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more for Medicare. They will get less of a cost of living, and their rent will go up.

At least older people who read the comics and remember Al Capp, Lil' Abner, and Evil-Eye Fliegal will know what is happening to them. They are about to get the Republican triple whammy.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. There being no further requests for morning business, pursuant to clause 12, rule I, the House will stand in recess until 10 a.m.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 49 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until 10 a.m.

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 10 a.m.

PRAYER

The Reverend Ronald K. Austin, Spirit of Peace Baptist Church, Washington, DC, offered the following prayer:

Eternal God, the creator and sustainer of all life, we come before You this morning and pray that You would continue to be our ever present strength. Touch our minds and hearts this day that we might continue to be Your instruments for love and justice in this great Nation of ours. May Your light continue to lead this great body of men and women in the difficult decisions that they must make. Be with them in the good times and especially in the tough times. Also we pray for their families because they need Your strength also. Now help us all, dear Father, to reach that great day when nation will not take up sword against nation nor will they train for war anymore. In Your Holy name we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from California [Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair announces there will be ten 1-minutes on each side.

SUMMARY OF SOCIAL SECURITY MEDICARE ANNUAL REPORTS

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

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, this is a report that is a summary of the 1995 annual reports of the Social Security and Medicare boards of trustees. I urge every American to call their Representative at 202–224–3121 and get a copy of it. This is the annual report of your Government, about your trust funds for Social Security and, most importantly, Medicare.

It is something that you should read. It is clearly written. There is a problem, and you need to know about it. Outside of this politicized atmosphere of rhetoric, outside of the demagoguery that is going on, you need to be able to read this yourself and make your own decision. It is 202–224–3121, so that you know what is going on with these trust funds. Please call your Representative. Ask for the summary of the annual reports.

HUD PROGRAM CUTS

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

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, the $7 billion cut from HUD's 1996 budget will decimate Federal housing programs when housing needs are at their worst, particularly among families with children.

In 1993 alone, 5.6 million family households were in need of housing. And, every night, 600,000 households are homeless.

These proposed cuts will cause much needless pain and suffering.

A $700 million cut in public housing authority operating budgets will result in increased rents and deterioration of public housing.

These, cuts will also reduce existing housing levels for the elderly, the disabled, and persons with AIDS.

Finally, these cuts prevent distressed communities from leveraging private investment for economic development to improve life in these areas.

This Republican proposal is fused with fact and fiction. The fiction is that these cuts are necessary in order to reduce the Federal deficit, and that all of us must share the pain. The fact is there will be no pain sharing. The rich will get richer and the poor Americans will pay the price.

PROTECT MEDICARE

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

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, Norma and I have realized the American dream. We built our own log home. We cut down the trees, we built the home, we now own the home free and clear. But what of the future? We are both eligible for Medicare.

We are deeply concerned about Medicare. Previous Congresses have spent all the money, decades of wild, irresponsible spending on pork, and foreign aid, and so forth, and they did not build a secure base for Medicare. It is now an insecure base.

The President's own commission says that Medicare will go bankrupt by the year 2002 if we do not fix it. We are not going to let that happen. The new majority will preserve and protect Medicare. It is going to increase 5 percent or more each year in the benefits. Thousands of people are counting on it. We have given our word, and we will not fail them.

EMBRACE NEW TELECOMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGIES

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

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I amended the telecommunications bill to ensure the emergence of the Smart House—a fully automated digital home which the chart next to me diagrams. It is all about the future.

The amendment ensures that the FCC does not limit consumers' ability to use their computers to provide security, maintain air quality, and provide entertainment.

The language is supported by American business alliances including the Telecommunications Industry Association [TIA], the Alliance to Promote Software Innovation [APSI], and the National Cable Television Association [NCTA].

On the other hand, foreign TV manufacturers are pushing for FCC standards that will establish television sets as the gatekeeper to home automation systems.

Mr. Speaker, the issue is simply. We can either embrace the future by allowing new technologies to flourish with minimum Government interference or cling to the past.

I urge you to protect the cable compatibility language in H.R. 1555 and oppose any amendment to limit or strike it.

STRENGTHEN MEDICARE

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

Ms. PRYCE. Mr. Speaker, where is the Democrats' plan to save Medicare?

They cannot fix it by whining.

They cannot solve the crisis by finger-pointing and fear-mongering.

And they cannot fool America's seniors with their demagoguery.

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