agree that the way the major networks covered Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan’s comments on the Republican tax proposal deserves a second look.

Anybody watching ABC, NBC, CBS or CNN would come away thinking that the Federal Reserve Chairman opposed the Republican tax cuts and felt them unwise.

Well, Alan Greenspan’s comments were not exactly as they were portrayed. In fact, the Chairman warned against more spending. Those comments were ignored. In fact, the Chairman said that if the choice were between more spending and tax cuts, he thought tax cuts made sense, and that more spending would be the worst of all outcomes.

Surprise, surprise. We get spin from the networks.

STRENGTHENING AND MODERNIZING MEDICARE

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

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, anyone who has been paying attention in this country in the last year would think, would know, that we have got some problems with Medicare. The program becomes insolvent in the year 2015.

So let us look at this Republican tax cut proposal. It devotes $792 billion for tax cuts and does absolutely nothing to strengthen and modernize Medicare. The GOP plan does not extend the solvency of Medicare by one day.

By contrast, the Democratic plan invests $325 billion of the on-budget surplus over the next 10 years in the Medicare Trust Fund and extends it out to 2027.

The GOP plan contains absolutely nothing for prescription drug benefits. The Democratic plan contains $45 billion over 10 years to help provide our seniors with help in buying their prescription drugs.

There is no question, this tax cut and helping Medicare, improving Medicare, providing the prescription drug benefit, they cannot both be done. Moreover, the surplus, frankly, is not there.

WESTERN SAHARA PRISONERS OF WAR NEED TO GO HOME

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

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, the country of Morocco has been in the news a lot the last couple of weeks. This morning, I rose on behalf of 83 freed Moroccan POW’s in the midst of the Sahara Desert. These men were originally imprisoned due to the conflict between Western Sahara and Morocco.

These prisoners were released in 1997 by Western Sahara as a goodwill gesture when the former Secretary of State George Barker, who was the emissary of the UN Secretary General, visited the Sahrawi people in their refugee camps. Eighty-five prisoners were released and filled with anticipation of going home. Unfortunately, two of the men have died while waiting for permission from their government to visit Morocco.

Last year I visited these released POWs in their camp. You can see these men in the photo around me.

Madam Speaker, some of these men have languished, along with the Sahrawi refugees, in the desert for 20 years. Yet, even though they are free, Morocco has not allowed them to return home to Morocco to their families.

Why? No one knows.

Madam Speaker, I urge the new King of Morocco as a gesture of good will to accept the freed Moroccan citizens so they can return home to their families.

ENACT PATIENTS’ BILL OF RIGHTS NOW

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

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rose just about a year ago to join my colleagues in offering a one minute on a proposed patients’ bill of rights. We were discussing this topic in the House because the leadership of the majority, both in the House and the other body, had finally entered into the public discussion on adoption of a Patients’ Bill of Rights.

I regret to say that my optimism was misplaced. Let us say 1 year and 2 weeks later, we still have not passed the Patients’ Bill of Rights.

Since that time, public clamor for a real, genuine Patients’ Bill of Rights has only grown. The public recognizes that, like the first ten amendments to the Constitution, there are real people and real rights that need to be protected. Medical decisions which affect the very livelihood of people and their quality of life must be made by doctors, in consultation with patients, not insurance accountants. Patients must be able to hold HMOs liable, accountable, for decisions that affect their lives and the quality of life, not some travesty of an internal review process.

REPUBLICAN BUDGET PROPOSAL BEING MISREPRESENTED AND MISCHARACTERIZED

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Lake Tahoe. Mark Twain once said, as he described Lake Tahoe, it was “the fairest picture the whole Earth afforded.”

With an estimated 30 percent of the trees and forests surrounding Lake Tahoe dead or dying, and the lake losing almost a foot of clarity a year, many environmental changes must be made to ensure that we pass on to our