

parents. Family assets, including homes, may be sold or seized to pay nursing home bills. No one is guaranteed Medicaid nursing home eligibility as they are now. Families may be forced to spend their life savings for long-term care of a loved one. And on and on and on.

That was a report that was issued last November. A report issued in December, just recently, by the National Citizens' Coalition for Nursing Home Reform says this about the repeal of Medicaid. "The report analyzed nursing home laws in 10 States and found none of the current State laws meet the minimum standards found necessary in 1987 to protect nursing home residents."

"This proposal moves us back in time to the nursing home dark ages when residents were tied and drugged, lying in their own waste, ignored by untrained, overworked staff."

So what is going on here, basically, ladies and gentlemen, is that Mr. GINGRICH, the Speaker of the House, has closed down the Government for the second time in order for him to continue with his Republican colleagues to dismantle Medicare, a program that we have had, we have enjoyed now since 1964. It has protected literally tens of millions of people in this country from economic devastation, and he goes on to take after Medicaid, which protects children, a quarter of the children in America who get their health care from Medicaid.

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I said I would not yield, and I would ask the Speaker to enforce my right to speak on the floor without being interrupted.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GUTKNECHT). The gentleman from Michigan controls the time.

Mr. BONIOR. The Speaker goes on to take on the disabled, our elderly in this country, and children, a quarter of which, as I indicated, get their health care from Medicaid.

These assaults on middle income people, on the elderly, on disabled, and on children in this country are what we are trying to protect. We will not be blackmailed by Speaker GINGRICH by shutting down this Government to go after these people. They deserve the support and the help of every Member of this institution, and we will not be blackmailed by the dismantling of Medicare and by the repeal of Medicaid in order for our seniors, as these two reports issued in November and December, in order for our seniors to have this type of activity with respect to their long-term care perpetrated upon them.

So we say to our friends on this side of the aisle, stop this nonsense, stop these games that we are playing. Let us get this Government back to work and let us get on with dealing with the real question at hand, and that is a balanced budget that protects Medicare, that protects Medicaid, that protects

education, and that protects our environment. That is what we need to do.

We have dealt with the issue of 7 years. We have dealt with the CBO issue, but the majority has done nothing, nothing to live up to the standards that were set in the last CR with respect to the issues of Medicaid, Medicare, education, and the environment. There has been no movement at all on the Republican side on those issues.

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BONIOR. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman for raising this point because when we look at the Medicaid Program, and we see an ad here that is signed by corporate leaders, who have laid off tens of thousands of Americans, and the children in many cases of low-paid workers, those children of those workers have lost their health insurance.

Three million children are without health insurance. And what the Speaker is saying is we have to dismantle Medicaid rather than give those children health care coverage.

#### BUDGET MUST BE MATHEMATICALLY BALANCED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. SOUDER] is recognized during morning business for 3 minutes.

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, it is tough during this time of year, when we should be home with our families and celebrating the birth of our Savior and having the time of a wonderful holiday season, to be pinned down here with this acrimony. And I know many Americans throughout the country are fed up, but we are at a real crossroads.

It is especially cruel, I believe, to be putting out the false information and scaring the most vulnerable in our society, the senior citizens, who do not have a lot of their life to look forward to in many ways, and yet when they hear this type of thing, to be scared with the false information that is out is especially disturbing and especially cruel at this time of year.

I also heard an earlier speaker say that we should not just mathematically balance the budget. My question is what will we do, emotionally balance the budget, rhetorically balance the budget, demagogically balance the budget? Of course, we have to mathematically balance the budget. Every American in this country has to mathematically balance their budgets.

I guess there is a real difference between the two sides. They believe in Santa Claus and we do not. We have to mathematically balance the budget. That is why we are sent to Congress; \$12 trillion is enough over the next 7 years. We are not cutting the budget. The previous 7 years was \$7 trillion. That is, in any terms, real growth. The

question here is how far is the Government going to grow, how big is the Government going to be?

For example, one of the other negotiations we are having with this President is he has been told, in effect, and I think most Americans can relate to this, that this bank account has been overdrawn for years and by big amounts. An average American, if they were told their bank account was overdrawn \$20,000 would work with the bank immediately to try to address that. We have compromised and said, OK, we will do this over 7 years to balance it. He refuses to come back with a proposal to actually balance it. He basically wants to go, OK, how about if we just leave it overdrawn by \$10,000? OK, how about if we just leave it overdrawn by 8,000?

The fact is we cannot have negotiations unless both sides agree on the fundamental principle that the budget has to be balanced, and the President has not put a proposal on the table that balances the budget. Once he puts a proposal to balance the budget on the table, then we can get into real discussions about how we will prioritize that spending. And that is a legitimate thing for the American people to expect, that we would have such a discussion as to how to prioritize that spending. But it is also legitimate they expect to have a budget on the table.

The stock market is not collapsing because of a CR, the stock market is worried we will not balance the budget. As Allan Greenspan has already said, they have factored in that we were going to balance the budget. Now they are afraid. They see the President going back on the agreement that we made, and there is a real concern in this country that we might be so gridlocked, that one party is not committed and our President is not indeed committed in spite of the rhetoric to a balanced budget.

The reason people cannot get into our national parks is he will not sign the appropriations bills. It has been nice to hear for months that we do not have the appropriations bills done, but basically, there are three over there now to be signed. Hopefully, another one will move.

I want to conclude by saying I realize that most Americans would be a little shocked, but it is time for the President to keep his word and put a budget on the table.

□ 0945

#### SPEAKER SHOULD ALLOW GOVERNMENT TO OPERATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Connecticut [Mr. GEJDENSON] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, what is clear here, but somewhat secretive in this town, is that of the participants in this battle, all but the Speaker are