

to a recent report by Citizens Against Government Waste, an organization that has 600,000 members. The report is called "Medicare Fraud: Tales from the Gyped." This report gives examples of Medicare fraud from all parts of the country.

Why is it we do not strengthen these laws instead of weakening them as Republicans do in this bill? FBI Director Louis Freeh has testified that cocaine distributors in southern Florida are turning to Medicare fraud. We need to strengthen that in the Republican bill instead of weakening it. It is so important that you realize that senior citizens in Florida and in other States must be given an opportunity for quality care, not a three-tiered level of care but one level of care that everyone can make their quality of lives much better.

I could go on and on, Mr. Speaker, but there is an epidemic in this country of people who want to beat the system. Why should we make it better? Why should the Republican leadership do this?

There are a majority of Republicans who voted against Medicare, Mr. Speaker. Why is it now they are such proponents of Medicare? We should kill this bill tomorrow, Mr. Speaker.

PRESERVING MEDICARE

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

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I listened with great interest to my friend and colleague the gentlewoman from Florida bemoan what she feels to be inadequacies in the new Majority's plan for Medicare reform.

Let me point out to the gentlewoman and indeed other Members of the Minority who may share her concerns that this Majority is listening. As a matter of fact, the gentleman from New Mexico [Mr. SCHIFF] will offer an amendment tomorrow, I think more than symbolic, I think symptomatic of the fact that we address that we have a serious problem here and we are looking for legitimate ways to solve it. So be on the lookout.

Mr. Speaker, I trust the gentlewoman from Florida will join us, as will many of her colleagues on the other side, to vote for a responsible amendment to add even more fraud and waste abuse prevention.

Let us tell you what the plan is doing right now even without the Schiff amendment. Here is what we are doing in the plan to strengthen Federal efforts to combat waste, fraud and abuse in the Medicare program.

First of all, we are providing monetary incentives for individuals who report a violation that results in savings to the program. Second, we are doubling sanctions for filing false claims or committing fraud. Third, we are authorizing direct spending from Medicare trust funds for the OHS Inspector General.

Again, let us address the fact that we will deal with waste, fraud and abuse. Some steps are taken, even more steps will be forthcoming tomorrow in the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Mexico [Mr. SCHIFF].

It has been interesting to hear some of the debate tonight. While good people can from time to time disagree, and oftentimes we do in this Chamber, as is our right, being American citizens, I did listen with interest to one of the Members compare this with the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. That has no place in this debate. That has no place whatsoever.

The gentlewoman from Florida used the term mendacity to talk about the new majority's plan. Mendacity to those building word power—the gentleman from Ohio went and checked the dictionary—and it refers to deceit or lies.

The facts speak for themselves. The Medicare trustees' report issued by a bipartisan group said the Medicare trust fund goes broke in 7 years if we do not move to solve the problem.

Mr. Speaker, one of my friends from Pennsylvania pointed out that when this Medicare bill was passed in 1965, only 7 percent of the then minority party, the Republican Party, voted for Medicare. I guess we could play historical one-upmanship. I guess we could come in and say, which party controlled the Congress when the slaves were freed, which party controlled the Congress when women were given the right to vote. In both instances, the Republican Party controlled this Chamber.

But we are not here to play historical one-upmanship. For the question is not who created a program, the question is who is willing to step forward to protect, preserve and defend a program? The fact is, we have to move now deliberately to save this program. Band-Aid approaches will not work.

I do champion the fact that at long last our friends on the other side have offered a plan. One newspaper analysis called it "a deathbed conversion." After months of saying do not do anything, things are going fine, do not change the system, the, suddenly, in the last nanosecond of the 11th hour, the new minority steps forward and says, "Well, yeah, there has got to be a change, but not too much of a change."

When the canard that failed to work, that these savings were somehow going to tax breaks, when that canard failed to sink in with the American people, then they said, "Well, we have to look for a plan." It is a plan, regrettably, symptomatic of the politics of the past, for what it calls for is a Band-Aid approach.

Let us get through the next election and maybe, if we are lucky, a few years beyond that. Believe me, when it comes to electoral health, I think everyone's impulse would be, gee, if we did not have to deal with the problem, we would not want to, but the fact is we are elected to govern. It is our respon-

sibility to save this program, reasonably, rationally. We passed a budget plan. We took care of the tax cuts way back in March. We have paid for the tax breaks. Even if the budget were balanced tomorrow, we would still have this problem with Medicare.

Mr. Speaker, friends on the other side, we may disagree. But it is incumbent on all of us to look to preserve a program for the future, and Medicare Plus does that and more. It offers choice. It offers freedom to the American people to choose the doctor they want and the health care plan they want. That is why I urge my colleagues to join with us in a bipartisan fashion to reform Medicare in the years to come.

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

Mr. MILLER of California addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

AGAINST THE MEDICARE BILL

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

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow the House will consider the Republican bill to dismantle Medicare. We should be not at all surprised, because 93 percent of Republicans voted against Medicare when it was created in 1965. Even the Republican leader in the other branch, the Presidential candidate, BOB DOLE, cast one of those no votes.

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Republicans have waited 30 years for their chance to dismantle Medicare. So who is backing them in this effort? Well, first off, private insurance companies are thrilled because they stand to make billions of dollars. It is insane to turn over billions of Medicare dollars, tax dollars, to insurance companies who will waste about 25 cents of every Medicare dollar on profits and administrative costs, when the current Medicare system only spends about 3 cents of every dollar on administrative costs. That takes senior citizens' health care dollars and gives them to insurance company profits.

Who else is with the Republicans? Well, the American Medical Association. By the way, they also opposed Medicare when it was created. But the October 12 headline in the Wall Street Journal tells the whole story there, and I quote, "House GOP Medicare bill wins over doctors with hidden enticements, promises of profits."

Republicans are not talking about comprehensive health care reform this year. They are cutting \$270 billion out of the Medicare budget to pay for a \$245 billion tax cut package. More than half of the tax cuts go to persons who make