

preexisting conditions, which Republicans passed. The President instead proposed a complex federally controlled health care system complete with guarantees, comprehensive coverage, Federal price controls and other proscriptive rules regarding how employers and health care providers should all behave in the marketplace. This of course would mean waiting lines for all Americans, one-size-fits-all, dictated by bureaucrats.

Remarkably, the President again is talking about commissions, entitlements, and government mandates which of course can only lead to price controls.

First, entitlements. Mr. Speaker, Congress passed some very important legislation recently which gives the portability and preexisting conditions that we needed. And while the President proudly signed this piece of legislation, his campaign was eager to propose an additional initiative under which children and young adults would all be mandated with comprehensive health care by the government.

While all agree that children are a most valuable resource, the President's proposal is merely the first installment towards a nationalized socialized health care system under which the government pays for all and provides health care to all Americans.

A proposal has already been submitted to Congress to mandate that employers provide coverage to workers between the ages of 55 and 65, just prior to eligibility for Medicare. From here, it would only take a few steps to create an entitlement for the rest of the population. We should not be surprised that Senator KENNEDY argues that socialized national health care system is the ultimate goal.

Again, although the notion of federally mandated benefits was rejected during the Clinton health care reform debate, the President has already endorsed mandating a minimum length of stays in hospitals. Mandating the length of stay for illnesses such as flu. Mr. Speaker, what is next? Mandating the length of stay for cosmetic surgery?

Following the years of double-digit increases in health care spending, the cost of health care spending has finally begun to decline. Health plan premiums paid by large employers increased, on average, by a record-low 1.5 percent last year, while the premiums of certain types of managed care plans actually declined.

So here we are. We cannot guarantee that everybody gets all the benefits and all the coverages without putting in some kind of price controls. And that, of course, Mr. Speaker, is what President Clinton will propose next. Price controls, as we all know, just do not work. Quality of care will suffer as investment research and innovation declines. Jobs will be lost. Services will be rationed, and choices will decline. Eventually the government will have to take over the entire health care de-

livery system. Just think, government mandated, operated, and controlled health care with government doctors and nurses.

Mr. Speaker, President Clinton has deliberately begun to reconstruct our health care system. It is *deja vu* all over again.

VIOLENCE IN THE HOME

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentlewoman from Colorado [Mrs. SCHROEDER] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, I am here today, first of all, to say that over the weekend I was very pleased to hear the Speaker say he had no problem with reporting to the floor the bill that I have been pushing for a very long time. That is a bill that takes the Brady bill and says, if you are also found guilty of domestic violence abuse, you should be denied the purchase of a gun. I think all of us understand how terribly critical that is.

This bill passed unanimously in the other body, the Senate. Unanimously. Not one vote against it. The President has promised he would sign this bill if we could get it to him. He restated that promise on the train as he was coming to the convention. So, I would hope that this body would at least get that bill up there, now that the speaker has said he had no problem with it. He is the last remaining roadblock in getting that forward.

So I hope everybody joins me in sending a letter or speaking to the Speaker and getting it here before we go home. If you know the history of violence in the home, there is a tremendous number of incidents every single year where a weapon brings this to a terrible conclusion.

Furthermore, the taxpayer funds most of the damage done by those weapons because people end up in the emergency wards in America. Very often 80 percent of those costs are funded by the taxpayer. This is one of the real drivers of high health care insurance or high health care costs in this country, the fact that we have not gotten weapons brought down under control.

Mr. Speaker, while the Brady bill was originally terribly controversial, people now, I think, are in total agreement it should not be rolled back. It is proven and has stopped all sorts of people with criminal records from getting a gun. I think every American feels that criminals should not be able to go buy a gun, so that makes sense.

Our biggest problem is many States have not lifted domestic violence convictions to the level of a felony. They consider them a misdemeanor. Other States have allowed people, even though it is considered a felony, to plead guilty to a lesser crime. Therefore, when they do the checks for whether or not you should be able to buy the gun, an awful lot of people who

have been convicted of domestic violence problems are able to escape.

Again, when we look at the record, there is absolutely no reason that we should allow this to happen. So I really hope that everybody joins with me and we get that done before going home.

Mr. Speaker, we heard yesterday from both candidates a lot of discussion about crime and what they were going to do. I do not think we are ever going to solve totally the crime in the street and the violence in the society until we crack the culture of violence in the home.

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Imagine if you are afraid to be out on the street, if you are afraid to walk down the street; that is terrible, and we have to do everything we can so that Americans do not become prisoners in their home and afraid to go outdoors. But think how much worse it is, Mr. Speaker, if you are also afraid to go home because you get beat up at home, too.

I think that we have been too casual about this for much too long a time. And we have begun to make some real progress with the Violence Against Women Act, with the Brady bill, with the antiassault weapon ban, and now that we have Speaker GINGRICH saying this could go forward, I hope it does, because we need to keep making that kind of progress.

If a child sees every dispute in the home solved with violence, I cannot think of anyone who can put together a good enough conflict resolution course that they can teach in the school a couple hours a week that would change and overpower what the child learned in the home. Examples are so much more powerful.

So here is something we could do before we go home that could make a real difference. It would also save a tremendous amount of money on health care because of the costs that we see every year in our emergency rooms. I am not quite sure what we are doing here. I mean last week we hardly had any votes. September 30 is coming. That means the whole government gets shut down again.

I see us doing all sorts of namby-pamby things. Why do we not do some of these things that apparently we now have agreement?

The other thing I hope that we would be able to do after the Speaker's appearance on television this week is get the report out. He said he did not have problems with that. I would hope that we could get that done before we go home, to have issues that have been floating around this House for 2 years, that is settled, I think needs to be settled before we go home.

PREVENT GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWNS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HANCOCK). Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. GEKAS]