

Another of my colleagues has mailed out his own letter to seniors, at taxpayer's expense, and portions of it were printed recently in the St. Paul Pioneer Press and Dispatch.

This Congressman wrote of drastic cuts and proclaimed that "the GOP plan in Congress would force seniors to give up their personal doctor."

"Millions of seniors would be forced into managed care programs. * * * While older Americans pay more for Medicare," he wrote, "the privileged will pay less in taxes, with some receiving lavish tax breaks."

Newsweek aptly labels the Democrats' campaign as "Medi-Scare" in a cover story last month. Let me quote a paragraph for you:

"Democrats depict the GOP's Medicare plan as a bloodthirsty attack on the elderly. "More people will die," declares a hysterical new ad from the AFL-CIO. "And it's only for the sake of tax cuts for the rich," says Democrat Ed Markey of Massachusetts.

"That's hyperbole, for sure," writes Newsweek.

It is more than hyperbole. Anywhere else, this would be labeled, at best, a blatant distortion of the truth and the State attorneys general would be called in to investigate.

In Washington, we call the practice spin control. This is the only city I know where once a lie is repeated three times, it is accepted by most as being a fact.

Mr. President, it is time we hold our colleagues accountable for their misrepresentations, and, beginning today, that is what I intend to do.

They say our plan to preserve Medicare, cuts benefits to seniors—I say "show me." They say the majority of our tax cuts will go to the rich—I say "show me."

They say we are forcing seniors to give up their doctors—I say "show me." But I know they cannot, because the facts say otherwise.

Fact No. 1: We have to reform Medicare to ensure quality health care for our seniors at a cost we can honestly afford. Unless we do, there are only two options.

Either the Medicare hospital insurance trust fund, which has provided health care services for 37 million Americans, will go out of business, bankrupt in 7 years, or we can raise taxes on our seniors and working families by \$388 billion over the next 7 years.

That is the option the Democrats have chosen seven times over the past three decades—they have reduced benefits and raised taxes.

But going to the taxpayers for more money is the easy way out, and Americans have said "enough." They are demanding reform, not higher taxes.

Fact No. 2: We are going to save Medicare by increasing spending, but at a slower rate not with the dangerous cuts breathlessly predicted by the Democrats.

Medicare spending under the Republican plan will increase by 40 percent,

from \$4,800 per beneficiary this year to \$6,700 in the year 2002.

Like Americans do every month around their kitchen tables, we have set a budget we can afford, and then decided the best way to deliver the benefits.

We are not promising benefits and then raising taxes again and again to pay for them.

Fact No. 3: Medicare reform has no connection at all to our efforts to provide tax relief to the middle-class taxpayers, the working families who so desperately need it.

With or without tax cuts, Medicare is in severe financial trouble. Even President Clinton, who has been virtually absent during the Medicare debate, realizes that.

In fact, the budget he proposed last June combined slowing the growth in Medicare spending with \$110 billion in tax cuts.

The Washington Post addressed the attempt to link tax relief and Medicare reform in a September 25 editorial:

The Democrats have fabricated the Medicare-tax cut connection because it is useful politically. It allows them to attack and to duck responsibility both at the same time. We think it's wrong.

Fact No. 4: The vast majority of the tax relief in the Republican budget is directed right where it is needed most—to middle-class American families.

Every family with children will benefit from the \$500 per child tax credit, and more than 85 percent of the children eligible for it live in families with incomes at or below \$75,000.

These families are not the privileged or the wealthiest of Americans. They are average folks who are struggling to meet their tax burden while trying to make a good life for themselves.

Those are the facts, Mr. President. They are an honest attempt to look at the options, the costs, and the consequences—we are not taking some figures and then blatantly distorting them and proclaiming them as truth.

If my colleagues want to write and distribute fiction, they ought to label it as such and sell it through the Book of the Month Club.

The taxpayer-financed fiction like the letter received by my grandmother—and similar letters received by hundreds of thousands of other senior citizens—must come to an end.

Government does have the power to do good, but the minority party undermines everyone's credibility when it preaches the politics of fear.

