

based on skill, not race, she helped break down color barriers for black professionals in Cobb County.

Clara also opened doors for other black nurses. She was once offered a position as head pediatric nurse at Kennestone. But when she turned down the job, another black nurse was selected to head that unit. She brought a greater equality to our hospital.

Clara Jenkins is a skilled nurse and an important member of the Cobb community. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in honoring her legacy.

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take the time of the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

PRESIDENT'S PROPOSAL FOR PRIVATIZATION OF SOCIAL SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Ms. KILPATRICK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, March is Women's History Month, and we are proud to celebrate the contributions that women have made to American society. As mothers, as caregivers, as teachers, as providers, we honor the women in America this month of March.

While home last week, I had an opportunity to hold two town hall meetings. My first meeting was in Wyandotte, Lincoln Park, River Rouge, and Ecorse communities, where we had hundreds of people who came out to hear about the Social Security proposals. My first point to them was that we have no bill. What we are hearing are discussion points, and right now we have no legislation that has come to the House or the Senate. What we are hearing are proposals being made by the President. Mr. Speaker, that calmed a lot of people down, many of whom were women.

As we went on to discuss the problem of Social Security, I advised them that the Social Security trustees have said now that the trust fund is good until the year 2042 at least.

□ 2030

I also told them that per the Congressional Budget Office, the Social Security fund is good until at least 2052, so to calm down, make sure you are okay and do not send anyone the \$1 or the \$2 that they ask you to save your Social Security. Your Social Security is good.

At our town hall meetings, first in the communities that I mentioned, and

then moving on to Detroit, hundreds of citizens, many women, because 24 million women in America right now receive Social Security. Of that number, 7.5 million women disabled receive Social Security. And over 2.7 million children under 18, many of them receive Social Security, and many 18 and under are women. So when we talk about the Social Security issue in our town hall meetings, which were very successful, not combative, giving information, using some of the professors at Wayne State University, such as Professor Dankowski, a professor of gerontology and the aged at the university, we exchanged information.

What my constituents found out at our town hall meetings was that more than 85 percent of Social Security funds that come into Social Security go right back out to beneficiaries. Over 85 percent, and that 14-plus percent is set aside for the trust fund. If we set up private accounts as being proposed by the President and take money out of Social Security, then those people who are current beneficiaries who have paid into the system will have their benefits cut, or we will have to borrow money to make that up.

At a time when we are in deficit spending in this country, it is not the time to borrow. As we discussed Social Security and what is happening with it, good until the year 2042 if you use the Social Security trustees' projections, or 2052 if we use the Congressional Budget Office, we calmed them down and were able to exchange information.

Social Security is the most successful program this country has seen since 1935 when President Roosevelt signed the bill. In 1936, payroll deductions began to be made, and in 1940 the first checks went out to beneficiaries who had been paying into the system. As we know now, many disabled, widowers, and survivors also use their Social Security.

Mr. Speaker, town hall meetings, we have to get out into America. We found that is the best way of communicating to give them the facts so they have the information they need. Without Social Security, women in particular would be living in poverty.

Let us not throw out a good program. Yes, it needs fixing. As a Member who spoke earlier said, there are only three or four options. Either we raise the age, raise the deduction, which is if you make up to \$90,000, your Social Security FICA comes out. If you make over \$90,000, you do not pay any. I am not advocating that at this point, but that is one of the options, raise the age, increase the limit from which we make the payroll deductions, or cut benefits.

There are not a lot of options, but we have time to do what is right for American citizens. Social Security is a good program. It was never intended to be

the end all. It was a tripod: Social Security, pensions, and if you were able to save, then those three sides of the triangle would give Americans a comfortable life in their retirement.

My constituents say do not mess with our Social Security. They want it, they have paid into it, and they believe they are entitled to it. As we continue our discussion, let us remember it is the people of America who we serve who we represent and who have paid in. Keep Social Security sound. Let us tweak it and not throw it out.

HECKLING IS NOT A SOLUTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FORTENBERRY). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, it has been an interesting experience to be here and listen to the debate tonight on Social Security. I found it interesting in particular to listen to the gentleman from New Jersey read accounts from town hall meetings where Republicans have been attempting to explain the problems that we are facing with Social Security and how many groups, moveon.org, AARP, and others have come to disrupt those meetings.

I do not know if liberals or the Democrats are proud of that, that their supporters are going in to heckle and boo. It seems they are. What does that contribute to the debate? Not much in my opinion. There is a saying that you are entitled to your own opinions, but not to your own facts.

If we look at the facts on Social Security, there are the following: when Social Security started in the 1930s, there were some 42 workers per retiree. In the 1950s, that went to 16 workers per retiree. Today we are down to three workers per retiree. By the time I retire, there will be probably two workers per retiree. You cannot argue with the demographics, and that is where we are headed. Those are the facts. With those facts you have to understand we have got to do something different. This pay-as-you-go system simply is not a model that is going to work with demographics like that.

Fact number two, it was just mentioned a few minutes ago there is a trust fund that is going to pay out until the year 2042. Where is that trust fund and what does it contain? It is a couple of file cabinets in West Virginia that contain a couple of IOUs. There is no trust fund; there is no money. It is just IOUs. As soon as we start taking out more than we are paying in, we are simply going to incur more debt upon debt we already have. You can talk about the year 2042 and we do not have to worry until then, that is assuming there is money in a trust fund. If somebody knows where that money is hidden, please tell us because it simply is