, sacrifice, heroism, and continued resilience shown by the children of our service men and women.

Kansas is proud to have more than 33,000 children with at least one parent serving in the military, and this month we recognize that when parents serve in the military, their children also serve.

I will continue to do everything I can to support not only our men and women in uniform but their children who sacrifice equally for our country.

RYAN REPUBLICAN MEDICARE PLAN

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, in 1965, when Medicare was passed, only 50 percent of America's seniors could afford to buy health insurance. That was not an accident. It was because the high risk of people over age 65 made that market basically uninsurable.

I'm from Connecticut. We know a little bit about insurance in the State of Connecticut. Looking at the Ryan Republican Medicare plan which would give seniors vouchers to go out and buy insurance, all we're asking for is to repeat history, which is where this country was in 1965.

We must protect a guaranteed benefit for seniors. We learned that lesson throughout the early 1900s through 1965. The Ryan plan takes us back to a time when seniors will be paying massive out-of-pocket costs. The CBO estimates it will triple out-of-pocket costs for seniors. It is the wrong way to go. President Obama's plan that he laid out yesterday, which is a thoughtful, intelligent approach to lower health care costs but protects a guaranteed benefit for seniors, is what this country needs and what our senior citizens need.

The words of Winston Churchill, which were spoken during a different battle, echo true today. He stated, "This is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end; but it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning."

Mr. Speaker, it is time to move beyond last year's business and start doing the work the American people sent us here to do. Tomorrow, we will take up legislation that will save us not billions but trillions; and as this House considers addressing the debt ceiling, the Senate and the President need to know that these cuts do not represent the end—they represent our resolve to continue the fight.

MEDICAID BLOCK GRANTS PROGRAM

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

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to the Republican plan to gut Medicaid. This plan isn't about finding cost-effective ways to improve Medicaid. It's about limiting health care for some of the most vulnerable members of our society.

It's telling seniors they no longer qualify for their nursing home care. It's taking away access to well child visits. The Medicaid program isn't just numbers on a balance sheet; it's the only access to care for millions of low-income seniors, poor children and people with disabilities.

Under the Republican proposal, there will be less access and less care, especially in times of economic stress, like what we are going through today. Medicaid rolls swell as people lose jobs and families lose income. Under the Republican block grant scheme, tough times would mean even tougher times for the newly unemployed, the frail and the young.

As a nurse, I believe a key moral measure of our society is how we treat the least among us. This irresponsible Republican proposal just doesn't measure up.

CREATING JOBS

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend our President for taking a mature and comprehensive approach to the problems we face.

When people have a need to lose weight, they both reduce their caloric content and they increase their exercise. It's the same thing with the deficit we have. You have to have cuts or reforms, but you also have to have more revenue.

The President's proposal yesterday about finally getting around to taxing the millionaires and the billionaires and having them contribute to the need to reduce our deficit is so impor-

tant, while at the same time reforming Medicare, not eliminating Medicare. That's what is scary: eliminating Medicare for seniors, threatening Social Security, and not providing an innovative program to create jobs. Jobs is the issue. We need to create jobs in this country, and we haven't seen it coming forth.

I praise the President for his mature approach to the situation, and I encourage others to fall in line.

IN THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE, ONLY THE BIG DOGS EAT

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

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, my name is Congresswoman CORRINE BROWN, and I'm from the great State of Florida, the home of Claude Pepper.

Claude Pepper was the champion for senior citizens and the elderly, and he would be so appalled by the bill that the Republicans are bringing to the House floor tomorrow, which will gut and privatize Medicaid and Medicare in order to give tax cuts to the millionaires and billionaires. That's shocking—that's shocking to me—but Republicans are doing it after one hearing, which is unacceptable.

You talk about open government. Why is it that we have not had hearings where we bring in our stakeholders and talk about how this would affect senior citizens?

How can you dare to propose that people who may not even make \$6,000 a year have to pay an additional \$6,000 a year for health care insurance?

It's so sad that, in the people's House, only the big dogs eat.

□ 1120

REPUBLICAN BUDGET ENDS MEDICARE AS WE KNOW IT

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, it's sort of ironic that today we're going to bring up a budget, the Republican budget, that would end Medicare as we know it, but at the same time seek to repeal the health care reform legislation, or at least defund it.

I don't understand how my Republican colleagues keep talking about repealing or defunding health care reform and yet have nothing to replace it with, and in this case are trying to gut or end as we know it the existing health care programs that we have for senior citizens and the disabled in the case of Medicare, and in the case of Medicaid for low-income people.

They would tell seniors, in their budget, that they're supposed to go out and buy their own health insurance, and somehow they're going to give them some help. They call it premium support from the Federal Government.

But they're now going to have to pay out of pocket to just buy their insurance more and more. So they have to pay out of pocket for the premium, they have to pay out of pocket for a deductible, and they have to pay out of pocket for the copay. Where does it end?

THE AMERICAN DREAM

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

Mr. CLARKE of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I am here to talk about the American Dream.

The American Dream, that's what motivated the Asian American hotel owners to come to this country. Many of those hotel owners came here under circumstances similar to that of my dad. They came here to live the American Dream, but not just for us. By providing over half a million jobs to Americans throughout this great country, the Asian American Hotel Owners Association helped to provide the American Dream to all of us.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. CON. RES. 34, CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 223 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 223

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 34) establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2012 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2013 through 2021. The first reading of the concurrent resolution shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the concurrent resolution are waived. General debate shall not exceed four hours, with three hours confined to the congressional budget equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Budget and one hour on the subject of economic goals and policies equally divided and controlled by Representative Brady of Texas and Representative Hinchey of New York or their respective designees. After general debate the concurrent resolution shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original concurrent resolution for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in part A of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. That amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against that amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived. No amendment to that amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in part B of the report of the