

Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, I rise today to settle a bet.

About a week ago, the gentleman from Colorado [Mr. ALLARD] challenged me to a small wager on the outcome of the Colorado Buffalo-Nebraska Cornhusker football game. I accepted that challenge, and the Cornhuskers did not let me down.

The decisive score: Nebraska 44, Colorado 21. Nebraska apparently is well on its way to defending its national championship, and perhaps another national championship game in Arizona in the Fiesta Bowl.

This is the cap that the gentleman from Colorado [Mr. ALLARD] will be wearing around Capitol Hill today. I want you all to take a good look at it, and I hope that you will all take the time to congratulate him on the victory of the team whose cap he is sporting.

I know, Madam Speaker, that this time is devoted to serious issues affecting each of our districts, but football is serious in Nebraska as well as Colorado. I can think of few things of any more interest or that unite people more than football.

Go Big Red.

KILLING MEDICARE

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

Mr. OLVER. Madam Speaker, the Republicans are cutting Medicare by \$270 billion. Why such an extreme cut?

The Republican Speaker, Mr. GINGRICH, tells seniors he wants to save Medicare. The Republican Senate leader says he wants to save Medicare. But what do they say when they are not talking to elderly voters?

Last week the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. GINGRICH] said, "We don't get rid of Medicare in round one because we don't think that's politically smart."

Mr. DOLE told a large group from the insurance industry, he is proud of his 1965 vote against the creation of Medicare.

The Republicans are not saving Medicare, they are making extreme cuts in Medicare to pay for the tax cuts for the wealthiest of Americans.

They have made it clear, in their own words, this is only round one. The Republicans intend to kill Medicare.

CORNHUSKERS TOP BUFFALOES

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

Mr. ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a frightening performance by the Nebraska Cornhusker football team this past Saturday, October 28, against the University of Colorado Golden Buffaloes.

Nebraska quarterback Tommie Frazier and his Cornhuskers bedeviled

and bewitched the CU team, proving to the Nation why Nebraska was the national champion last year, and why the team is ranked No. 1 this week.

The Buffs are still haunted by a fumble that was ruled dead, and which cost them a touchdown. And although the Buffs fought a hard battle, they jinxed themselves with untold penalties.

I will be doing my Halloween bit today by wearing a Nebraska football cap, as I promised my good friend, Congressman BILL BARRETT of Nebraska. And I am giving that Cornhusker a sack of candy corn, in the hopes of sweetening Nebraska's chances to repeat as national champs.

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MEDICARE: SAVING IT OR DESTROYING IT?

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, last week the Gingrich plan passed Congress. If you make \$20,000 a year, your taxes will go up. If you make 10 times that amount of money, you will get a several thousand dollar tax break.

The Gingrich plan cuts student loans to middle class families and cuts Medicare \$270 billion in order to pay for a tax break for America's wealthiest people.

Why do they want to destroy Medicare? Listen to Speaker GINGRICH's own words when he spoke to a group of insurance executives:

Now, we didn't get rid of it in round one because we don't think that that's politically smart and we don't think that's the right way to go through a transition. But we believe it's going to wither on the vine because we think people are voluntarily going to leave it.

Madam Speaker, that is wrong to want to destroy Medicare, particularly at the same time that you say you are trying to save it.

STOP SUBSIDIZING LOBBYISTS

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

Mr. WICKER. Madam Speaker, I rise today as an advocate for the taxpayer whose hard-earned dollars are going to subsidize Washington lobbyists. The lobbyists I speak of directly benefit from the Federal grant system, designed to help people and charities, not line the pockets of inside-the-beltway lobbyists.

When I tell my constituents that the Federal Government gives away over \$39 billion per year in grant money with little or no strings attached, they tell me to stop this business-as-usual attitude in Washington.

If these groups were not spending money on political and partisan activi-

ties, they would have much more money for the services they are intended to perform and they would not have to take as much—or any—money from hard-working Americans.

The Istook-McIntosh-Ehrlich amendment to the Treasury-Postal conference report would require Federal grantees to open their books and be accountable to the taxpayers who fund them. Sunshine, Madam Speaker. Let us show the taxpayers how their money is being spent. It is only fair and the right thing to do.

As President of the freshman class, I can tell you that this is the kind of reform we promised the American people last November—let us deliver in the 104th Congress.

MEDICARE

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

Mr. THOMPSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to convey the frustrations that so many senior citizens expressed to me while I was in my district the past weekend. I can picture one of the seniors who approached me and begged, "please do not let them take my only source of medical insurance away, I can't afford to pay a dime more." This little lady was talking about the increase in her Medicare premiums that is being proposed by the Republican Congress.

Madam Speaker, this lady's request resonated throughout the Second Congressional District in Mississippi. These seniors cannot afford to pay more so that those wealthy Americans can receive a tax break. Can you imagine a poor senior citizen, receiving only \$400 a month in Social Security income, who currently spends \$46.10 a month for health care premiums now having to pay \$97.70? That's over a 100-percent increase in premiums. That's outrageous. That's cruel. Is this the Government that was created by the people and for the people? The question now is, which people? Ask a low-income senior citizen and they will tell you: the rich people.

How can we, as responsible Members of Congress, advocate raising a poor senior citizen's premium to pay for a tax cut for those Americans who can live without it. This is not democracy but hypocrisy.

The Republican plan to cut \$270 billion out of Medicare is a cruel and devastating attack on our mothers and grandmothers. Do you really think that your rich friends need a tax cut this much? I do not think so. Republicans please think about what you are doing and spare the pain that you are causing our seniors with your tax hike on their Medicare. The over 388,000 Medicare beneficiaries in Mississippi beg you not to jeopardize their health insurance. Let us not make these seniors choose between food and medical care.