

□ 1045

They have taken it step by step. Since it is an election year, they want to provide the tax break this year, hand out candy before the election, and next year come back with the full dimension of the Medicare cuts that will be necessary to pay for these election eve political tax breaks for the wealthy. The good indication that they still have their plan to cut Medicare on track is the budget resolution we have up tomorrow as they propose to have seniors pay for bills that they get from doctors above what Medicare pays.

THE PRESIDENT AND WELFARE

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

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, you will remember that during his Presidential campaign, Bill Clinton promised to end welfare as we know it. But when he was elected, he vetoed welfare reform twice.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans take a different view. We do not view welfare as a political football. We want to give the States greater flexibility. We want tough work requirements. We want a 5-year limit on benefits. We want to lift people out of poverty and despair.

There is a huge difference between Bill Clinton's view on welfare reform and the Republican view of welfare reform. Bill Clinton wants to demagog. He wants to protect Washington bureaucracy and Washington spending.

Republicans want to actually keep our promises and actually do something to make a difference in the lives of those caught in the grasp of the welfare state.

Mr. Speaker, we can only hope that Bill Clinton will honor his word and help us reform welfare.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CHAMBLISS). The Chair would remind the Member not to refer to the President in personal terms.

IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE OF UNION PACIFIC-SOUTHERN PA- CIFIC MERGER

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

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my deep concern regarding the proposed merger between the Union Pacific and Southern Pacific Railroads which is under consideration by the Surface Transportation Board.

If approved, this merger would be the largest rail merger in the history of the United States. It will result in only two railroads controlling the entire western half of the Nation. This mas-

sive consolidation of rail transportation could hurt competition in the rail industry, and ultimately, hurt farmers, ranchers, and shippers in the agriculture industry.

It is no secret that rail service is critical to the economic well-being of this Nation's agricultural and rural economies. Nearly half of all grain produced in the United States moves to market by rail. In fact, in 1995, grain, grain mill products, and other farm products accounted for more than 2.14 million rail loadings.

The very survival of farmers and ranchers depends on their ability to ship commodities at a competitive price and in a timely fashion. Access to reliable, cost-effective rail transportation is the only way they can remain competitive in markets here and overseas. With this proposed merger, they may not have that critical access.

With this merger, competition for rail transportation of agricultural products will be eliminated in some areas. With reduced competitive transportation options, agricultural shippers could be faced with higher rates and prices for rail services.

Farmers and local shippers in many rural areas will become captive customers, totally dependent on only one carrier to supply grain cars and ship to distant markets.

The proposed merger seems to be on a dangerous fast track. As the Surface Transportation Board considers this merger, we must urge them to consider all alternatives to monopoly and duopoly.

CHILDREN NEED PARENTS, NOT GOVERNMENT EXPERTS

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

Mr. LARGENT. Mr. Speaker, in the next few days, we will be hearing a lot about the plight of children. The Stand for Children rally, scheduled for Saturday, will urge government to do more for children. The best protectors of children, the event organizers claim, are government bureaucrats and children's advocates.

I disagree. The best advocates for children today—and the most unappreciated—are moms and dads standing together for their children. The best thing we could do as a society and for children is not pour more money into marginal programs, but affirm and support families and parents.

H.R. 1946, the Parental Rights and Responsibilities Act, promotes the idea that family is key to providing for children. Parents are in the best position to protect and provide for their children. And the PRRA protects families from the harmful actions of government bureaucrats.

If the actions of the East Stroudsburg, PA, school officials who conducted genital exams on 11-year-old girls, without informing the girls or re-

ceiving explicit parental approval, is any indication of what it means to stand for children, Congress should quickly vote on and pass the PRRA. Because when it comes to children, what they need are moms and dads—not government experts.

TEENAGE PREGNANCY PREVENTION MONTH

(Mrs. CLAYTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, both President Clinton and Governor Hunt of my State have declared May as Teenager Pregnancy Prevention Month.

Many are observing National Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month because it has been shown that many more teenagers become pregnant during May than in any other month.

This is attributed to the many special events that occur in May such as proms, graduations, field trips, and other social outings.

The goal of teen pregnancy prevention efforts should be to assist teens to achieve social responsibility and long-term economic self-sufficiency.

To achieve this goal we must have a combined effort between the public and the private sectors.

Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month provides an opportunity to recognize existing teen pregnancy prevention programs.

Over the days and weeks to follow, I will share with our colleagues information about a variety of teenage pregnancy prevention programs that are underway.

It is time for all of us to join in this effort.

SPENDING ON CHILD CARE

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

Ms. DUNN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, last week the White House rapid response team got another one wrong. Clinton adviser George Stephanopolous actually said that the administration opposed the Republican bill in Congress because it cuts too deeply into child care. "We've been willing to have flexibility," he said, "but we cannot agree to cuts in child care."

Mr. Speaker, are Republicans cutting child care? Well, to borrow a phrase from John McLaughlin: wrong. Let us talk reality. The current Republican welfare plan based on the bipartisan Governors' proposal calls for \$4.5 billion more in mandatory and discretionary child care spending than the Clinton plan.

Here is the bottom line, Mr. Speaker: Republicans provide more funding for child care in our welfare plan than does the President in his, and making up excuses to oppose welfare reform does not help a single child escape the welfare

trap and does not provide a single mother the help she needs to find a job.

President Clinton is in dire need of sensitivity training for hiring a pollster who also is employed by an accused rapist.

