

This prevents for all time the specter of a Government shutdown. At the same time it permits the President and the Congress, if there is disagreement as to the extent of the budget, to continue to work to create a new budget. In the meantime, science goes on, research goes on, the Federal workers stay in place, no havoc is wreaked in the bureaucracy of Washington, although some people would say that might be a good thing. But the point is that we cannot allow the Government to shut down.

□ 1030

REPUBLICAN CHANGES TO MEDICARE AND MEDICAID

(Mrs. SCHROEDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, out west where I came from people used to worry about snake oil salesmen, but we pretty much got that under control. Now we have a new type of snake oil salesmen on the other side of the aisle.

I think we heard in prior discussions going on this morning that we are not going to be allowed to discuss their compassionate, wonderful, no pain changes to Medicare and Medicaid. We are just to trust them.

We are going to have 1 day of hearing. My fast math says that is about 1 minute per every 120 pages of changes they have in their bill. Oh, I am sure we will get it.

I want to tell my colleagues, as a Westerner who grew up with the tradition of snake oil salesmen, that we thought were behind us, beware. Beware. If their cuts are so painless, so harmless, so futuristic, so wonderful, why can we not have time to look at them? Why can we not air them in the sunshine? This should not be a fungus, this should be a bill.

REFORM IN THE SUGAR PROGRAM

(Mr. MILLER of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today the Committee on Agriculture begins markup of the 1995 farm bill. I am concerned that the Committee on Agriculture is trading real reform in some commodity programs in exchange for no reform in the sugar program.

The proposal put forth by the sugar growers, which the committee intends to adopt, is not real reform. It continues a big Government program that forces the American consumer to pay double the world price for sugar. The sugar program will continue to cost American consumers \$1.4 billion every year and continue to add \$90 million to our deficit every year.

The Republican Party is committed to putting every program except Social Security on the table, and we want to

have the right to debate the sugar program. Chairman ROBERTS is an honorable man and I trust he will keep his word to me and permit debate and vote on the sugar program.

Mr. Speaker, my bill to repeal the sugar program has 104 cosponsors, Democrats and Republicans. My bill to repeal the sugar program is real reform. The House has not considered the program since 1990. If we do not get a chance this year, it will be 2002 before we get a chance.

HEARINGS ON THE FUTURE OF MEDICARE

(Ms. PELOSI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, when Medicare was created in 1965, seniors came from all over the United States to testify before Congress as to how to meet the health care financing needs of our Nation's elderly. As we reconsider the future of Medicare for 37 million Americans, our seniors, indeed all Americans, deserve the right to a fair and open period of public comment on an issue of concern to every family in America.

Yet as the Republicans are about to embark on the most significant changes in the Medicare system, in Medicare's history, by proposing a \$270 billion cut in Medicare, the Republicans are blanking out America's voices. How unfortunate that the Republicans intend to hold only 1 day of hearings on a proposal that the American people, and especially American seniors, have yet to see. This is fundamentally unfair.

Mr. Speaker, a great Republican President hailed our democracy as a government of the people, by the people, and for the people. Our democracy is not just about free elections of representatives, it is about citizen participation in a free and open process in the formulation of public policy. Given the magnitude of the \$270 billion cut, our citizens deserve better.

FEDERAL FUNDS FOR NATIONAL COUNCIL OF SENIOR CITIZENS

(Mr. LONGLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LONGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I understand that being attacked and engaging in political debate is part of the terrain one deals with when one assumes this type of office, but imagine my surprise when I obtained a copy of the tax return of the National Council of Senior Citizens, a group which is currently orchestrating a tax on me in my district, which shows that they received nearly \$73 million in Federal funds for the year ending June 30, 1994, almost 96 percent of their budget, from the Federal Government.

Furthermore, I obtained information that over the last two election cycles

they had contributed nearly \$417,000 exclusively to Democratic candidates. Not one red cent to a Republican candidate.

Again, it is a citizen's right to express their first amendment point of view, but is there a connection?

I also obtained a copy of the audit report of the National Council wherein they say in their report that the heavy reliance on governmental grants poses a potential danger to the long-term structure of the National Council. Absent such grants, the council would be unable to continue its current level of operations without seeking new revenue sources.

MORE HEARINGS NEEDED ON MEDICARE AND MEDICAID

(Mr. WISE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, when I held a town meeting on Medicare last week in West Virginia, there was justifiable and understandable confusion about the details. Republicans want to cut \$270 billion over 7 years. Democrats say somewhere between \$90 and \$120 billion will be enough. The Republicans argue do they want to take the difference and give it to a tax cut?

Mr. Speaker, people have genuine questions, yet on something like this there ought to be more than 1 day of hearings, on programs such as Medicare and Medicaid, that affect 70 million Americans. Almost 700,000 West Virginians alone will have their health care somehow brought into question, whether senior citizens or Medicaid recipients. They deserve more than health stealth.

This is a B-2 bomber. I know why they like it on the other side. They like it because it is flying low on the radar screen with no details out there. They plopped the plan out on the table yesterday and they will mark it up today with no hearings on Medicaid, a program that affects 400,000 West Virginians. They want to do the same on Medicare with 300,000 West Virginians affected.

Mr. Speaker, surely the single greatest changes in America's health care plans deserve more than 1 day of hearings.

