

fairly frightening. If we look at Medicaid, there are 18 million children that rely on Medicaid for their health care. There are 6 million disabled relying on Medicaid for their health care. Overall, there are 36 million Americans relying on Medicaid for health care.

Now, the numbers. It looks like they are going to cut my State of Colorado back by about a third. So what happens? How do you treat two-thirds of a child? How do you treat two-thirds of a disabled person? Where do you pick up the difference? How do you do this?

Well, there were no hearings. People from my area were not allowed to come forward. We had many people who would like to and, of course, we are going to see the same act tomorrow when it comes to Medicare.

When we look at Medicare, there are 37 million Americans that are affected by Medicare. Now, when I add 36 million for Medicaid and 37 million for Medicare, I end up with 73 million Americans. And we are holding the future of their health care in our hands as legislators.

Mr. Speaker, I find it really outrageous, as we hold the future of their health care in our hands, that we do not have a real bill; that we are not having real hearings; that we are not having people with the expertise in delivering this care looking at real bills to find out if they will really work.

Mr. Speaker, I would never say that I totally understand how this whole thing works. None of us can possibly understand every specialty that we have to deal with. That is what hearings are about. Otherwise, we could save a lot of money and never have hearings on anything.

So 73 million people, as I add these two numbers together, have got to be wondering what is happening. And I must say, I am very frustrated that tomorrow our side of the aisle has got to start alternative hearings out in the yard somewhere, and hope it does not rain, because we have not been able to get even a room assignment to do this.

Now, really, I think when we look at all the other things this body has had time to do, when we look at something this serious, we really should be going in with many more facts.

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Yes, I have heard people on that side saying, "You are just trying to do Medicare." We do not want to do Medicare. But you start being very scared if nobody gives you the details. The devil is always in the details. You, also, worry very much about what the end result is going to be.

Whenever you ask a question, someone says, "Well, what is your plan?" The President put our plan out there. The people know what our plan is.

Then the other side continually says, "We are just trying to save it." Our question is: Maybe they are trying to kill it. But if it is so harmless, if they have found this wonderful way they are going to save all of this money without

paying, why are they holding it? I would think the hearings this side of the aisle has been asking for and the 201 Members of this body have asked for, I would think they would love those hearings because people will be coming and saying, "Hosanna, how wonderful that they got all of this together."

So I really hope there is more than the 1 day of hearings, and I think it is a very sad day when we are forced to go outdoors and have alternative hearings without even a real bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LINDER). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. BURTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

THE RESTRICTIONS OF THE ISTOOK AMENDMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Colorado [Mr. SKAGGS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SKAGGS. Mr. Speaker, the so-called Istook amendment to restrict political activities by people and organizations getting any kind of funding or thing of value from the Federal Government seems to be having more lives than the proverbial cat.

The House, of course, passed it as a rider to the Labor-Health appropriations bill. Now it is hanging up the House-Senate conference committee as a proposed rider to the Treasury-Postal Service appropriations.

Let me just say to the members of the conference committee, please, read the text of this dog. Do not believe the descriptions of the amendment by its supporters. It does not just apply, as they would have you believe, to lobbyists or to nonprofits or, for that matter, to the so-called special interests. With only a very few exceptions, it regulates every person and every organization in this country that gets not only funds but anything of value from the Federal Government.

Let us just look at one small set of people and organizations that would be caught up in this Orwellian net of political regulation, and they are the people receiving water from just one Federal water project, the Bureau of Reclamation's Colorado Big Thompson water project.

To begin with, those of us in the West know full well irrigation water is a thing of value. We can assure you of that. Looking at the text of the Istook amendment, the legal counsel for the water conservancy district, which distributes this water, has concluded that everybody getting water from the Colorado Big Thompson water project would be regulated under the Istook amendment.

Here is a partial list of all the people that would be affected by the Istook amendment and their political activities in one part of the State of Colorado, 2,000 individuals and organizations, mostly farmers and ranchers, individuals from Larry Accord to Henry Zimmerman, some companies, Anderson Farms, Boulder Valley Farms, Montford of Colorado, Reynolds Cattle Co. Besides farmers and ranchers, others would be regulated, too, because they receive water from this project: Ames Junior College, the Archdiocese of Denver, Boulder Country Club, Eastman Kodak, First Christian Church, IBM, Hewlett-Packard all get irrigation water from this Bureau of Rec project, and because of the Istook amendment, would all have their so-called political advocacy activities regulated according to the bill.

In addition, we could go on into other categories of persons affected that the sponsors of this incredible provision do not want you to know about, whether it is pregnant and nursing mothers getting WIC vouchers, disaster victims getting emergency assistance, students getting subsidized school lunches, whatever. What happens to all of these people? They face several major restrictions on how they can participate in the public life of their Nation and of their communities. So-called political advocacy activities would be regulated, restricted and, in many cases, prohibited including, depending upon how this kicks in, writing to your State legislator, school board member, applying for a building permit, because you are trying to influence a government decision, appealing the tax assessment on your home, writing a letter to the editor of your local paper, running for office or supporting someone who does. And beyond those things, it also attempts to regulate essentially derivative political activities, doing business with anybody or making a contribution to anybody who has exceeded the limits on political advocacy in this awfully ill-conceived proposal.

This might be described as a kind of secondary boycott requirement.

For example, hiring somebody who has been especially politically active would be prohibited to these people getting irrigation water. Can you believe that? Or buying something from a company that has just spent over 15 percent of its budget on "political advocacy," as might well happen in a year and which they had to get a new building permit and go through a zoning change. These are the kind of restrictions that would be applied not only to individuals but to family farms like the Leister family farm that gets their irrigation water, or to big companies like IBM.

