

than I suspect 7, 10, 12—there is going to be a higher part B premium in this thing and a means test that drops down to \$75,000 a year.

I hope this does not degenerate to a situation where we are attacking that kind of proposal and try to score points. It seems to me we have to come to the American people and say, "All right, you made a good faith effort to fix this thing inside the budget resolution, but for those of us who have looked at this problem for a bit longer period of time and a longer period of time out in the future, it behooves us to come and say, "I want to join this battle but not on the outside only having to make a criticism."

I hope that the Republican majority will try to enlist people like myself rather than trying to score this as a Republican victory saying the Republicans alone are doing it. I hope you reach out to us. I hope leader DOLE is either listening or staff is listening to this. Speaker GINGRICH, I forgive you for your intemperate remarks yesterday. I am not going to stand on the floor of the Senate and say I am permanently angry, will not sit down and meet with Speaker GINGRICH because he said I and other Democrats are morally bankrupt. We have a problem to solve. Deal us in and bring those of us—and there are others on this floor. I know Senator NUNN feels this way, Senator ROBB feels this way, Senator LIEBERMAN feels this way. There are many others. I am by no means an all-inclusive list.

We know we have a problem and we know the problem is much more than a 7-year budget problem. We are able to look at the numbers. Let us present the American people with the truth. Let us give them the facts as the Speaker said we should. Let us have the courage to give them all the facts. Otherwise, Mr. President, in very short order, we will not have Pell grants at all, we will not have student loans at all, we will not have chapter 1, we will not have Head Start—all the sorts of things this year we are anguishing because we do not have enough money to provide young people with, money they need to go to college—by the way, a cost that has gone up even faster than health care. We have families in Nebraska taking out second mortgages on their homes so they can go to college. We are cutting all that while we are funding larger and larger increases for retirement and health care.

Mr. President, we cannot continue it. I am standing here as a Democrat saying I am willing to join with Republicans if you go further. Let us not retreat from this proposal. Let us take it further to solve this long-term problem, not only so that Medicare is preserved for the long term, but so that we preserve our capacity to invest in these young people who watch this occasionally who ask us what we are going to do for their future.

Let us make certain at the Federal level we have the capacity when we reach agreement, and very often we do, that education gets a job done; that

there are ways for us to increase productivity; that when we reach agreement on what ought to be done, that we have the fiscal capacity to do it.

Unless we take this proposal and make it larger, I fear that all we are going to do is spend the next 60 days scoring perhaps some terrific and effective political points on who is doing what to whom on Medicare, but we will not have done what I consider to be an urgent task, and that is fixing this entitlement problem once and for all.

I thank the distinguished occupant of the chair for his patience. Again, I appreciate very much his personal work in health care and his political work now in health care. I hope, in fact, that the leadership will open the doors a bit so those of us who do care deeply about this thing, who are willing to present facts, who are willing to tell the truth, who are willing to suck up and use a little bit of our political capital and courage are given an opportunity to do so.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

RECESS UNTIL MONDAY,
SEPTEMBER 18, 1995, AT 9:45 A.M.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 9:45 a.m., Monday, September 18.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 3:31 p.m., recessed until Monday, September 18, 1995, at 9:45 a.m.