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NOAA clearly indicates that some of this money was used to engage in blatant political advocacy, including lobbying local county officials to vote against holding a referendum on the sanctuary.

TNC's lobbying efforts in south Florida were summarized in a quarterly report sent to NOAA. This describes a TNC contractor's very interesting activities performed under that grant, which included: "developed and directed plan to counter opposition's push for a county-wide referendum against the establishment of the Sanctuary * * * Plan was successful in blocking referendum and generated many positive articles and editorials using many of the messages discussed in plan." TNC denies lobbying with grant funds, relying on a filmsy crutch regarding segregated funds and the like. However, TNC has yet to produce any itemization to explain how the \$44,000 was spent. TNC's shrouded activities are questionable enough that they have received considerable press in Florida.

TNC's lobbying schemes are but the tip of the iceberg for taxpayer-funded lobbying activities. Later today my colleagues will have the unique opportunity to finally bring an end to these unjustified lobbying shenanigans, and I urge my colleagues' support in this effort. Enough is enough.

MEDICARE

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

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, Medicare cuts, now an \$11 premium increase on part B, all to pay for a tax break for the wealthy.

My constituents are concerned. And in fact, a recent letter from one of my constituents said:

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE STUPAK: I have been out of circulation for a while because of illness. I do hope my letter will not be too late for your consideration.

We are deeply concerned about the health care programs, particularly Medicare and Medicaid and also Social Security. Granted they need attention. It seems the first move should be to take the graft out and better bookkeeping. There are also many programs that are fleecing America which could be cut to help balancing the budget!

My husband and I have worked very hard all our lives and strived to make a decent retirement situation. We have been community workers giving our time and money. We thought we were in good condition until my husband and I were downed with Alzheimer's Disease and I have been in the hospital 9 times in recent years. My husband worked for the Post Office thirty-seven and a half years, the last 15 as Postmaster.

We should have a good retirement but instead we are going broke. Please consider what you are doing to the middle class.

To my GOP colleagues, as my constituent asked, it is not too late to reject the Republican Medicare cuts to pay for a tax break for the wealthy.

PRESIDENT SHOULD SIGN THE BALANCED BUDGET

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

Mr. TATE. Mr. Speaker, the voters of the Ninth Congressional District have sent a clear message to me. They want less taxes, and less government, and less spending, and that is exactly what the Republican Congress is doing. We are going to balance the budget for the first time in a generation, the second time in my lifetime, which will lower interest rates and create more jobs for the people of Washington State. We will reform the welfare system which has been a failed system by anyone's standards by increasing personal responsibility. We will save Medicare which President Clinton's own board of trustees said was going broke by preserving, protecting, and strengthening Medicare by giving seniors more choices and weeding out waste, fraud, and abuse and giving it more competition. We will also provide tax relief for working families in the form of a \$500-per-child family tax credit.

Mr. Speaker, we challenge the President to join with us, and balance the budget, and work for these types of reforms. Mr. President, no more gimmicks. Mr. President, no more tricks. It is time to do the right thing for America's future. Sign the balanced budget.

KENTUCKY REJECTS REPUBLICAN ASSAULT ON AMERICA

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

Mr. WARD. Mr. Speaker, the people of Kentucky yesterday rejected the Republican assault on America and elected Democrat Paul Patton as our next Governor. I rise today to congratulate him, and I have today's Louisville Courier-Journal, which I will give to the Speaker because, make no mistake about it, Speaker GINGRICH, this Kentucky election was a sharp repudiation of the Republican contract and devastating Medicare cuts imposed by you. This election serves as clear and convincing evidence that the American people do not support these draconian cuts to our Nation's safety net, and that was before today's news that Speaker GINGRICH late last night moved up the date to January 1, next year, when our seniors will have to begin paying the higher part B premium. Take the time to balance the Federal budget carefully without hurting our seniors, our children, our students. We can do it. We just have to do it carefully.

Mr. Speaker, that is the message from Kentucky.

REJECTION OF REPUBLICAN EXTREMISM

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

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, Earth to the Speaker. Earth to the Speaker. Come in Mr. Speaker.

Yesterday people from Kentucky to New Jersey, from Niagara Falls to Staten Island rejected Republican extremism.

They rejected gutting Medicare to pay for tax cuts for the rich. They rejected cuts to student loans and education. They rejected the extremism of the Contract on America.

And today, Colin Powell is announcing that he will not run for President as a Republican. Why? Because Republican extremists will reject General Powell—a moderate, pro-choice, pro-gun control war hero.

Yet, as if he had not heard the news, the Speaker woke up this morning and said, "Today's a perfect day to raise Medicare premiums for our seniors." Republicans are actually bringing to the floor today a \$100 increase in next year's Medicare premiums as part of the stop-gap spending bill.

And like lemmings, this extremist Congress follows him over the cliff.

Earth to the Speaker. Come in Mr. Speaker.

The American people do not want your type of revolution. They want change that makes sense. And yesterday, they said overwhelmingly that the Speaker's extremism just does not make sense.

WATCHING AND WAITING

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

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, the votes have been tallied, the results are in and the message is clear: Voters across the country have rejected the extremist right-wing Republican agenda. In Kentucky, Maine, Mississippi, Virginia, and New Jersey, Democrats were victorious.

The voters said no to the Republican cuts in Medicare. They said no to Republican tax breaks for the rich. They said no to Republican assaults on our environment. And they said no to Republican cuts in student loans and education.

Mr. Speaker, heed the message of the 1995 elections. America is watching and waiting, waiting for 1996. Waiting to stop Republican attacks on the elderly, the poor, students, and working-class Americans; 1995 is a prelude.

MESSAGE OF VIRGINIA ELECTION

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