

prevent United States persons from engaging in any commercial dealings with them, their front companies, and their agents. These measures demonstrate firmly and decisively the commitment of the United States to end the scourge that such traffickers have wrought upon society in the United States and beyond. The magnitude and dimension of the current problem warrant utilizing all available tools to wrest the destructive hold that these traffickers have on society and governments.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON,  
THE WHITE HOUSE, *October 21, 1995.*

□ 1815

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER  
AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 390

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 390. The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BLUTE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Hawaii?

There was no objection.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members are recognized for 5 minutes each.

THE BUDGET DEBATE: REMEMBER  
THE ELDERLY, POOR, AND DIS-  
ABLED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mrs. THURMAN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. THURMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my outrage at the Republican tactics in this so-called budget debate. This week we will vote on the Republican proposal to cut Medicaid funds by \$182 billion and block grant the Program.

The elderly, the disabled, and the poor children of America have had no voice in this debate. They have been lost in the rhetoric of the majority party.

The Republicans talk about choice and freedom for the States. However, the only choice the States will have is either to raise State taxes to remedy the cuts or kick people off Medicaid.

The Republicans do not want to talk about the people who need Medicaid.

They do not want to talk about the grandmother in a nursing home, or the disabled child in your neighborhood, or the pregnant woman in need of prenatal care.

The Republicans do not want you to know that they are removing Federal standards for nursing homes or that they are not requiring States to cover Medicare premiums for the poorest seniors.

The truth is, when we move from a shared system based on individual

needs to a capped system that shifts the problem to the States, States will have to deny maternity services, early childhood care, assisted living benefits, and long-term care to some of our most vulnerable citizens. More than 2½ million people in Florida depend on Medicaid for basic health care, and because our population is growing so quickly, this number is increasing every day. In Florida, over 110,000 seniors rely on the Medicaid payments for their Medicare premiums repealed by the Republican plan. Almost 400,000 children depend on Medicaid coverage for check-ups, immunizations, and emergencies. By the year 2000, Florida is expected to provide long-term care to as many as 380,000 seniors.

Yet one-half of the total Medicaid cut of \$182 billion will come from my State of Florida and seven other States.

Under the Republican capped block grant, the reality is that Florida will have to either kick people off Medicaid, or make up the shortfall with State tax money.

Basing the 1996 Medicaid funding formula on 1994 statistics ignores the growth in Florida during the last year. It puts us in a huge financial hole from the start by simply ignoring our \$2 billion in new expenses this year. As a result, Florida will lose more than \$10.5 billion in Medicaid funds over the next 7 years, a 26-percent reduction. Quite frankly, it is not fair.

The inequality of the funding formula is blatantly apparent. If you abused the system in the past, you get rewarded under the Republican formula. The more money a State was able to pilfer from the system under the current rules, the higher the baseline for its block grant. How can you possibly call that reform?

Of course, there are penalties in the plan. The penalties are for playing fair, working hard to contain costs, and obeying the rules. The poor, the elderly, and the disabled will be the ones paying these penalties.

We have tried to reason with our colleagues on the other side of the aisle, especially those from Florida who know our situation. We have tried to appeal to their sense of compassion and encouraged them to consider what will happen to Florida under this formula.

In 2 days, when I come to this House to vote against these cuts, I will remember the faces of those elderly, poor, and disabled in my district who will be denied health services and long-term care under this plan. Since my Republican colleagues are so anxious to secure tax cuts for the wealthy, I wonder whom they will be thinking of.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. SCARBOROUGH] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. SCARBOROUGH addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina [Mrs. CLAYTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mrs. CLAYTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

A SALUTE TO GREECE: OXI DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. BILIRAKIS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, October 28, 1995, marks the 55th anniversary of a very historic day in Greek history, and for that matter world history.

On October 28, 1940, the Italian Minister in Athens presented an ultimatum to the Prime Minister of Greece, demanding the unconditional surrender of Greece. His answer: "Oxi," which means "no" in Greek.

Military success for the Italians would have sealed off the Balkans from the south and helped Hitler's plan to invade Russia. Indeed, with an army that was fully equipped, well supplied, and backed by superior air and naval power, the Italians were expected to overrun Greece within a short time.

However, despite their lack of equipment, the Greek Army proved to be well trained and resourceful. Within a week after the Italians first attacked, it was clear that their forces had suffered a serious setback in spite of having control of the air and fielding armored vehicles.

On November 14th, the Greek Army launched a counteroffensive and quickly drove Italian forces back well into Albania. On December 6th, the Greeks captured Porto Edda and continued their advance along the seacoast toward Valona. By February 1, 1941, the Italians had launched strong counterattacks, however the determination of the Greek Army coupled with the severity of the winter weather, nullified the Italians' efforts.

The Italians, in an effort to bring the war to a close before they would need the help of German intervention, launched another offensive on March 12, 1941. However, after 6 days of fighting, the Italians made only insignificant gains and it became clear that German intervention was necessary.

On March 26th, Hitler shouted "I will make a clean sweep of the Balkans." It took him 5 weeks, until the end of April, to subdue Greece. It turned out to be an important 5 weeks for the world. As a result of this campaign, Hitler's plan to invade Russia had to be delayed. Instead of launching the Russia invasion on May 15, 1941, as planned, Hitler had to set a new date of June 22, 1941.

This delay proved catastrophic for the Germans and contributed to the failure of their Russian campaign.

The victory of the Greek Army against the Italians and the repudiation of Mussolini astonished the world. Greece was attacked after the