

premiums on seniors by 25 percent. They want to cut Medicare to balance the budget.

We all know that changes must be made in Medicare so it will be preserved and strong for years to come. But the Gingrich Republicans have just gone too far. It has been unfortunately, under the Gingrich leadership, a time of crises and chaos.

But no surprise. Listen to the Speaker on the Sunday morning talk shows, and I quote him, "I will cooperate, but I will never compromise." Those are not the words of a person who sits down at a negotiating table looking for a solution. That is the kind of growling and grousing and political rhetoric that most people are sick and tired of.

I have a proposal to change this and end this crisis immediately. It is called no budget, no pay. We are sending 800,000 Federal workers home today without pay. But guess what, Members of Congress still get their paycheck. So I introduced a bill on September 22 that said if Members of Congress do not keep Government running, default on the national debt, then, frankly, they do not get their paychecks. If we turned off the TV cameras and stopped the congressional paychecks, I predict this crisis would be over in 15 minutes.

#### AMERICA DESERVES BETTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. DOGGETT] is recognized during morning business for 3 minutes.

Mr. DOGGETT. Madam Speaker, you know, to understand the crisis we are going through here in Washington today, you really only need to understand three words, NEWT GINGRICH and Medicare.

You see, from the beginning it has been NEWT's way or no way with reference to the way this Government would operate. NEWT GINGRICH made it very clear in the spring of this year, and he repeated it this summer, he repeated it again this summer, that he wanted this crisis. It was not something he was trying to avoid doing. He wanted to demonstrate to America and to the world that he was king of the mountain and that everybody had to salute him because he was the fount of all knowledge about the problems of the world.

The key part of NEWT'S way or no way as far as this particular budget crisis is, of course, the one item that they chose to put on the continuing resolution that they sent over for the courageous veto President Clinton exercised, and that is Medicare. He wanted to send the seniors, he wanted to send the people with disabilities around this country a happy New Year's present in the form of a Medicare premium increase. It is the one irrelevant provision they chose to tack on a continuing resolution which, of course, would never have been necessary to send to the President at all if

they had simply had the willingness to do their job and pass the appropriations bills rather than messing around with all of this agenda of the radical right which has tied them up. It has not been President Clinton that caused them to get only 2 of 13 appropriations bills to his desk by September 30. It has not been the Democratic minority in the House or the Senate. They could not agree amongst themselves as to how crazy they would be with reference to passing what the chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations called payback time to the radical right and holding up the business that should have been occurring in getting these appropriations bills there.

No, cutting Medicare, raising the cost to the ordinary person relying on Medicare and NEWT GINGRICH explained the situation that we face today.

I have been very interested this morning to listen to my Republican colleagues as they responded to this crisis because they have told the people of America two things:

The first one is, "You know, we Republicans are not really as mean as you Democrats say we have been. We are just a little bit mean. I mean, we do not want to totally foul all the water supply of America. We just want to let it be a little bit more dirty than it is today."

On the environment, "We just think the environment ought to be a little more dirty than it is today."

"And we do not believe you should cut off the opportunity of students to go to school, they can pay just a little bit more, just another thousand dollars. It is not as bad as what NEWT GINGRICH and his group proposed in the fall to hike the price by \$5,000 to get a college education. We think raising it \$1,000 on middle-class families who are struggling to get a young person through high school so they can go to college, we think just a little bit more pain is okay."

And to our seniors, "Just a little bit more pain is okay."

Well, I think that America deserves better treatment than that. It is getting through NEWT GINGRICH, and we certainly do not need the kind of Medicare cuts he proposed.

#### GET THIS GOVERNMENT BACK TO WORK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from West Virginia [Mr. WISE] is recognized during morning business for 3 minutes.

Mr. WISE. Madam Speaker, I rise today; the sun has come up over the United States again, and yes, the Government continues, although in a truncated fashion.

