

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, is it appropriate to deal specifically with Members of the other body by name in making or casting aspersions on the motives?

Mr. VOLKMER. He is not a Member of the other body.

Mr. LINDER. TRENT LOTT is.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members should not so refer to specific Members of the other body by name. The gentleman will proceed in order.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, I will strike the name and say the junior senator from Mississippi. Everyone knows it is the same person.

□ 1030

Everyone knows it is the same person. What I would say is, very simply, if we look at this budget with regard to toxic waste cleanups, welfare reform, weak on work but tough on kids, bigger deficits, not smaller, raising the deficit, limiting direct student loans, tax increases on working families, limiting guarantees for health care for low-income women and children and seniors in nursing homes, hundreds of rural hospitals cut, doctors to overcharge seniors for Medicare, and the list goes on and on, it is an extreme budget. It is a wrong budget. We will defeat it.

ONLY WAY TO BALANCED BUDGET IS DECREASED FEDERAL SPENDING

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

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, it is the same old story, same old line. We have heard about cuts, cuts, cuts, for so long. Only in this town does an increase in spending come to a cut.

Never before in the history of Webster's Dictionary has the term "cut" been defined as an increase. The Republican plan, a budget to protect and preserve Medicare, provides for an increase in spending. I challenge any one of my colleagues to stand up and say that is not true. If they do, they are entitled to the \$1 million that we promised a year ago. But they will not do that.

Mr. Speaker, our budget that we are going to be talking about in the next couple of days does get to balance in the year 2002. Our budget has lower deficits than the President's budget in every single year. That is extremely important, because what that does is get it to balance. That is the only way we are going to get there is to decrease Federal spending.

MEDICARE TOO IMPORTANT TO BE TREATED LIKE AN UGLY STEPCHILD

(Ms. MCKINNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, tampering with Medicare not only impacts our seniors, it also affects our entire health care system. When we boast about having the greatest health care system in the world, it is due in no small measure to the research and financial infrastructure that Medicare provides.

For this reason, Mr. Speaker, any reductions in Medicare should be carefully considered and put back into the system, not used to pay for tax cuts and star wars.

Desperate, however, to provide tax breaks to their wealthy campaign contributors, Republican leaders have cooked up a plan to cut \$168 billion from Medicare, although only \$90 billion is needed to extend the Medicare trust fund. The GOP insists on cutting an extra \$78 billion that will eventually end up in the pockets of junk-bond dealers, corporate CEO's and insurance companies.

Mr. Speaker, Medicare is too important to be treated like an ugly stepchild by Uncle NEWT.

REPUBLICANS SHOULD WORK WITH DEMOCRATS TO PROTECT MEDICARE FOR AMERICA'S SENIOR CITIZENS

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

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, it is budget time again. Once again, I hear my extreme radical Republican colleagues, under the gentleman from Georgia, NEWT GINGRICH, and Bob Dole telling the American public they are going to save Medicare. How are they going to do that? They are going to do that by cutting it by \$168 billion, by forcing senior citizens to pay more for health care, by gutting rural health care, and by closing hospitals. This budget cuts funding for hospitals by 19 percent. How are my radical Republican colleagues going to save Medicare if they close hundreds of hospitals?

Mr. Speaker, according to the Missouri Hospital Association, this would not be a mere reduction in the rate of increase, but a dangerous and devastating cut in payment. Rather than receiving an increased level of payment for services that are more intensive and increasingly costly to deliver, hospitals will be paid less in each of the next 6 years than they are paid this year. Many of the rural hospitals in my district will be devastated by these cuts and forced to close their doors. How does this improve health care for American senior citizens?

REPUBLICAN CUTS IN MEDICARE AND MEDICAID AND TAX BREAKS INCREASE THE DEFICIT

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, it is the same old thing that we went through last year: Here comes the budget again, and the Republicans are slashing Medicare and Medicaid to pay for tax breaks for the wealthy. The amazing thing about it is that they are doing it this year and actually increasing the deficit. The deficit goes up from a current projection of \$130 billion for fiscal year 1996 to \$153 billion for fiscal year 1997, so not only are they trying to destroy the Medicare and Medicaid Program, they are also going against their alleged promise that they are going to reduce the deficit in order to do it.

Do Members know where this money is going? All these cuts are going into a giant slush fund. One of my colleagues said before, they are not using the Medicare and Medicaid money in order to pay for tax breaks. In fact, they are, because the cuts go into a slush fund. That slush fund will be used later during the budget process in order to provide those tax breaks for the wealthy. It is the same old story again. The Republicans do not care about the average person. They are just trying to help their rich friends.

SUPPORT URGED FOR RESOLUTION AGAINST CHURCH BURNINGS

(Mrs. CLAYTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, it is time for this body to speak with the voice of reason. It is time for this body to speak with the voice of leadership. It is time for people of reason to speak out against the church bombings, and certainly this House should make it abundantly clear that it is unacceptable, in a Nation of civil liberties, that we would find a house of worship to be a target for arson. It is certainly unacceptable in this House that we would not speak out to say that civilized people do not find that places of worship, places of sacred faith, should be desecrated.

I urge my colleagues, all who are persons of reason, persons who respect faith, to sign my resolution condemning the violent acts and the burning of churches in the African-American communities, or churches of any races, churches of any faiths. Speak out against that. Be resolved in knowing what America is about.

PERMISSION FOR SUNDRY COMMITTEES AND THEIR SUBCOMMITTEES TO SIT TODAY DURING 5-MINUTE RULE

Mr. RIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the following committees and their subcommittees be permitted to sit today while the House is meeting in the Committee of the Whole House under the 5-minute rule: The Committee on Banking and Financial Services; the Committee on Commerce; the Committee on Economic