

Mexico has no money to honor NAFTA, and Uncle Sam will have to clean up the pollution on the border. Now that means that millions of gallons of raw sewage from Tijuana will contaminate the beaches of San Diego. It also means that San Diego will have to come up with \$16,000,000 to build the treatment plant because Mexico was supposed to but they cannot. But the EPA says, in any regard, no one is going to build a treatment plant down there because you will endanger the habitat of the pocket mouse.

Beam me up. People in San Diego are swimming in raw fecal matter, and the EPA is worried about the pocket mouse. Ladies and gentlemen, why don't we let Mickey Mouse take care of the pocket mouse and EPA take care of the American people like they are supposed to.

I say maybe it is time we enforce NAFTA and also pass the clean water bill. It is a commonsense bill.

#### A BALANCED BUDGET

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

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, this week the House of Representatives will make history. For a quarter century Government has been the problem rather than the solution. Government policies have squandered our children's future, stagnated our workers' wages, assaulted our families' values and eroded our citizens' freedoms.

This week, once again the people will govern. We will vote on a program to transform the Federal Government by making it work for the people. Our plan will balance the budget for the first time in 25 years by making Government responsible.

Our balanced budget restores our children's American dream by ending the practice of squandering the children's inheritance on big government. It returns power to the people by ending the micromanagement of intrusive Washington bureaucrats. It prepares for the future by saving programs that would otherwise go bankrupt like Medicare. It restores democracy by making government officials public servants. The people of America want a balanced budget.

#### MEDICARE AND THE REPUBLICAN BUDGET

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

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, Speaker GINGRICH and the House Republicans are pulling a fast one on senior citizens by drastically cutting Medicare and using savings to fund a \$350 billion tax cut for the wealthy. The Gingrich-Kasich budget plan will cut health care services for 37 million seniors receiving Medicare benefits.

Under this plan, Medicare growth will not keep pace with the rising cost

of health care, the growth in the number of beneficiaries and the inflation rate.

The result of these cuts will be an additional cost to Medicare recipients of \$1,000 a year—out of their own pocket—by 2002. To inflict these costs on seniors living on fixed incomes is inhumane.

Where I come from, a person is only as good as their word. The U.S. Government has made a covenant with senior citizens and I implore my colleagues to make sure the Congress honors Medicare promises.

By breaking this promise of a healthier life for tax cuts for the wealthy will mean turning our back on senior citizens and working American families.

By slashing Medicare to pay for tax cuts for the wealthy, Speaker GINGRICH is ensuring that the wealthy get a gold mine while senior citizens get the shaft.

#### URGING SUPPORT FOR A BALANCED BUDGET

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

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, President Clinton claims he wants a Government that is lean but not mean. Today the Federal Government is big and mean. It takes 1 of every 4 dollars the average family earns. That is mean. The average family has to spend more to pay for the cost of Government than on anything else.

Big government is not just mean to our families. It is nasty to our children. This year the Federal deficit will skyrocket to \$176 billion. The debt will explode to \$4.7 trillion. That is \$75,000 of debt for every family of four. Families beware—the Democratic leadership does not help you—they thrive on you.

There is a better, leaner way, and we are voting on it this week. It is our balanced budget and it puts the big, mean old system on a diet. Our balanced budget ends deficits by 2002, returns power, control, and money to families and restores the American Dream to our children.

I urge my colleagues to vote for leaner, not meaner, Government. Support our balanced budget.

#### REPUBLICANS AND MEDICARE

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, the public is not fooled by the Republican shell game.

They oppose Republican plans to pay for a tax break for the privileged few by cutting Medicare.

Today's Washington Post tells us that 56 percent of the people are opposed to the Republican plan to cut Medicare. They are not fooled by Republican claims of fixing Medicare. The

public is on to the Republican scam of using Medicare as a piggy bank to pay for their tax breaks for the privileged few.

Rather than wiping out billions of dollars in tax cuts for large corporations, Republicans chose to slash support for the old and the sick.

The Republican chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee says he will not touch the billions of dollars of tax breaks for wealthy corporate special interests.

Mr. Speaker, let us go after the billions in corporate tax breaks before we stick a "sick tax" on our parents and grandparents.

#### MEDICARE GOING BROKE

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

Mr. RIGGS. Mr. Speaker, let me just respond to the previous speaker by pointing out the Washington Post also says, in a column entitled Which Budget, referring to the lack of any proposal from the House Democrats, "Democrat complaints about Republican budget plans have a hollow and unpersuasive ring."

Mr. Speaker, the silence of those on the other side of the aisle about Medicare is deafening. All we hear from them is more distortions, more hot air, no solutions. But do not take our word for it about the condition of the Medicare trust fund. Take the word of the Medicare trustees who said in their April 3 report, and I quote, "the present financing schedule for Medicare is sufficient to ensure the payment of benefits only over the next few years."

The bottom line? The fund is projected to be exhausted in 2001. This conclusion was reached by three of the President's own Cabinet Secretaries who also double as Medicare trustees: Secretaries Rubin, Reich, and Shalala.

Mr. Speaker, the American people are tired of this evasion. They are tired of the posturing. They sent us here to Washington to handle the Nation's problems, not to avoid them. Republicans are providing leadership while the White House and the House Democrats are providing scare tactics and class warfare demagoguery.

#### PAIN FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

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

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, what the Republicans really want to do over the next six years is privatize and eliminate Medicare. A couple of weeks ago I saw Speaker GINGRICH on TV saying the cuts in the budget were going to be large but painless. Painless for whom, I wonder, Not painless for seniors and not painless for children.