ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair desires to make an announcement.

On July 24, 1998, at 3:40 p.m., Officer Jacob J. Chestnut and Detective John M. Gibson of the United States Capitol Police were killed in the line of duty defending the Capitol against an intruder armed with a gun.

At 3:40 p.m. today, the Chair will recognize the anniversary of this tragedy by observing a moment of silence in their memory.

SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM IS SECURE

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, this is a $5 billion Treasury Note. More than $1 trillion of these are on deposit. Let me read a quote from it: "This bond is incontestable in the hands of the Federal Old Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund," Social Security. This bond is supported by the full faith and credit of the United States of America. The United States of America is pledged to the payment of the bond with respect to both principal and interest. More than $1 trillion is on deposit.

Americans will pay $93 billion this year more in FICA taxes than is necessary to support the system, with the idea they are being deposited to pay for their retirement. In 2016, there will be $6 trillion on deposit, and Secretary O'Neill of the Treasury and the Bush Privatization of Social Security Commission deemed it would not be wise like a hive of termites trying to undermine the system and say we might not honor that $6 trillion of debt.

Well, if the bonds on deposit backed by the full faith and credit of the United States of America will not be paid for Social Security, what other debts will this government default on?

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY IN THE 21ST CENTURY

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

Mr. ARMLEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to go on record as saying I, for one, do not believe that former Senator Moynihan is a termite.

Mr. Speaker, I am worried about the left wing of the Democrat party. Mr. Speaker, I think they are losing it. In all corners of the Washington liberal establishment, there is panic. War has been declared on the people's tax relief. Just as the checks are in the mail, dire predictions and horrifying stories are being told about a government doing without, catastrophe for the economy, all because we sent a small portion of our income to Washington. Americans will pay $93 billion this year more in FICA taxes than is necessary to support the system, with the idea they are being deposited to pay for their retirement. In 2016, there will be $6 trillion on deposit, and Secretary O'Neill of the Treasury and the Bush Privatization of Social Security Commission deemed it would not be wise like a hive of termites trying to undermine the system and say we might not honor that $6 trillion of debt.

Well, if the bonds on deposit backed by the full faith and credit of the United States of America will not be paid for Social Security, what other debts will this government default on?

LET ME SPEAK TO THE BILL

Mr. Speaker, I have always been a strong advocate of the Patients' Bill of Rights and am proud to be part of cosponsorship of the Ganske-Norwood-Dingell bill, which is the bill that we will be debating this week, and no other bill.

There are protections within the Patients' Bill of Rights. The Patients' Bill of Rights creates an external appeals process that, once exhausted, allows the patient to pursue claims against the HMO in State or Federal court, depending on the cause of their harm.

What is getting those opposed to patient protection all hot under the collar? Because opponents do not want hard-working Americans to have access to their State courts when HMOs deny them proper health care. This hypocrisy escapes no one. No one is paying attention to the fact that the great defenders of "States' rights" in this Chamber are the ones opposed to allowing Americans access to State courts.

And why is it? Because they are afraid. They are afraid to let juries and State courts make decisions about what an HMO owes a patient who has been harmed as a result of the HMO's heartless, bottom-line-driven cost-cutting.

SUPPORT THE GANSKE-NORWOOD-DINGELL PATIENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS

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

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I have always been a strong advocate of the Patients' Bill of Rights and am proud to be part of cosponsorship of the Ganske-Norwood-Dingell bill, which is the bill that we will be debating this week, and no other bill.

There are protections within the Patients' Bill of Rights. The Patients' Bill of Rights creates an external appeals process that, once exhausted, allows the patient to pursue claims against the HMO in State or Federal court, depending on the cause of their harm.

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