In West Virginia, over 17,000 Federal employees face furlough, many of whom will be furloughed or are furloughed today. Many of these Federal employees live in my district, in the Second Congressional District.

We also in our own office, we furloughed half of the congressional employees that work for the Second District. The offices in Charleston and Martinsburg have been reduced to one person answering telephones for emergency services only. The mobile office which visits a different country every day during the month, of course, is not operating. So the congressional office, as well, is complying with this.

I think this is a very, sad state of affairs, Madam Speaker. The only cautious or the good news. I guess, is despite their fact we have so many Federal employees in West Virginia furloughed, so many services cut back, our own congressional services significantly cut back, the only good news is negotiations are taking place.

I predict that something could take place in the next 12 hours. If it does not, then I fear that this standoff is going to last for a long time.

What is really at issue, Madam Speaker? What is at issue is whether the President signs simple legislation that says the Government can continue for 3 more weeks or however long while the Republicans and Democrats, the White House, negotiate, and that simple legislation is about two pages long. I hold this up. It is proportionate in scale. However, what the President was sent was about this big in size. So this is what is needed to keep the Government functioning; this is what the President was sent. He was sent a lot of riders, special interest provisions, budget provisions that ought to be negotiated, a whole lot of strings attached.

This keeps the Federal Government operating. This is what the President was sent. And so what ought to be done is obviously send a single legislation that is necessary.

Unfortunately, had I voted for the continuing resolution or had the President signed it in this form, he would have been signing a Medicare increase, 25 percent, for 300,000 West Virginia senior citizens, costing West Virginia taxpayers even more, because they would have also been supplementing the 40,000 low-income seniors that cannot even afford that monthly premium increase of roughly \$7 a month. He would have been signing other significant changes as well.

What he would have been doing is signing the very budget agreement in many ways that has yet to be negotiated. I have not agreed with the President in every instance, but in this case I happen to think he is correct. When some say he is not doing his job, it is the Congress that has not sent him 11 of the 13 appropriation bills that are necessary for the Government to function. Eleven of their 13 still have not gone to the President 6 weeks after they were due.

We heard a lot of talk about the budget. The House and the Senate only last night finished the budget, well over 6 weeks late. There was nothing

for him to sign; but send him the simple continuing resolution and get this Government back to work.

#### CONGRESS NEEDS LEADERSHIP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentlewoman from North Carolina [Mrs. CLAYTON] is recognized during morning business for 3 minutes.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Madam Speaker, what this Government needs and what this Congress needs is leadership, leadership that will not play political games or brinksmanship. What we need in a time of crisis is vigorous leadership that understands the needs of the people are more important than their political game.

What we need are rational people, moderate people who will find opportunity to compromise. Is it rational to expect that the Government will have a clean continuing resolution? I think it is. It is, because really the arguments that we are making on the continuing resolution are arguments we should make on the budget reconciliation. That work has not been done.

Why stretch this argument for the American people? Already the American people have said things that are in the budget reconciliation should not be there.

Why are we giving the American people this anguish, this turmoil, when we need not do it? Why do we not step up to the bar and say there is a right way to do this, there is a right way to govern?

I challenge the Speaker to find that vigorous verbosity that he has in explaining all of the nuances of democracy, to find it by simple leadership, the leadership that says we will govern without respect to party, we will govern without respect to politics, we will govern without respect to who wins.

Actually the American people would not care who wins, who blinks first, when this is all over. But they will blame us if indeed senior citizens have to pay a larger premium. They will blame us if students no longer have opportunities to go to school. They will blame you if opportunities for the environment retrogress, if we have that opportunity and fail to do that.

These are the attributes of leadership and crisis, not to blame each other but to find how we have common good, common issues that bring us together, that is the leadership that we need in a time of crisis.

□ 0945

#### STOP THIS FISCAL INSANITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. PRYCE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Colorado [Mr. MCINNIS] is recognized for 4 minutes.

Mr. MCINNIS. Madam Speaker, I think that it is very important that we put today's events and the events over

the last several years in its proper perspective.

