

12, 1995, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PALLONE] is recognized during morning business for 2 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to follow up on what my colleague from the other side, from Wisconsin, said before. He talked about differences over the budget and the numbers over the budget, but the problem is that while we are arguing over these budget differences, whether it is the numbers or the priorities, the Government should remain open.

It is the Republicans, it is Speaker GINGRICH who wants to shut the Government down because he cannot get his way in terms of what he thinks the budget should be all about. That is not fair. That is the reason the Government was shut down 2 weeks ago, because Speaker GINGRICH and the Republican leadership did not get their own way.

Now, everyone knows that the majority in this House and in the Senate is the only body or the only group that can bring up a continuing resolution to keep up. The Speaker, last Friday, the Speaker yesterday, and so far I have heard nothing today about bringing up a continuing resolution so that this Government can continue to operate. That is what is causing the crisis. That is what is making everyone around the country so aggravated.

That is the reason, I believe also, why we had the problem with the stock market yesterday, because while we are discussing and negotiating this budget, the Government should not be shut down. The Republicans should not make this into a crisis situation by shutting down the Government.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we have major differences over the priorities here. We have differences over the numbers, we have differences over the priorities. The Democrats have been saying all along that Medicare must be preserved, Medicaid must be preserved, that the Republicans are giving huge tax breaks primarily to wealthy Americans and to corporations and that money for those tax breaks should be put back into the budget so that Medicare and Medicaid, the environment and education programs remain solvent. That is what I think the goal should be.

The President has been articulating all weekend the fact that he cannot accept the Republican priorities because he feels very strongly, and he is right, that Medicare, Medicaid, the environment and education must be preserved. So far the Republican leadership has not come up with anything, not put anything on the table that would preserve those priorities, and, in the meantime, they tell us all we are going to shut the Government down because we do not get our own way.

FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ARE INNOCENT VICTIMS IN GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May

12, 1995, the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. DAVIS] is recognized during morning business for 3 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS. Ms. Speaker, I have lost my voice but I have not lost my will here.

Quite frankly, if the President had signed some of the appropriations bills on his desk last week, we could have kept the park system open and a number of other agencies. I think he was saying my way or no way. I think both sides need to get together and keep talking.

What bothers me about this is that a month ago the President signed a resolution saying a balanced budget, 7 years, CBO numbers, and a month later he has not submitted any plan that does that. Hopefully, he will put that on the table, we can get both sides to pass a continuing resolution, and we can move ahead at that point and negotiate out the differences. And there are honest and sincere differences, but we need to move ahead. The American people are relying on us to do this. Certainly the markets are at this point.

I wanted to bring up something else today, and that is the innocent victims of this whole thing, and that is the Federal employees. Federal workers today have been undergoing a lot of stress. They have been undergoing downsizing efforts by both the administration and this Congress. Benefit cuts. Many have been proposed that have not gone into effect, but some have in the agreements that have gone through as well. So they are undergoing downsizing, benefit cuts and now furloughs at Christmas time.

The tragedy for these workers, who we are asking everyday to do more with less, is they cannot even, under Federal law, go get a second job. They cannot even work as a store department Santa Claus under Federal rules. So we furlough them, we do not let them have another job, and now we have Members saying, well, we cannot pay these people because they are not working. But they want to work, they want to be out doing the job that we have asked them to do, but the Federal law does not allow them.

These people will miss their Christmas paychecks. And to suggest that they should not be paid, when it is no fault of their own and they are unintended victims of this, is outrageous.

We have to recognize that if Government wants to attract the best and the brightest, and maintain these people in our Federal work force, so they can get the job done as we cut the budgets and ask people to do more with less, we have to bring their morale around and we have to incentivize them to do that, and we are not acting in a way to do this. If we were a private company and were undergoing downsizing, with the stress that we have, we would never threaten our employees as we have done in this particular case.

Of course, they should be paid, when this is all over and the resolution is done. It has happened every time be-

fore. For Members to suggest otherwise, and who say, well, it looks stupid to pay people for not working, it is not their fault they are not working. They want to be there. The only reason they are not is because we have not reached agreement with the President of the United States.

We will never get good people to come back into Government to serve the Government. As President Kennedy said, ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country. We will never get that spirit when we start treating workers in this shabby a manner.

I would hope the President will put a balanced budget on the table, as he promised a month ago. It will not meet the priorities of the Members of my side, but we can pass a continuing resolution, work out our differences, get these people back to work, let them perform the functions of Government and give the American people a Christmas present of a balanced budget.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN IS TO AID IN DISMANTLEMENT OF MEDICARE AND TO CUT AND REPEAL MEDICAID

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. BONIOR] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I will not take the full time, but I wanted to come to the floor this morning to echo the message that some of my colleagues have been giving, and that is basically this: The Speaker of the House, Speaker GINGRICH, has closed down the Government again for the second time, and in order to do two things: To dismantle Medicare and to cut and repeal Medicaid.

My colleagues do not have to take my word for it. I want to refer my colleagues to two reports; one that was issued by the Consumer Union. This is a group of people that puts out a publication called the Consumer Report. America knows about the Consumer Report. It is a publication that one goes to when one wants to buy a car or one wants to buy a television set. It has enormous credibility. Listen to what they say.

"What Congress isn't telling you: Families of nursing home residents may face financial ruin under Federal Medicaid bill."

They estimate that 395,000 long-term care patients are likely to lose Medicaid payments for their nursing home care next year if this Republican repeal of Medicaid goes through. They go on to talk about some of the effects of this proposal by the Republicans.