Mr. Speaker, while we are signing up Clinton administration officials in classes, someone should enroll George in remedial math.

WELFARE REFORM PLAN IS NOT BIPARTISAN

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

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, let me point out that the statement of the last speaker is just wrong. This is not a bipartisan proposal that is being brought up on Medicaid and welfare. The Democratic Governors have pointed out, although they worked very hard with Republican Governors to come out with a fair compromise on the subject of Medicaid and welfare, the proposal that the Republicans are bringing forward is not that compromise.

Mr. Speaker, once again we find the Republicans trying to bring out a Presidential veto rather than getting anything done. At least we had the Democratic Governors and the Republican Governors working together, a lesson that we should learn here of working together. But instead, the Republican leadership is bringing out their bill, not the bipartisan bill.

Mr. Speaker, I regret that, because I think we had an opportunity to get something done. But, obviously, the Republican leadership does not want that to happen.

CHANGE WELFARE AS WE KNOW IT

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

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, look, most of the American people know that our welfare programs are not working. They have been successful in transferring money, and in the process they have taken away the self-respect, in many cases they have taken away the eagerness for those individuals to get up every morning and go to work and be a contributor to society.

Mr. Speaker, can we imagine any American family going to their young teenage daughter and saying, "I want to talk to you about individual responsibility and pregnancy"; and then they say, "If you get pregnant, we are going to increase your allowance by \$500 a month, give you a separate place to live, and give you a food allowance"?

We would never do that as individual families, yet our society does that. It has got to change. My Governor, John Engler, has come to this administration for waivers. Governor Thompson

of Wisconsin has come in for waivers. Let us change welfare as we know it.

SENIORS TARGETED BY REPUBLICAN MEDICARE PLAN

(Ms. MCKINNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, Medicare protections against the extra-billing of seniors are the latest target of Republican leaders. As it stands now, health care providers are not allowed to extra-bill seniors for services paid for by Medicare. Under the Republicans' latest Medicare proposal, however, seniors would become sitting ducks for unscrupulous providers who want to make a fast buck by extra-billing the sick elderly.

At the same time, Mr. Speaker, Republican leaders are perfectly happy to let gluttonous defense contractors overbill the American taxpayer. Rather than clamping down on military contractors' overbilling the U.S. taxpayer, they will get an extra \$12.4 billion, thanks to the Republicans.

Under a Republican-controlled Congress, defense contractors and the health care industry have free reign to give our seniors and taxpayers a B-2-sized wedge with NEWT's blessing.

WELFARE SYSTEM NEEDS GREATER FLEXIBILITY

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, let me tell my colleagues about Sue and Sally Jones; real people, fake names. Sue is 18 years old. She has a baby. Her sister, Sally, is 15 years old. She does not have any children. She is in the 8th grade; should be in the 10th grade. Sue is a 10th grader who should be a senior.

Mr. Speaker, they do not live with their biological dad, because he was killed when they were toddlers. They live their biological mother's common-law husband, but the biological mother does not live at home anymore because she is a crack addict. One day she threw ash in her live-in husband's eyes, and he is disabled and cannot work.

They have a brother but not by the same biological father. He is in jail. This is a real family, but the caseworker in Savannah tells me that he thinks he can get both of these ladies off of the Government's welfare system and into the socioeconomic mainstream; but he needs flexibility.

Mr. Speaker, right now in our rigid, Washington-dictated welfare system one person has to work on their child care needs, one on the food needs, and one on the health care needs. Somebody else has to work on transportation, someone else on education.

Mr. Speaker, I tell my colleagues, these girls cannot get out of the poverty trap with a system like this. They need flexibility. The caseworker needs

flexibility, and that is why we need to support Medicaid and welfare State grants.

CONGRESS SHOULD CELEBRATE OLDER AMERICANS MONTH

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, shame on us. This is the end of Older Americans Month, and here we are again, throwing them to the wolves.

First of all, we are telling many of our older Americans who live in rural communities that with the Republican extreme Medicare plan, they are going to see some of their more familiar hospital sites closed.

Oh, yes, Mr. Speaker, I received a letter from those individuals who would suggest that we do not have the facts. I am saddened to say that that individual who wrote a letter to my office did not have the courage to write a return address for us to be able to reply with the facts.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, rural hospitals will close under the extremist Republican Medicare plan. And, yes, many of our seniors who have gotten familiar with their own physicians, have a relationship with them, will be pushed into managed care.

Mr. Speaker, do my colleagues know about managed care? That is the kind of care that says we can only have 15 minutes with our doctor. That is the kind of care that says: I do not know if I can refer to you a specialist; it may cost too much.

We need to be able to say to the Republicans that we believe in older Americans because they have believed in America. We should not give to the wealthy Americans the crown jewel of tax reduction while we short-change our senior citizens. I am going to celebrate Older Americans Month.

REPUBLICANS' MEDICAID PROPOSALS WILL ALLOW EXTRA CHARGES TO RECIPIENTS

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, last week, in a room off the floor, House Republicans could take a minute out of their day and have their picture taken with a senior citizen and a sign that read something like this: "I am friendly to seniors."

It was a staged photo opportunity and, in fact, it was and is phony. Since taking control of the Congress, the Republicans have waged an all-out assault against seniors. Their new budget cuts \$169 billion from Medicare in order to finance tax breaks for the wealthy.

Today's Washington Post says the current Medicaid proposal from the GOP would "turn Medicaid over to the