

Republicans' proposed 4 percent cap in growth will put extreme pressure on Medicaid, which not only supports long-term nursing-home care for many elderly and disabled, but also furnishes health care for about 25 percent of American children.

"We must not go back in time to a set of arbitrary limits on the services children need," said Neff, who has spent more than 35 years as a pediatrician.

He said public institutions that provided medicine to children were often terrible before Medicaid was established 30 years ago.

House Democrat Leader Dick Gephardt of Missouri, in Seattle for a candidate recruiting and fund-raising visit, joined Reps. Jim McDermott and Norm Dicks, both D-Wash., for a meeting with hospital administrators.

Responding to Neff's point, Gephardt warned that children will be the losers if they must compete with elderly people and nursing homes for scarce Medicaid resources. "Elderly folks vote," he said. "Children do not. Children are not heard in the political system."

The Democrats heard from hospital officials as Republicans in Washington, D.C., prepared to unveil details of their proposed cost controls in Medicaid and Medicare, which provides medical care for senior citizens.

"By the year 2000, my hospital would be underfunded annually by \$125 million," said Nancy Giunto, administrator of Providence Seattle Medical Center. The hospital receives 62 percent of its income from Medicare and Medicaid.

Rogelio Riojas, chief executive of Sea Mar Community Health Centers, warned that cuts will deny regular medical services to low-income families.

"The poor will simply wait until they are more and more ill, and then they will go to the emergency wards of hospitals," said Riojas, who added that emergency care is far more costly than preventive care.

The Democratic congressmen were able to offer little reassurance to those who met with them at Harborview Hospital.

Republicans want to save \$270 billion by 2002 by scaling back the growth rate of Medicare to between 6 percent and 7 percent. They're aiming to realize \$180 billion more by slashing Medicaid's growth rate to 4 percent.

The two federal health care programs have been growing at an annual rate of about 10 percent. Half the growth has come from rising medical costs. The other half is because of sharp increases in enrollment.

Neff said the cuts will leave Medicare and Medicaid with three options: decrease the number of new enrollees; eliminate some people already enrolled, particularly in Medicaid; or cut services.

He predicted the country will see "a low-grade, continuous erosion of services" if the funding is held to levels in the GOP's budget plans.

Larry Zakn of Harborview Hospital said the effects of the GOP budget proposals would be felt in such places as his hospital's renowned trauma care program.

"There's no way I can see that we would ever maintain these levels of service if we had these levels of funding," he said.

Harborview stands to lose as much as \$185 million in Medicaid and Medicare funding over the next seven years under the GOP proposals. Medicaid pays 48 percent of its patients' bills, one of the highest figures for any hospital in the country. Harborview has a tradition of caring for all people regardless of their ability to pay.

Republicans are holding off releasing details on their proposal until week's end. Already, however, a partisan battle over numbers has broken out on Capitol Hill. House

Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., said last weekend that seniors with income above \$125,000 would pay more for Medicare, but most people would face increases of only about \$7 a month.

But Democrats calculated that the elderly will wind up paying almost \$20 a month extra by 2002 and more than \$1,300 each over the next seven years.

Republicans challenged their opponents' math and accused them of ignoring the \$270 billion in savings the GOP is seeking.

But they also conceded that the Medicare Part B premium may be as much as \$10 a month higher in 2002 under their plan than under President Clinton's budget—not \$7, as Gingrich said Sunday. Before Congress' August recess, Republican leaders armed GOP House members with scripted "talking points," charts and instructions on how to defuse public anxiety over Medicare and Medicaid.

Opinion polls have shown, however, that the public's worries have not gone away. Democrats have vowed to fiercely defend programs seen as cornerstones of John F. Kennedy's New Frontier and Lyndon Johnson's Great Society. "People's quality of life has gone up. It has gone up because of Medicare and Medicaid," Gephardt said yesterday. "We must not take large steps back into history where we don't want to go."

He noted that there are four major teaching hospitals in the Seattle area, responsible for medical education over a four-state area. "The federal government is providing a research service that the private sector cannot and will not afford," he added.

The issue gets personal for Gephardt. At age 18 months, his son was diagnosed at a St. Louis hospital with a cancerous tumor and given no chance to live.

"A young resident approached us the next morning," he recalled. "He had been running the case through the computer, and noted that a program of triple-drug chemotherapy and radiation had been developed in Houston. He encouraged us to try it."

"Matt is now 24 years old. I left him off yesterday at Northwestern University in Chicago to continue his education. I rest my case."

TIME FOR COURAGE AND MOVEMENT ON NORTHERN IRELAND PEACE PROCESS

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 1995

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, Thomas L. Friedman of the New York Times on September 20, 1995 wrote a very provocative and important piece on the current stalemate in the peace process in the north of Ireland.

His work "No Guts, No Glory" is a challenge to all sides and interested governments, including our own, not to let the extraordinary opportunity, which the current peace process presents for lasting peace and justice in Northern Ireland slip away.

