

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

States. It would allow States to levy copayments and other charges on certain Medicaid recipients."

In other words, Mr. Speaker, seniors could be forced to pay for services that they receive now. And it means extra bills for many who are on fixed incomes.

Republicans have consistently targeted seniors for budget cutbacks while setting aside hefty tax breaks for the wealthy. With a track record like that, it is no wonder that the Republicans have had to stage photo ops. Better to hide behind a Kodak moment than to face how your policies have affected this Nation's seniors.

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TRAVELGATE DOCUMENTS

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

Mr. CLINGER. Mr. Speaker, I want to announce to the Members of the House that the White House has, within the last half hour, turned over a box of documents to my committee, the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, regarding our investigation into the Travelgate firing matter, together with a comprehensive privileged log detailing those documents which are being withheld from examination by my committee under a claim of executive privilege.

We are clearly making some progress, I think, in this matter. As a result of that, I have requested and asked the leadership of the majority to hold back, to pull back the contempt citation which was scheduled to be considered either today or tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, I would consider this the beginning of a victory for the House because we are reasserting the rights of the House to have access to documents. We had been told by the administration that they would never give us a privileged log; today they did. I think that is enough reason to hold back on any further proceedings on the contempt citation.

We need to examine the documents which the White House has turned over to us. We need to consider the claims of executive privilege that have been exerted with regard to, I would point out, a very large number of documents. About 11 pages are being withheld, 11 pages listing the documents being withheld. We have to consider the validity, the viability of the claims of executive privilege. So we want to spend some time carefully reviewing the offered documents and understand clearly why they are withholding others and whether that has any validity. Only then I think, Mr. Speaker, can a new judgment be made as to whether we need to press ahead or complete our investigations with the missing documents that the White House is claiming must be withheld without looking at those for whatever reasons they are withholding it.

So, Mr. Speaker, with that, as I indicated, I have requested our leadership to pull the contempt citation from consideration from the floor today.

PERMISSION FOR SUNDRY COMMITTEES AND THEIR SUBCOMMITTEES TO SIT TODAY DURING THE 5-MINUTE RULE

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the following committees and their subcommittees be permitted to sit today while the House is meeting in the Committee of the Whole under the 5-minute rule:

Committee on Agriculture; Committee on Commerce; Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities; Committee on Government Reform and Oversight; Committee on International Relations; Committee on the Judiciary; Committee on Resources; Committee on Small Business; Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; Committee on Veterans' Affairs; and Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that the minority has been consulted and that there is no objection to these requests.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CHAMBLISS). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3517, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997

Mr. QUILLEN. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 442 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 442

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 1(b) of rule XXIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3517) making appropriations for military construction, family housing, and base realignment and closure for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. Points of order against consideration of the bill for failure to comply with clause 7 of rule XXI are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five minute rule. Points of order against provisions in the bill for failure to comply with clause 2 or 6 of rule XXI are waived. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Con-

gressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 6 of rule XXIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read. The Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may postpone until a time during further consideration in the Committee of the Whole a request for a recorded vote on any amendment. The Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may reduce to not less than five minutes the time for voting by electronic device on any postponed question that immediately follows another vote by electronic device without intervening business, provided that the time for voting by electronic device on the first in any series of questions shall be not less than fifteen minutes. After the reading of the final lines of the bill, a motion that the Committee of the Whole rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted shall, if offered by the majority leader or a designee, have precedence over a motion to amend. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Tennessee [Mr. QUILLEN] is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. QUILLEN. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. HALL], pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

(Mr. QUILLEN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks and to include extraneous material.)

Mr. QUILLEN. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 442 is an open rule providing for the consideration of H.R. 3517, the military construction appropriations bill for fiscal year 1997. The rule provides 1 hour of general debate, and waives the 3-day requirement for availability of printed hearings and the committee report. In this case, the committee report has been available for the required amount of time but the complete set of hearings has not.

The rule also waives the prohibition against unauthorized appropriations and legislation in general appropriations bills. This is primarily necessary because the Defense authorization bill has not yet been signed into law. Additionally, the rule waives the prohibition on transfers of unobligated funds, which was included at the request of the Appropriations Committee.

The rule allows for priority in recognition to Members who have preprinted their amendments in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD prior to their consideration, and it provides the usual motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

Mr. Speaker, there are two provisions in this rule which deviate from the typical rule on a general appropriations bill. First, the rule provides the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole the authority to postpone and cluster votes on amendments.