turning back the clock 30 years and abrogating the contract Congress made with America's seniors. Republican proposals to implement a voucher system are motivated exclusively by their desire to reduce the Federal budget by $270 billion at senior citizen's expense. The amount the voucher provides will not likely be based on the cost of a quality health care plan but, rather, what level of funding is politically acceptable in a given fiscal year.

The Federal Government would, in effect, be walking away from Medicare and saying to seniors, Here is what we can afford; you make up the difference and fend for yourselves.

Since the overwhelming majority of seniors live on fixed incomes, they will not be able to pay more. Most would be forced to buy inadequate coverage. Some may not be able to find any health insurance and, rather than having choice, as Republicans claim, seniors would struggle in an increasingly expensive insurance market to buy diminished coverage with limited funds.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to read from a statement that a senior citizen named Arthur Martin submitted to the Committee on Ways and Means on November 20, 1963. It poignantly conveys just why Medicare was needed then and why we need it today.

Mr. Martin said that his total income is his Social Security check of $174, out of which he pays rent, utilities, food, et cetera. Three years ago, he said, he contracted bronchial asthma and was hospitalized five different times. The only remedy he had available was charity.

The stigma and indignity to self-respect to a resident of 50 years in the same community leading a respectable life as a taxpayer and in the evening of his life having to resort to charity was unbearable and humiliating. Whatever savings he had were wiped out in hospital and medical care.

Mr. Speaker, unless these Republicans plans are stopped in their tracks, we are going to turn back the clock and create another generation of seniors who face the same indignity and pain that Mr. Martin endured 30 years ago, before we had Medicare. That would truly be an American tragedy, which I think that we in this Congress have to stop.

AMERICAN PRINTING HOUSE FOR THE BLIND

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

Mr. WARD. Mr. Speaker, this weekend—yesterday—I did a tour of the American Printing House for the Blind. Let me restate that name: the American Printing House for the Blind. It is in the center of the United States of America, and it happens to be in Louisville, KY, in my district. This is where services for the blind are generated in terms of printing.

The American Printing House for the Blind produces such works as this geography of the United States printed in Braille. What we see here is the only page that is printed in ink, in fact, because this is a supplement for a geography book.

What you will see from here on in, and I do not believe the camera will be able to pick this up, because it is Braille, there might be a little, there might be an ability on the camera to see some of these bumps. This is Braille. This is printed in very short runs, very limited editions for those people in our country who cannot study because of their eyesight.

□ 1220

That is people who are totally blind or in some other way are legally blind.

The reason I bring this up, Mr. Speaker, is that in the budget that is being marked up in the Committee on Appropriations right now; there is a 40-percent cut in the Federal expenditure at the American Printing House for the Blind in Louisville. That 40 percent is only $2 million, $2 million, which will not have the effect of balancing our Federal budget. It does not even represent one-thousandth of 1 percent of the tax cut that is being included in this next Federal budget, not even one-thousandth of 1 percent.

However, what it does to the American Printing House for the Blind in Louisville and the impact it has all over this country can be devastating. That is because there is no other supply for these kinds of materials. This is an American history book. As Members can see, it seems awfully big. In fact, it is just one of four volumes that are needed because of the large print. These are reprinted directly off of a standard American history textbook, but done in huge print for those who have some sight to be able to study. They are done in very limited runs.

There is no commercial alternative for either of these kinds of volumes. What we will see is a reduction by 40 percent if this budget cut goes through in the actual services, these actual kinds of materials, that are to be used by our blind children in this country.

We are talking about $107 a year that is set aside for each legally blind child in America, up to college age, not including college age, high school or less, $107 that is currently available to be spent by their school all over the country at the American Printing House for the Blind.

A 40-percent reduction, Mr. Speaker, would be unthinkable. A 40-percent reduction would do exactly what we are talking about up here not doing, because what we have been hearing for the last 6 months, and what we are all committed to, is helping people to help themselves, putting people in a position to get along a little better, to be able to do a little better for themselves and provide for themselves a little better. However, if we reduce by 40 percent the amount of school materials that young blind people in this country can have to enhance their studies and continue their studies, we will be making it harder for them to take care of themselves as time goes by.

I ask the Members of the Congress to join me in restoring this 40 percent to the American Printing House for the Blind and make sure that all of our blind children in America have the opportunity to learn and then later to earn.

TOBACCO AND AMERICA'S YOUTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. EVERETT). Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from California [Mr. WAXMAN] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have taken out this special order to talk about the No. 1 threat to the health of our children—tobacco.

This week, data from the National Institute on Drug Abuse shows that we are losing the battle to keep cigarettes away from children. In just 3 years, there has been a 30-percent increase in smoking among 13- and 14-year-olds. Nearly one-third of high school seniors smoke cigarettes.

This is a health crisis of huge dimensions. Every day, 3,000 children start smoking. One-third of these children will eventually die from their tobacco addiction.

Why is this happening? The answer is obvious. The tobacco industry spends $5 billion a year—over $10 million a day—on tobacco advertising and promotion. Much of this effort is specifically targeted at children. To keep its profits flowing, the industry has developed clever promotions like Joe Camel and the Marlboro Country Store aimed directly at children.

The administration is trying to protect our children from tobacco. As reported last week, FDA Commissioner David Kessler has found that tobacco is an addictive drug. He has called for commonsense regulation to protect children—like banning cigarette vending machines. I believe the President will support these efforts.

Unfortunately, when word of the administration's actions leaked out, it encountered fierce resistance on Capitol Hill. The Speaker said that Commissioner Kessler must be ''out of his mind'' to consider regulating tobacco. Other Members promised Congress would intervene to prevent regulation from going forward.

It is against this backdrop that I am here today. This hour, I will be reading into the RECORD excerpts of dozens of previously secret documents from the Nation's largest tobacco company, Philip Morris. These documents make a compelling case for regulation of tobacco to protect children. I hope they will dissuade Members of this body from any legislative effort to block regulation.

Last year, when I served as chairman of the Health and the Environment