

## Medicare Update

A slim majority in Congress passed the Republican leadership's prescription drug deal. What some Members of Congress had to say about it:

**Sen. John McCain** (R-AZ): "Every special interest is attaching itself to this bill and bleeding Medicare dry...It's like the ancient medieval practice of leeching."

**Sen. Barbara Boxer** (D-CA) said the bill contained a "cruel assets test" that might force a low income senior "to sell off your wedding band."

**Rep. Nick Smith** (R-MI-7) said he was promised substantial "industry and business support" for his son's campaign if he voted for the Medicare bill.

### News:

**"US Medicare drug bill to cast shadow on 2004 races,"** Thomas Ferraro  
(Reuters)

**"Area seniors protest AARP's support of Medicare bill,"** Phil Galewitz (Palm  
Beach Post)

**"Medicare Bill Profits Some: Drug-maker 'bonanza' looms,"** James Toedtman  
(Newsday)