A lot of people in our Chambers think that the crisis started at midnight last night. That crisis did not start at midnight last night. This crisis has been going on for years and years and years. The old bad habits in Washington, DC, have forced this country into a position of fiscal insanity.

We heard some of the previous speakers talk about extremes. You want to hear about extremes? Compare this: Right now your Government in this country is spending \$30 million an hour more than it brings in, \$30 million an hour.

I ask the American people, how many of you out there in America can overspend your budget in the same proportion that the Federal Government has been allowed for year after year after year after year to overspend its budget? When are we finally going to stand up to this fiscal insanity, when are we going to finally get the courage to stand up and say you cannot continue to run a government like you are running this Government in Washington, DC?

If you think the people out there in America are confident about Washington, ask them if they think for their taxpayer dollar they are getting a bang for their dollar, a bang for their buck? I think you are going to find the answer is no.

Ask the American people what it is like to spend the first 2 hours and 45 minutes of every workday of their working career just to pay taxes? In other words, when they go into work at 8 o'clock in the morning, it is not until a quarter to 11 or so before they finally get to put some money in their own pocket.

Ask the American person what it is like to owe more money to the Federal Government as a result of this Federal deficit than most families owe on their home mortgage. Ask the American family what it is like to pay more in taxes than they pay for transportation, for housing, for clothing, and for recreation combined.

Madam Speaker, we have got to do something about this fiscal insanity. Now, sure, everybody said my gosh, the sun is not going to come up today after the Government shuts down. I venture to say in comparison to the fiscal crisis we have got, it is going to be classified as an inconvenience.

I hear some of my colleagues up here telling you about Medicare. It is the Democrats' position to drop the premiums. Folks, this is a fund that is in fiscal trouble. It is going bankrupt. Even Clinton's advisors, even the President's advisors, said this fund will be bankrupt if we do not do some fiscal management on it. You cannot lower the premiums right now.

By the way, if you lower the premiums, it does not lower the cost. The cost stays the same. Who makes up the difference? All the rest of the taxpayers in this country.

Folks, we have to stand up to the line and accept the responsibility, just like every constituent we have got out there accepts their personal responsibility with their personal checkbook, with their personal family, every month. That is what this is about. It is not about the Medicare issue. That is a diversion. It is not about whether or not to use the trust funds out of Social Security. That is a diversion.

The question is, will this country get to a balanced budget? Will this country operate fiscally like every family in America is expected to operate?

Most of the people on this side of the aisle say no, business as usual. Let us continue to run this deficit. But those of us, some of us who have been labeled as extremists, say wait a minute, it is not asking the impossible. It is not unusual to expect the representatives of this Government in Washington, DC, not to accept business as usual, but to demand from the American Government that we operate our budget like the American people operate theirs.

#### NOW IS THE TIME TO FACE REALITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE] is recognized for 2 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Madam Speaker, I think the real issue this morning and over these past 11 months, starting around the month of February, is that the Republicans really do not get the message.

Madam Speaker, it is interesting that someone would argue what the American families need. I think basically the American families do very well in helping to create what they need, a roof over their heads, transportation, food for their children, and support for their elderly citizens. And anything that hinders that opportunity is absolutely wrong policy.

Basically, September was the month when we should have passed all of the appropriation bills, which would have caused this Government to continue to operate. But now I have to tell the Federal employees who took their day off on Saturday and joined me with my congressional office in a local grocery store and worked on their holiday, those from Social Security, IRS, and the Veterans Administration, that they do not matter; the services that they provide to veterans and the senior citizens and people who need and have concerns about Internal Revenue Service issues, that they do not count.

I think what we should recognize is that we have been negotiating. In fact, the Democratic leader said just last night, let us pass a 24-hour continuing resolution so that we can keep the doors of this Government open. It was rejected by the Republican leadership.

Now is the time to face reality. The reality is that we do have the opportunity to create a budget that reflects