I suggest the next time someone wants to scare a senior citizen, they should invite over a willing relative and pop in a videotape of "Frankenstein" or "The Silence of the Lambs."

Do not threaten the security of strangers, and do not prey on their fears, because it is immoral and it is wrong, and it should be shame on them, Mr. President.

I yield the floor.

WALTER T. STEWART

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to an exemplary citizen from the State of Utah, Walter T. Stewart, and to recognize his extraordinary service to our Nation in World War II.

It is my privilege and honor to report that Walter Stewart is being awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, our Nation's second highest military medal, for his extraordinary heroism and gallantry in the most decorated military battle in U.S. history.

At that time, he was a 25-year-old pilot with the 330th Bombardment Squadron, 93rd Bombardment Group, based in the North African city of Benghazi, Libya. A dedicated veteran of the air war, Stewart had already flown 30 dangerous bomber missions.

Walter Stewart was skilled and he as courageous. Although only a first lieutenant, he was selected as deputy force leader of a large formation of B-24 heavy bombers assigned to attack the Ploesti oil refineries in Nazi-occupied Romania in a massive low-level assault. The target, 1,200 miles in distance from Libya, was so vital to the Third Reich that it was the most heavily defended stronghold in Europe, well exceeding the defenses of Berlin itself.

On August 1, 1943, Stewart's combat unit fearlessly spearheaded the enormous on-rush of 176 American heavy bombers over the Romanian countryside. As the attacking force neared its target, murderous antiaircraft fire erupted from a fully alerted and prepared enemy. The 93rd Bombardment Group heroically pressed on in its attack, defying extremely heavy fire from hundreds of enemy guns and cannons.

Only minutes from the target, the force leader's bomber and wingman were shot down in flames, and it fell to Lieutenant Stewart to take command at this perilous moment. Under his leadership, the attacking force swept over the target in waves, at roof-top altitude, and inflicted devastating damage upon its. As the lead aircraft, Lieutenant Stewart's B-24 Utah Man, dropped the first bomb on target.

Utah Man sustained heavy battle damage and became separated from the rest of the attacking force. Utah Man had been hit with hundreds of shells and bullets, sustained damage to its cockpit instruments, and was heavily leaking fuel. Yet, Lieutenant Stewart skillfully piloted Utah Man over the long and perilous route over rugged alpine mountains and across the Mediterranean Sea back to its home base in North Africa. Lieutenant Stewart's crew suffered no casualties.

On that August day in 1943, 310 men of the 93rd Bombardment Group died, 185 were taken prisoner, and 150 were wounded. Fifty-four aircraft never returned.

Sadly, that was a fate that eventually befell Utah Man as well. In November 1943, after Water Stewart's reassignment to the United States, Utah

Man and its crewmen would be lost over Bremen, Germany.

Lieutenant Stewart's coolness under fire, excellent judgment under pressure, courageous determination to reach the target, and his magnificent and inspiring leadership were of paramount value in the accomplishment of this dangerous mission. His service was such as to reflect great credit upon himself, the crew members of Utah Man, his home State of Utah, the University of Utah—his affinity for his alma mater is reflected in the name of his plane, his church, and his country.

Today, Walter Stewart is a highly cherished member of his church and community, an enormously respected businessman and farmer, a former missionary, a musician, the husband of 51 years to his beloved wife Ruth, a devoted father to his 5 children, and a loving grandfather to his 23 grandchildren.

Today, as in 1943, Walter Stewart exemplifies the American qualities of courage, hard work, integrity, and faith.

I am proud to serve citizens like Walter Stewart in the Senate and proud to call my colleagues attention to this man's distinguished service to our country. I am delighted that he is finally to be awarded this significant military honor.

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF WORLD WAR II

Mr. DOLE. For the information of all Senators, the proceedings from this morning's joint meeting to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II will be printed under the record of House proceedings. The cost of printing the transcripts of speeches for the records of both Chambers is prohibitively expensive. I urge my colleagues who were unable to attend to take special notice of this tribute to Americans who selflessly served their country.