REPEAL OF GOVERNMENT SUGAR PROGRAM

(Mr. DAVIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the repeal of the Government sugar program. There is no plausible reason why our Government is involved with setting and controlling the price of sugar. It is Big Government at its worst. It is a sweet deal for a wealthy few. It promotes the destruction of one of our prized environmental landmarks—the Florida Everglades. VerDate 20-SEP-95

Because of this program, every citizen pays a hidden tax that takes money out of the pockets of American consumers to the tune of more than \$1.4 billion every year in higher food prices, according to GAO. This hidden tax has cost Americans more than \$10 billion over the last decade. In addition, the consumer interest group Public Voice has recently estimated that the sugar program has cost the Federal Government \$110 million annually because of higher purchase prices for sugar and sugar containing products used in domestic feeding and food programs. This is money that my constituents could be saving, investing, or using to buy needed items for their families and children. But because of this program, they must pay higher prices on everything containing sugar—all because of the Federal Government interfering in the marketplace.

This fall the House will be debating a new farm bill. We will also be debating the budget reconciliation bill that will balance the Federal budget in 7 years, which will force substantial cuts in farm commodity programs such as wheat, dairy, corn, cotton, and rice. While these programs have faced cuts on average of 40 percent since 1985, sugar has not been cut one iota. This is simply unacceptable.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote for repeal of this program.

THE CONTRACT WITH AMERICA: WHAT IT MEANS FOR MEDICARE

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, three things will happen if the Republicans get their way with Medicare. No. 1, senior citizens will pay more in premiums. Hold on to your wallet, because House Republicans under NEWT GINGRICH have proposed a 100-percent increase in the monthly Medicare premium. That is right, a 100-percent increase, the largest premium increase in Medicare history.

The second thing that will happen is senior citizens will find it harder to choose their own doctor. Senate Republicans would try to push people into managed care, taking away their right to physician choice.

The third thing that will happen, Mr. Speaker, if Republicans get their way with Medicare, is that the American middle class will subsidize a huge tax break for the richest Americans.

We are starting to see the main effect of the Contract With America, a shift of money from the middle class to the rich. The Gingrich gravy train means at least \$245 billion in tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans. And guess who pays the bill?

Mr. Speaker, Gingrich Republicans want to give the American people the

largest Medicare cut in American history. It is simply not right.

WASHINGTON POST SUPPORTS REPUBLICANS ON MEDICARE

(Mr. HOKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, I do not normally go around quoting the Washington Post, because normally it does not agree with the way I see things, being a liberal paper of record. But look what they have said just 2 days ago about exactly what my friend from Ohio, prior speaker, was just talking about. It is called medagogues.

Newt Gingrich and Bob Dole accused the Democrats and their allies yesterday of conducting a campaign based on distortion and fear. They are right. That is precisely what the Democrats are doing. It is pretty much all they are doing, and it is crummy stuff.

Crummy stuff. Those are tough words.

It is crummy stuff. They are absolutely right. And that is exactly what we hear day after day after day from the other side of the aisle.

The fact is, we are trying to simplify. We are preserving, saving, and improving Medicare and, again, that is exactly what they say.

The Republicans have a plan. It is credible. It is gutsy, it is inventive, it addresses a genuine problem that is only going to get worse. What the Democrats have instead is a lot of expostulation, TV ads, and scare talk. It is demagoguery big time.

KEEP GOVERNMENT RUNNING

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, Speaker GINGRICH says we do not want to shut down the Federal Government. The majority leader says we do not want to shut down the Federal Government. President Clinton says we do not want to shut down the Federal Government.

Mr. Speaker, I offered an amendment in the Treasury-Postal bill last Wednesday which said we will continue the operations of Government because nobody wants to shut it down. They may want to reduce this program or cut out this program, but they want the Government to continue to serve Americans.

Why then, on almost a party line vote, when we have bipartisan support, the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. DAVIS], the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. WOLF], the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. WYNN], the gentlewoman from Maryland [Mrs. MORELLA], and others of us on both sides of the aisle, say nobody intends to shut down the Federal Government.

Why then do we not pass just a simple little bill that says we are not going to put this into politics. We will not play with people's lives, their abil-

ity to fund their mortgages, their food payments, their college tuition loans? Let us act responsibly. Let us keep our Government running. Let us pass the continuing resolution now.

PRESERVING MEDICARE

(Mr. DICKEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DICKEY. Mr. Speaker, last April the Medicare trustees reported that if nothing was done to Medicare, that it would go bankrupt. What we have is a proposition that we are making to try to preserve Medicare. The opposition comes and says, no that is terrible, and presents all these scare tactics.

But I think we are in a step process. What I believe is that we do have the knowledge on the side of those people who are opposing these modifications, we do have that knowledge that comes from having control of the Medicare Program for 30 or 40 years.

These people know where we can make modifications, slow down the increases, and save Medicare. What we are probably doing right now is trying to get their attention. They are probably saying, "We do not believe they are going to do it. But if they do it, we can go in there and help."

I ask those people who are opposed to those changes we are trying to make to help us with specific information that you all have so that we can help the American people and save Medicare. That is what we are trying to do.

MORE TIME NEEDED FOR MEDICARE HEARINGS

(Mr. DOGGETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, it is September 20 and another day has passed, and not one Republican has been willing to come to the floor of this House and level with the American people by spelling out the details of how far they plan to reach into the pockets of American seniors and cut Medicare. I have come to the conclusion it is because most of them do not have the slightest idea. They just know they are on a mission for NEWT to cut \$270 billion out of Medicare, and they do not want the details to get in the way.

Mr. Speaker, we are told that this afternoon they are going to finally spell out some of the details at some staff briefing, and then they will have a 1-day stacked hearing on it tomorrow, all that the American people will get to see in hearings on this plan.

They spent 28 days on Whitewater. Why just have 1 day, unless it is to whitewash this bad Republican cut in Medicare?

Mr. Speaker, I think as long as the Republicans are unwilling to have a