

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

ready to open the Government again. Frankly, all but the Speaker would have kept the Government open.

The President and Mr. DOLE and Mr. DOMENICI could have kept this government open, but what happened? First, the Speaker got a bad seat on an airplane, and so he shut the Government down. Now, he has gotten bad poll numbers and he figures he cannot rebuild himself, so he is going to tear the whole Government down, hoping to bring everybody down with him.

We are one country trying to resolve some issues and it seems clear to me that the way to resolve these issues is not to set out to put our citizens in harm's way, put our Federal workers in harm's way, and disgrace this country by an inability to keep this Government working.

When we were first elected in 1980, we had grave differences with Ronald Reagan. But we had Democratic Speakers who gave the President every courtesy, who then proceeded to work with President Reagan to make sure the Government kept working, even where we had grave disagreements.

But not this Speaker. This Speaker refuses, of all the leaders here, he refuses to keep this Government operating. It seems clear to me that if he was a military leader, he would start bombing his own cities as a demonstration of strength. What we need to do is get back to work.

Mr. Speaker, I will be happy to yield to the gentlewoman from Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE].

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the words of the gentleman from Connecticut, because I rise this morning to ask if we could simply tell the truth. I think if we put the truth on the table, we might get going.

The continuing resolution, and I think the gentleman from Connecticut was here that weekend of the 19th, insisting that we worked to ensure that the Government not shut down. I think it is important to remind the American people that the President is not standing on weak ground.

I would caution my colleagues on the other side of the aisle about believing in Santa Claus. There are millions of children around this world and in this country that we hope will hold a vision of hope and we hope they will believe in Santa Claus. But the President and the Congress signed onto a continuing resolution that indicated that we would provide adequate funding for Medicaid, education, Medicare solvency, agriculture, national defense, and the environment and to ensure the protection of generations of people.

This morning, I spoke to my 10-year-old and this is in tribute to Jason, because I am not there with him for his Christmas program. We all believe in moving this country forward. But the American people are seeing, first of all, their Government shut down with innocent, hard-working Federal employees out on the streets, hindering their

opportunity to provide for their families. But more importantly, all of the services that they provide are no longer here for the American people.

This side is standing for the American people. I believe those who say they do not believe in Santa Claus are just about bringing Scrooge to the national forum. What we should be doing is coming together and working, telling the truth so that I can go home and tell the mother who has a young child with a brain tumor, and a mother who has another child with respiratory problems, and another child with a heart condition, and who is a single parent on welfare and needs Medicaid, that she is an American too and that we are trying to help her bridge out of this condition into independence.

Mr. Speaker, I think we need to stand on the side of the American people, tell the truth, and to make sure that we provide an opportunity for a fair, balanced budget, not on the backs of those who are most needy.

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. MORAN].

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman mentioned President Reagan, and think it is important to bear in mind that when we had a budget conflict in 1987 and 1988, between a Republican President and a Democratic Congress, what we did was to pass a continuing resolution that lasted all year long; a clean continuing resolution. But Federal employees were not made pawns in that process. There is no reason why Federal employees should be furloughed today.

Yesterday, in a press conference, Speaker GINGRICH indicated that those Federal employees may not even be paid at Christmas time. How unbelievable could this situation be that we would have families with children who are working for the American people, laid off, put on furlough just before Christmas, and told they may not even be paid during Christmas?

But it is believable. We just fired 11 people that served this House in the well of the House, doing necessary work. They had built up compensatory time, because they worked late at night. But because we will have the same laws that apply to the private sector apply to us January 1, we fired them just before Christmas time so we would not have to compensate them. Talk about mean spiritedness.

DEMOCRATS SHOULD PRESENT A 7-DAY BUDGET PLAN

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

Mr. LONGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I had a chance to talk to my daughter, Sarah, this morning, who was very proud that tomorrow morning she is going to be in a Christmas play. She was very concerned as to whether I was going to be able to make it or not.

In very simple English, I told her that unfortunately I could not, but that the reason I was not going to be there was that I had to be here because there were some people who wanted to spend her money, money that she was going to have to pay back, and she did not think that was a good idea.

Mr. Speaker, I have got a challenge for the other side of the aisle. Our agreement of 30 days ago said, yes, we are going to ensure Medicare solvency, Medicaid, education, veterans, and the environment, all of the nice programs, all of the programs that we support. Well, I ask my Democrat colleagues to put their money where their mouth is. Tell us that they would spend. Give us a budget that reflects their priorities and stand up like men and women of integrity, not just mouthing off about the fact that they are in favor of this or in favor of that. Give us a legitimate 7-year budget. Tell us where they stand, so we can compare our plans with theirs.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the previous order of the House of January 4, 1995, morning hour debate may not continue beyond 9:50 a.m. today. Pursuant to clause 12, rule I, the House will stand in recess until 10 a.m.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 50 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until 10 a.m.

□ 1000

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

We are grateful, O God, that You have given to us the goals of justice and the designs of freedom. Remind us this day, gracious God, that it is our work to develop the strategies and the plans of achieving those goals being aware of the prodding of Your spirit. We know that You have given to each of us the abilities to do good works so we pray that we will be faithful in our tasks, responsible in our actions, and fervent in our desire to serve. We pray this together with the petitions of our own hearts. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. The gentleman from Georgia [Mr. KINGSTON] will lead the