THE BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, before discussing today's bad news about the Federal debt, how about another go, as the British put it, with our pop quiz. Remember? One question, one answer.

The question: How many millions of dollars does it take to add up a trillion dollars? While you are thinking about it, bear in mind that it was the U.S. Congress that ran up the Federal debt that now exceeds \$4.9 trillion.

To be exact, the total Federal debt—down to the penny—stands at \$4,969,404,416,914.25, of which, on a per capita basis, every man, woman, and child in America owes \$18,863.94.

Mr. President, back to our pop quiz, how many million in a trillion: There are a million million in a trillion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who seeks recognition?

Mr. NUNN. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FRIST). Without objection, it is so ordered.

JOB CORPS AMENDMENTS

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, this afternoon we are going to be discussing some of the amendments to the current Job Corps Program. One of those amendments will be offered by Senators SPECTER and SIMON in a bipartisan fashion.

There is something that is unique about this program. I have had some personal experiences with the Job Corps Program formerly as mayor of the city of Tulsa. We were able to use the participants of this program in doing massive public works within our city. Somehow none of this ever shows up to the credit of the Job Corps Program.

While I am the strongest supporter of virtually every element of the Contract With America, I do believe that there are some areas where we should give serious consideration to allowing a program to exist where it can breathe more freely across State lines, and this just might be the case as opposed to sending it in block grants back to the States.

The construction industry is an industry that, first, is cyclical and, second, varies from State to State. One of the problems that exists right now in the construction industry is that it is very difficult to find young people who will go into the construction industry, into carpentry, into masonry, some of these areas where perhaps the future does not look as glamorous as it would in some type of highly skilled or high-technology position. As a result of that, many people do not choose this except when there is a building boom going on.

One of the problems we have is that nationwide we could have a building boom in Pennsylvania and there could be a slump in Oklahoma. By the time you gear up to the boom in Pennsylvania, it could be in a slump again. Consequently, it has worked quite well to have these programs in a national scope where they do provide for a ready supply of skilled labor jobs, carpentry jobs, masonry jobs, and jobs that are critical to the building industry.

It is my understanding that the Specter-Simon amendment will not be scored, and if that is the case I would urge some of my conservative colleagues to give serious consideration to supporting the Specter-Simon amendment.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that further proceedings under the quorum call be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

GOALS 2000

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I have sought recognition to discuss further legislation which I introduced yesterday to amend Goals 2000 to make some changes which may satisfy a number of States which are concerned about excessive Federal intrusion under Goals 2000.

It is my view that there are no excessive intrusions at the present time. But in order to eliminate any concern about that issue, it was my thought that legislation might ease the concerns of some in the country who think there are too many intrusions.

The House of Representatives, in the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education appropriations bill, has eliminated the funding for the Goals 2000 Program. President Clinton has asked for an appropriation of \$750 million and the Appropriations Subcommittee, which I chair, which includes funding for Department of Education, has recommended an appropriation slightly more than one-half of what the President has requested. This is because of the overall budget constraints.

But as we move forward in the legislative process and look ultimately to a conference with the House of Representatives, it is my view that we can ease many concerns, regarding Goals 2000, by a number of amendments which are incorporated into my proposed legislation, and at the same time make moneys available to a number of States which have not taken the funding.

Last year, two States, New Hampshire and Virginia, declined to participate in the Goals 2000 Program, and this year notice has been given by Montana and Alabama that they will not be participating.

The Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee held a hearing on September 12, 1995 to bring together Secretary Riley and Mr. Ovide Lamontagne, who is the chairman of the Board of Education of the State of New Hampshire, to consider the matter before we had the markup by the subcommittee. At that time, a number of suggestions were made which might bridge the gap.

Again, I wish to emphasize my own personal view that there are not excessive strings, but in order to satisfy any concerns, we are seeking to move in a number of directions.

One of them would be to eliminate the National Education Standards and Improvement Council, which was designed to certify national and State standards. Some view this as a national school board, which I do not think it is, but the Secretary of Education, Richard Riley, thought we