Mr. Friedman constructively reviews the difficult arms decommissioning issue, and supports the proposal for an international commission to handle that difficult question which currently has stalled the peace process for months.

I ask that the piece by Mr. Friedman be reprinted at this point in the RECORD for the benefit of my colleagues, and all those interested, and charged with finding solutions in the long

and difficult struggle to bring lasting peace and justice to Northern Ireland.

I also ask that a statement I issued just recently in support of the international arms decommissioning dual track approach to help move the peace process along at this critical moment in Irish history, also be included in the RECORD at this point.

It is time for all sides to show guts, and plenty of glory will surely follow for all those concerned about lasting peace for the warm and generous Irish people.

[From the New York Times, Sept. 21, 1995]

NO GUTS, NO GLORY

(By Thomas L. Friedman)

WASHINGTON.—The lion in "The Wizard of Oz" didn't have it, but at least he knew where to get it. Nelson Mandela had it, and so did F. W. de Klerk, and they used it to good effect. Yitzhak Rabin has it and so does Yasir Arafat, although occasionally they lose it and need help finding it again. It's called "courage," and unfortunately none of the key players in the Northern Ireland conflict have it right now.

Gerry Adams of Sinn Fein doesn't have it, the British Prime Minister John Major, certainly doesn't have it and the Protestant leader David Trimble wouldn't know it if it were pinned to his chest. And that's why 13 months after the cease-fire took effect in Northern Ireland, the parties still have not begun peace talks to bring a permanent end to the fighting.

The sticking point has been the British-Protestant refusal to sit down for peace talks with Sinn Fein—the I.R.A.'s political wing—until the Catholic gunmen of the I.R.A. first surrender some weapons.

This is poppycock and nothing more than a pretext by Mr. Major to disguise his ambivalence about entering into negotiations with the I.R.A. at all. If the I.R.A. had tanks, missiles and MIG-29's, there might be some strategic merit to the British insistence that it turn in some weapons first. But the I.R.A. arsenal consists almost exclusively of handguns, knives, flaming bottles and some plastique explosives. They could turn them all in tomorrow and replenish most of their arsenal the next day with a Guns & Ammo mailorder catalogue and a visit to the local hardware store. The I.R.A. invented the fertilizer bomb.

The issue is not how to deprive the I.R.A. of their military capabilities, which are endlessly replenishable. The issue is how to change their intentions to resort to violence. The only hope of doing that is through all-party peace talks. (If Israel could talk to the P.L.O. without insisting it disarm, the British can talk to the I.R.A.)

A perfectly reasonable compromise is on the table: an international commission would be formed, parallel with the start of peace talks, that would bring British, Protestant and I.R.A. representatives together to discuss how weapons might be "decommissioned" as part of a final peace deal. This international commission could, in effect, disconnect and isolate the weapons issue from the peace negotiations, while giving everyone a sense that as progress was made around the peace table, there would also be progress toward all sides surrendering some weapons. Unfortunately the British have balked even at this idea, because they want to reserve the right to demand that the I.R.A. hand over some weapons even before convening all-party talks.

But John Major is not the only one who has gone wobbly. Gerry Adams is now also resisting the idea of an international commission on weapons, because he wants to be assured that such a commission won't, at

some stage, ask it to make a symbolic gesture in retiring some guns before negotiations really get under way.

This too is cowardly. No international commission (which the U.S. would likely run) is going to ask the I.R.A. to make any gestures on arms until there is parallel progress at the peace table. If the I.R.A. had any vision or leadership right now it would quietly tip off the British to a small pile of I.R.A. explosives somewhere. Such unilateral handover would ease British concerns, without costing the I.R.A. a thing.

President Clinton, who helped engineer the cease-fire, seems to have lost interest and fallen asleep at the wheel. Fortunately, the Prime Ministers of Britain and Ireland are meeting Friday in another attempt to break the deadlock. The fact that the cease-fire in Northern Ireland has lasted for more than a year should tell them something. It should tell them that the people want this new way of life to be permanent and they have given the politicians a silent mandate to make it so. But instead of listening to the silence, the politicians are listening only to themselves.

This isn't complicated. It's time for the British and the Protestants to start all-party talks with Sinn Fein, and for all three to accept an international commission that could defuse the weapons issue until there is progress at the peace table. But that sort of simplicity takes some courage. Sad to say that among British, Protestant and I.R.A. leaders right now there is no one who answers to that name.

[From the House International Relations Committee, Sept. 13, 1995]

GILMAN URGES IMMEDIATE ALL PARTY TALKS ON NORTHERN IRELAND: SUPPORTS SEPARATE COMMISSION TO ADDRESS ARMS ISSUE

(By Benjamin A. Gilman)

WASHINGTON.—Committee Chairman Benjamin A. Gilman (20th-NY) today called for "immediate all party talks" on peace in Northern Ireland, and suggested that the issue of arms decommissioning be addressed by an international commission on a separate track.

