

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Speaker has announced the following guidelines—

Mr. DOGGETT. This is an announcement by Speaker GINGRICH?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. First by Speaker O'Neill. It has been a continual policy. It has been the policy of the Speakers. Let the Chair quote precisely from section 757 of the Manual:

The Speaker has announced and enforced a policy of conferring recognition for unanimous consent requests for the consideration of unreported bills and resolutions only when assured that the majority and minority floor and committee leaderships have no objection.

Mr. DOGGETT. Further parliamentary inquiry, the minority leadership has been consulted. Every Democrat has signed on to this proposal to allow us additional time to consider the details of this Medicare plan, and my inquiry would be then if the Democratic minority leadership has agreed to this, it is only the Republican leadership that wants to thwart a fair and open hearing?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair is not aware of clearance by all necessary Members.

Mr. DOGGETT. All Democratic Members have signed on to this resolution and the ranking member.

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, point of order.

Mr. DOGGETT. The Democratic membership here is indicating for fair and open hearings.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is no longer asking for a parliamentary inquiry. He can draw his own conclusions. The Chair has stated the fact.

Mr. DOGGETT. Further parliamentary inquiry, what procedure then would be appropriate for a Member, myself or a Member of our leadership, the gentlewoman from Connecticut, to present? What timing, what form would be appropriate to present a unanimous consent request so that we could have a full hearing on Medicare instead of just 1 day?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair must be aware of clearance by all the necessary Members, as announced in the Speaker's policy.

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Mr. DOGGETT. Further parliamentary inquiry then, Mr. Speaker.

If the Democrat leadership comes to the floor of this House and announces its desire to have this resolution considered immediately, will the unanimous-consent request be accepted at that time?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KNOLLENBERG). The Chair will repeat. The Chair will not entertain that request according to the guidelines as a matter of discretionary recognition.

Mr. DOGGETT. So, further parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Speaker.

So a statement then on behalf of the Democrat leadership by the minority leader or by all members of the Demo-

crat Caucus that they request that this unanimous-consent request for full and complete Medicare hearings occur, that would not be enough to get it entertained here on the floor.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Does the gentleman understand the Chair's guidelines? They have been stated at great length.

Mr. DOGGETT. If I understood it, I would not be asking the further parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has referred to what is proper. The leadership on both sides must consent to this request, and they have to clear this. It cannot be brought up in this manner.

Mr. DOGGETT. Further parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Speaker.

Unless Speaker GINGRICH clears us having more than 1 day of hearing, it cannot occur. Is that the ruling of the Chair?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The majority floor leader and the chairman of the Committee on Rules must clear this request.

Mr. DOGGETT. So, unless the Republican chairman of the committee, Mr. SOLOMON, and—

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, point of order.

Mr. DOGGETT. We cannot take up a full hearing.

#### ELIMINATING THE FRAUD AND ABUSE WHICH RIDDLES MEDICAID

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

Mrs. SEASTRAND. Mr. Speaker, for years the liberal Congresses have been mandating States to spend billions of dollars on programs. I know because I served in the California State Legislature. One such program is Medicaid, which now consumes nearly one-fifth of our State's budgets. This coupled with the fact that \$16 billion a year from this program is lost to fraud and abuse demonstrates the need for genuine reform.

Republicans know that more Washington bureaucracy is not the prescription to save this program. That is why the legislation which we are introducing will give more freedom to State and local officials. And recipients need not fear that they will lose benefits. Our resolution will increase funding to the States by 39 percent over the next 7 years.

Only by dismantling the oversized, inefficient Washington bureaucracy can we eliminate the fraud and abuse which riddles Medicaid. Only by increasing funding to the States can we heal this ailing program.

#### WHAT'S GOOD FOR THE GOOSE

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

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, "I am concerned that the scope, authority and independence of the special counsel will be limited by the guidelines the Ethics Committee has established. The House of Representatives, as well as the American public, deserve an investigation which will uncover the truth. At this moment, I am afraid that the apparent restrictions placed on this special counsel will not allow the truth to be uncovered. The rules normally applied by the Ethics Committee to an investigation of a typical member are insufficient in an investigation of the Speaker of the House. Clearly, this investigation has to meet a higher standard of public accountability and integrity."

Prophetic words, indeed, Mr. Speaker.

These are the words of the current Speaker of the House in 1988 referring to the investigation of a former Speaker of this House.

#### POINT OF ORDER

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I have a point of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his point of order.

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I made the point yesterday with precisely the same speaker that it is out of order, according to the House rules, to discuss a matter that is pending before the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I wish to be heard on the point of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, the words, every single word except for "prophetic words, indeed," Mr. Speaker, that I spoke were the words that the current Speaker spoke in 1988. This is not a reference to the current investigation or the current Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will read the following statement:

The Chair has consistently ruled that it is not in order during debate to refer to the official conduct of other Members where such conduct is not under consideration in the House by way of a report from the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct or as a question of the privileges of the House.

#### PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, I do so so that, when I speak, I will understand the parameters of that.

As long as the focus is on the powers of a special counsel rather than a particular inquiry before the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, it would not be out of order?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman referred to a particular inquiry pending before the committee. VerDate 20-SEP-95 07:02