If someone is in a nursing home in the family, it costs about \$38,000 a year. That is more than most families in America make today. And they go on to point out, in this report, that adult children may be held financially liable for nursing home bills of their

parents. Family assets, including homes, may be sold or seized to pay nursing home bills. No one is guaranteed Medicaid nursing home eligibility as they are now. Families may be forced to spend their life savings for long-term care of a loved one. And on and on and on.

That was a report that was issued last November. A report issued in December, just recently, by the National Citizens' Coalition for Nursing Home Reform says this about the repeal of Medicaid. "The report analyzed nursing home laws in 10 States and found none of the current State laws meet the minimum standards found necessary in 1987 to protect nursing home residents."

"This proposal moves us back in time to the nursing home dark ages when residents were tied and drugged, lying in their own waste, ignored by untrained, overworked staff."

So what is going on here, basically, ladies and gentlemen, is that Mr. GINGRICH, the Speaker of the House, has closed down the Government for the second time in order for him to continue with his Republican colleagues to dismantle Medicare, a program that we have had, we have enjoyed now since 1964. It has protected literally tens of millions of people in this country from economic devastation, and he goes on to take after Medicaid, which protects children, a quarter of the children in America who get their health care from Medicaid.

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I said I would not yield, and I would ask the Speaker to enforce my right to speak on the floor without being interrupted.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GUTKNECHT). The gentleman from Michigan controls the time.

Mr. BONIOR. The Speaker goes on to take on the disabled, our elderly in this country, and children, a quarter of which, as I indicated, get their health care from Medicaid.

These assaults on middle income people, on the elderly, on disabled, and on children in this country are what we are trying to protect. We will not be blackmailed by Speaker GINGRICH by shutting down this Government to go after these people. They deserve the support and the help of every Member of this institution, and we will not be blackmailed by the dismantling of Medicare and by the repeal of Medicaid in order for our seniors, as these two reports issued in November and December, in order for our seniors to have this type of activity with respect to their long-term care perpetrated upon them.

So we say to our friends on this side of the aisle, stop this nonsense, stop these games that we are playing. Let us get this Government back to work and let us get on with dealing with the real question at hand, and that is a balanced budget that protects Medicare, that protects Medicaid, that protects

education, and that protects our environment. That is what we need to do.

We have dealt with the issue of 7 years. We have dealt with the CBO issue, but the majority has done nothing, nothing to live up to the standards that were set in the last CR with respect to the issues of Medicaid, Medicare, education, and the environment. There has been no movement at all on the Republican side on those issues.

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BONIOR. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman for raising this point because when we look at the Medicaid Program, and we see an ad here that is signed by corporate leaders, who have laid off tens of thousands of Americans, and the children in many cases of low-paid workers, those children of those workers have lost their health insurance.

Three million children are without health insurance. And what the Speaker is saying is we have to dismantle Medicaid rather than give those children health care coverage.

BUDGET MUST BE MATHEMATICALLY BALANCED

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

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, it is tough during this time of year, when we should be home with our families and celebrating the birth of our Savior and having the time of a wonderful holiday season, to be pinned down here with this acrimony. And I know many Americans throughout the country are fed up, but we are at a real crossroads.

It is especially cruel, I believe, to be putting out the false information and scaring the most vulnerable in our society, the senior citizens, who do not have a lot of their life to look forward to in many ways, and yet when they hear this type of thing, to be scared with the false information that is out is especially disturbing and especially cruel at this time of year.

I also heard an earlier speaker say that we should not just mathematically balance the budget. My question is what will we do, emotionally balance the budget, rhetorically balance the budget, demagogically balance the budget? Of course, we have to mathematically balance the budget. Every American in this country has to mathematically balance their budgets.

I guess there is a real difference between the two sides. They believe in Santa Claus and we do not. We have to mathematically balance the budget. That is why we are sent to Congress; \$12 trillion is enough over the next 7 years. We are not cutting the budget. The previous 7 years was \$7 trillion. That is, in any terms, real growth. The

question here is how far is the Government going to grow, how big is the Government going to be?

For example, one of the other negotiations we are having with this President is he has been told, in effect, and I think most Americans can relate to this, that this bank account has been overdrawn for years and by big amounts. An average American, if they were told their bank account was overdrawn \$20,000 would work with the bank immediately to try to address that. We have compromised and said, OK, we will do this over 7 years to balance it. He refuses to come back with a proposal to actually balance it. He basically wants to go, OK, how about if we just leave it overdrawn by \$10,000? OK, how about if we just leave it overdrawn by 8,000?

The fact is we cannot have negotiations unless both sides agree on the fundamental principle that the budget has to be balanced, and the President has not put a proposal on the table that balances the budget. Once he puts a proposal to balance the budget on the table, then we can get into real discussions about how we will prioritize that spending. And that is a legitimate thing for the American people to expect, that we would have such a discussion as to how to prioritize that spending. But it is also legitimate they expect to have a budget on the table.

The stock market is not collapsing because of a CR, the stock market is worried we will not balance the budget. As Allan Greenspan has already said, they have factored in that we were going to balance the budget. Now they are afraid. They see the President going back on the agreement that we made, and there is a real concern in this country that we might be so gridlocked, that one party is not committed and our President is not indeed committed in spite of the rhetoric to a balanced budget.

The reason people cannot get into our national parks is he will not sign the appropriations bills. It has been nice to hear for months that we do not have the appropriations bills done, but basically, there are three over there now to be signed. Hopefully, another one will move.

I want to conclude by saying I realize that most Americans would be a little shocked, but it is time for the President to keep his word and put a budget on the table.

□ 0945

SPEAKER SHOULD ALLOW GOVERNMENT TO OPERATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Connecticut [Mr. GEJDENSON] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, what is clear here, but somewhat secretive in this town, is that of the participants in this battle, all but the Speaker are