Gilman spoke out following meeting with Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams in which the status of the peace process was discussed.

"Efforts by the British government to dictate preconditions or outcomes prior to talks merely obstructs access to the only means of finding a consensus political solution in Ireland, namely the peace negotiating table," Gilman said.

Noting that arms decommissioning has long been a stumbling block to peace talks, Gilman said "a separate track is needed for this issue that could be in the form of an international commission whose findings would be binding, however, such a commission should not become yet another precondition to talks."

Gilman warned that "these past 13 months of peace have been a window of opportunity to achieve a just and lasting peace after a quarter century of violence and bloodshed. We must not allow this window to be shut against those who are earnestly seeking peace."

Long a champion of peace and justice in Northern Ireland, Gilman this year led the Committee's first hearings on the Macbride fair employment principles, and saw their inclusion in the House-passed foreign affairs bill as part of the U.S. contribution to the International Fund for Ireland.

The Macbride principles are aimed at ending systemic job discrimination, most often aimed at the Catholic community in Northern Ireland.

SUPPORTING THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN (BEIJING)

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 1995

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women was an opportunity for delegates from over 180 countries to take a step toward granting women equal rights in all aspects of life.

One of the major points made at the conference was the importance of promoting programs which lead to women's economic and political empowerment.

Our world today, is comprised of women who are breaking new ground in industry and the professions, and who are becoming integral members of labor forces everywhere.

The conference created an environment where new understandings of women's roles in the workplace and in government were examined along with the difficulties that women continue to encounter throughout the world, such as the inability to own land, the inaccessibility of business loans, and the lack of child care.

The diversity of the delegates experiences and backgrounds raised the world's level of consciousness about women's plight worldwide and provided humanity with a greater understanding of the economic and political condition of women.

Through free discussion and open debate, the delegates came forward with recommendations promoting women's rights and equality for our world's governments to consider.

The challenge for governments and policy-makers throughout the world will now be to turn these recommendations into policies and laws that help insure that the women of today and our daughters and sisters of tomorrow will have the opportunity to realize their full potential, free from oppression and discrimination.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JENNIFER DUNN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 1995

Ms. DUNN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on September 7, I was present in the House Chamber during the vote on final passage of H.R. 2126, the fiscal year 1996 Department of Defense appropriations bill. I along with other Members, were not properly recorded as having cast our vote on Rollcall No. 646. I respectfully request that the official record indicate I voted "aye" in support of passage of the bill.

A SPECIAL SALUTE TO "GREAT BOOKS" ANNIVERSARY

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 1995

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the Great Books group. Mr. Ray

Habian, a member of the organization, recently brought to my attention the fact that the Cleveland Great Books group is celebrating its 50th anniversary. The organization boasts members throughout the Greater Cleveland area. I rise today to share with my colleagues and the Nation some information regarding the Great Books group.

It is believed that the formation of discussion groups for the purpose of reviewing the Great Books was started after World War I by John Erskine. In 1927, Mortimer Adler launched 15 adult education courses in New York City to discuss the Great Books. A few years later, in 1930, Robert Hutchins joined Mr. Adler in introducing Great Books seminars into the undergraduate curriculum at the University of Chicago. Soon, across the United States, ordinary laymen with a love for literature began to form and lead Great Books seminars in their local communities.

The first meeting of the Cleveland Great Books group was held in 1946 at the East Cleveland Public Library. It is interesting to note that the first group gathered for a candid discussion of the Declaration of Independence. In the following years, the group continued to examine topics that were popular in American society, as well as in literature. In 1972, the Great Books group moved its meeting site to the Noble Road Library in Cleveland Heights. The group discussions have focused on the philosophy of Plato; the epics of Homer; and the drama of William Shakespeare, just to name a few.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to report that today, more than 400 Great Books groups meet in libraries across America. The discussions provide insight into the personal, moral, social, political, and economic problems of mankind. I am also pleased to note that over the years, Great Books programs have helped to build a strong and lasting relationship between our libraries and communities. With the dawn of Great Books groups, citizens realize that their libraries can provide dynamic platforms for public discussions of historical and popular literary pieces.

Mr. Speaker, on September 19, 1995, the Cleveland Great Books group will begin its 50th consecutive year. The candid discussions and seminars continue to arouse the interest of citizens throughout the community. I am proud to applaud Ray Habian and the entire membership of the Great Books group. As they celebrate this historic anniversary, I wish members of the Great Books group many more years of success.

PROVIDING FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF CERTAIN PRESIDIO PROPERTIES

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 1995

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1296 is a good government approach to management of the Presidio within the National Park System.

No other park possesses the unique combination of resources and real estate as the Presidio. Because of this unusual combination, the Presidio lends itself to a management structure outside the realm of traditional operation of our national parks.