What happens to them? Chilling, chilling requirements. They are barred from getting any kind of Federal Government support or assistance if in any of the previous 5 years they have spent more than 5 percent of their own private funds engaging in an incredibly

broad range of public advocacy activities at the State, local or Federal level. They cannot spend any of what they received by way of assistance in dealing with anybody that has violated these political advocacy limits, and on and on and on.

This amendment has nothing to do with ending welfare for lobbyists, as its supporters claim. It has everything to do with shutting down free and open political discussion in this country.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. HORN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. HORN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York [Mr. OWENS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. OWENS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arizona [Mr. SALMON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. SALMON addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

TRADE DEFICIT WATCH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio [Ms. KAPTUR] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, in Washington, we hear a lot of talk about legislative train wrecks these days. But has anyone noticed that America is hitched to a runaway locomotive racing us toward a record trade deficit this year?

Today the Jobs and Fair Trade Caucus begins a monthly report to the American people called the Trade Deficit Watch. Our focus will be on how our Nation's trade deficit acts as an undertow in our economy, destroying good jobs, pulling wages down and displacing investments and industry here at home. The latest trade deficit figures released yesterday show that this year America will record an overall trade deficit of \$164 billion, and just looking at the merchandise portion of that, we are talking about over \$200 billion more of goods coming in here from abroad than we are able to sell in other markets. Folks, that is a bigger deficit than the budget deficit we are trying so hard to reduce.

How will a \$164 billion trade deficit this year affect the American people? Let us take a look at the historic debate that is about to occur here in Congress on Medicare. How does our historic trade deficit play a role in this debate? The administration often uses

the ratio of 20,000 jobs equaling every 1 billion dollars' worth of trade. Therefore, a \$164 billion deficit will put 3 million more good American jobs at risk, added to the 2 million well-paying manufacturing jobs that were destroyed since the 1980's.

Unfair competition with low-wage, undemocratic countries puts continuing pressure, downward pressure, on wages in this country, and it is no surprise. Real wages and purchasing power in America have declined steadily over the past 20 years. Talk to your relatives, talk to people who work every day. They know what is happening with the buying power of their check.

Think about this: With 5 million lost jobs, that is 5 million paychecks, fewer paychecks, from which FICA, the portion of your paycheck that pays for Medicare and Social Security, is not being collected.

Think about this, too: Trade deficits have bled our manufacturing base almost dry. America is becoming a nation of temporary workers, the fastest growing segment job market in this country.

Before, a worker earning a decent wage at General Motors contributed 33 cents an hour to Medicare and Social Security through their FICA deduction. But a temporary worker at Manpower who typically earns only \$5 an hour contributes one-fourth as much, about 8 cents an hour, one-fourth as much as a worker who worked in one of those good jobs that we have continually destroyed over the last 15 years in this country. No wonder the Medicare trust fund and Social Security are in trouble.

We have to keep finding new answers to try to refinance them. The high-skilled, high-wage jobs needed to fill the coffers of these programs are disappearing right before our eyes, and Washington has been asleep for 15 years at the wheel.

But corporations and their profits have continued to soar. In fact, Wall Street is slaphappy at this point because with low-paid workers, corporations are required to pay only one-fourth of what they had been paying before into trust funds like Medicare.

So, what is the Clinton administration and the Republican leadership doing about these trade deficits? Today the Committee on Ways and Means decided to adopt legislation which will allow more trade agreements to come down the pike without the American people having a say in the matter. This is called fast-track, and it is a bill that will force Congress to again consider trade agreements with no debate and without the ability to make amendments. In other words, it is a done deal when it comes to the floor.

We are again ceding our constitutional responsibilities to the trade ambassadors.

What, may I ask, are we on a fast track to? Are we going to continue putting every high-skilled, high-wage job with benefits in America on fast track

right out of this country? It is happening in every single trade sector of this economy.

We have got to stop cashing out American industries and American jobs for the sake of a few trade deals that make a few traders and their shareholders rich but bankrupt the rest of America.

Look around the towns that you live in. How does the Clinton administration or Speaker GINGRICH expect to balance the Federal budget or solve the Medicare problem if real wages for working Americans are locked in a race to the bottom because of trade policies that destroy good jobs and good wages here at home?

TRIBUTE TO A SPECIAL GROUP OF DEDICATED AMERICANS SERVING IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MYRICK). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Utah [Mr. HANSEN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HANSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a special group of dedicated Americans serving in today's United States Air Force. This is the incredible story of a new world record for around-the-world flight and more importantly the demonstration of a truly unique force projection capability within the U.S. Air Force.

Two B-1B bombers, from Dyess Air Force Base in Abilene, TX, completed the fastest flight around the world on June 2 and 3 of this year. According to the National Aeronautical Association, the flight measured 36 hours, 13 minutes and 36 seconds and covered a distance of 22,814.5 miles. This includes some 3,000 miles the crews did not plan on in order to divert around tropical storms in the Indian Ocean and a hurricane near the Phillipines. The planes each had 6 in-air refuelings and averaged over 630 m.p.h. to complete this amazing flight. The two B-1B Lancer's, from the 9th Bomb Squadron, were nicknamed "Hellion", and appropriately enough, "Global Power."

While these record flights are amazing in their own right, the awesome military power they reflect is even more impressive. To demonstrate the ability to project power anywhere in the world and return non-stop to the United States, the bombers also dropped 500-pound, concrete-filled training bombs on three continents during the mission dubbed "Coronet Bat." Coronet Bat clearly demonstrated the immense capability of the B-1B and reinforced its position as a vital component of our conventional bomber force.

Besides the awesome technical capability displayed in this historic flight, it also reflects the ingenuity, dedication and professionalism of today's Air Force. This mission required a genuine team effort and was designed to exercise the total force capabilities of our Nation's military. This type of mission