

abuse, would in fact be eligible for a 10 year jail term and lose their rights as providers.

Further items in this reform legislation would include reducing our paperwork cost. Twelve percent of Medicare now goes to paperwork. We can reduce that with electronic billing to just 2 percent.

Further, on medical education, very important medical education for our interns and residents at teaching hospitals, it is a program that should be supported. Maybe it should not be part of the Medicare Program, but it should be part of the Federal Government's allotment of funds, so teaching hospitals continue to have the finest education and doctors turned out of medical schools so we can make sure that we have the education we need, but not as part of Medicare. Medicare should be for our senior citizens' health care.

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Another provision of the bill is for the Medicare lockbox. Any savings we get from fraud, waste and abuse would in fact go to health care for our seniors.

Finally, the legislation proposed would make sure that we in fact have options. We would retain the fee-for-service choice of doctor and choice of hospital for every senior across the country, but also give them the option of having managed care Medicare to include eyeglasses and pharmaceuticals for the healthiest of seniors, and also medical savings accounts under Medicare which would give them the chance to invest the money they want to their health care and have the extra dollars they keep be rolled over to the following year when they might need the funds more.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think it is very important that we as Republicans and Democrats work together to save Medicare for our seniors, for this generation of seniors and the next, to make sure that health care is there and Medicare is there and we do so in the proper way for the protection of all our senior citizens.

MEDICARE SCARE

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

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, I come to the well tonight fresh off of 30 days of recess that included a week of vacation with my children and about 3 or so weeks with my constituents. And it is with a great deal of sorrow and disappointment, Mr. Speaker, that I have to report to you that there is a dark occurrence happening in many parts of America right now where a fraud is being perpetrated on people who are vulnerable, people who are sometimes more gullible than maybe many in the population, and people who can be preyed upon by appealing to real anxiety that turns into the exploitation of

fear when, instead of being truthful, what is happening is that those individuals are being pushed into believing something that is simply not the case.

Mr. Speaker, what I am speaking about, what I am talking about is a very, very expensive, well thought out, well produced, calculated demagogic ad campaign that is designed to persuade senior citizens in our country that this Congress is trying to not only cut but gut Medicare and destroy the safety net, the health care safety net for senior citizens. It is an ad campaign that is not only well done, well thought out and well produced and absolutely blatantly demagogically false, but it is also being paid for in a way that those who are being forced to pay for it do not even approve and do not want it to exist.

I am talking about the fine working men and women of local AFL-CIO affiliates, several of which I have been personally endorsed by. I am talking about the use of funds that are being mandatorily taken out of paychecks to fund politically motivated ad campaigns that distort and completely falsify the facts.

The facts are, as Mr. FOX was speaking earlier, quite simple. That is that Medicare is going broke. Medicare is going broke. Medicare is going broke. How do we know that? We know that because the Medicare trustees have said it. Who are the Medicare trustees? Three of them are members of the President's own cabinet. Another is a political appointee, and two are individual citizens. And they say Medicare is going broke.

What is the responsible response? What is the right response? What would be the correct response that you, Mr. Speaker, or the citizens of this country would want to see from its legislators?

It seems to me that the responsible way to deal with that is to look at the problem, face it clearly and do what is right to fix it. That is exactly what we have done. In fact, not only has this Congress done that, but with a different set of policy statements the President has done the same thing.

It boils down to slowing the rate of growth. It is pretty simple. Instead of growing at 10 percent a year, it has to grow at about 6.5 or 7 percent a year. Yet this is being used for political purposes to frighten senior citizens into believing that this Congress is trying to destroy Medicare.

Mr. Speaker, the one thing that this Republic cannot tolerate, the one thing that this Republic cannot stand is blatant exploitative, manipulative lying in the political process. That is what is happening by this ad campaign financed by the AFL-CIO.

It is wrong. It is not voter education. It is voter disinformation. It should stop. I just hope and trust that the citizens will not be swayed nor fooled by it.

ENGLISH THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

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

Mr. ROTH. Mr. Speaker, on August 1 this Congress finally began to show as much sense, common sense, as the American people by overwhelmingly passing our bill to make English the official language of the United States. Make no mistake about this, this was an historic accomplishment. For the first time in over two decades, Congress has taken a concrete step toward cementing our national unit by reinforcing our most important common bond, the English language. After 25 years of Great Society social experimentation, we are finally starting to reverse the tide.

That historic vote was cast on the 1st of August, the first step toward returning to a commonsense policy of promoting American unity by promoting the teaching and learning of English. But the battle has just begun. There is still so much left to be done, starting with the Senate.

Acting on the bill that we passed here in the House, we now ask the Senate to pass this legislation and send it onto the President for his signature. Frankly, I know that President Clinton will sign this bill. The overwhelming majority of the American people support making English our official language. I do not believe that the President wants to alienate a large segment of the electorate just 60 days before the election.

When push comes to shove, Bill Clinton will sign that bill. And as he did when he was Governor of Arkansas, the President should sign this bill, not only because it has certain political advantage that it confers on him. He should sign it because this is the most important piece of legislation this Congress and his administration will consider.

Mr. Speaker, we have witnessed events recently that have testified to the fragility of nations: the sundering of the Soviet Union, the breakup of Yugoslavia, the near divorce between Quebec and the rest of Canada. Secessionist tides are rising all across Eastern and even Western Europe. All these incidents share a common thread. The thread, incidentally and ironically enough, is the unraveling of national unity across the world today. The twin forces of nationalism and tribalism are plunging nations into a separatism spiral, and the United States is not immune.

America is the most diverse Nation in the history of the world. We are a people from every corner of the globe. We represent every culture, every language, every religion, every difference imaginable. The last census, for example, indicated that over 320 languages are spoken in our schools, cities, and communities. Do not think for a second that this Nation can avoid the fate