

and the West, and heading toward the East Coast, and has become the new drug of choice, is coming through Mexico.

Mexico has failed to cooperate. They have failed to extradite. They have failed to put radar on their borders. They have failed to allow our DEA agents to go there. They have denied allowing our DEA agents to protect themselves by arming themselves. They have also subverted our attempts to have a solid maritime agreement. They have also left vetted units, which we have trained in Mexico City.

They are not doing the job. They do not deserve our certification, and they deserve this week to be decertified for these actions.

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

[Mr. KINGSTON 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 California [Mr. ROHRBACHER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

#### UNITED STATES ONLY ADVANCED NATION NOT TO PROVIDE HEALTH CARE FOR ALL ITS PEOPLE

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, today, like every day in America, 788 babies will be born at a low birthweight. They will start life at risk. We rank 18th in the industrialized world in the percentage of babies born at dangerously low birth weight.

Let me put it another way: No industrialized country in the world does worse. Our infant mortality rate is 8.4 per 1,000 live births. We rank 18th in the industrialized world in infant mortality.

Sometimes it takes a poet to put our feelings into words when we hear such statistics. Gwendolyn Brooks, poet laureate of Illinois, penned this question: "What shall I give my children who are poor, who are judged the least wise of the land?"

Mr. Speaker, we keep asking the question, "What shall we give our children?" We are the only advanced Nation in the world that does not provide health care for all of its people.

According to the GAO, some 10 million children, 1 in 7 in the United States, are uninsured, the highest level since 1987, before Medicaid expansions for children and pregnant women. One

child in four in the United States is now covered by Medicaid. The percentage of children with private insurance reached the lowest level in 8 years: 65.6 percent.

How do we describe the emotion of seeing a child suffering a severe asthma attack; turning blue while their chest and stomach attempts to breathe? Yet more than half of the uninsured children with asthma will not see a doctor this year. Some of them will die from asthma, a preventable disease.

How do we describe the cries of a child with an ear infection? Only a parent knows the feeling of helplessness that comes when you cannot relieve your child's pain. Yet one-third of the uninsured children with recurrent ear infections never see a doctor. Many suffer permanent hearing loss.

Only 75 percent of preschoolers are getting the recommended vaccinations. Some 1 million still need one or more doses. In many of our big cities, like Chicago, the immunization rate is less than 65 percent.

What shall we give our children?

Twelve percent of child deaths are excess deaths. Excess is the medical term meaning that these deaths were preventable. How can a Nation such as ours accept 12 percent excessive deaths?

What shall we give our children?

Almost 45 percent of all 3- and 4-year-olds from low-income families participate in center-based care. By every measure of health care status, low birth weight, prematurity, infant mortality, likelihood of injury, malnutrition, incidence of infectious disease, poor children fare worse than any others. However, only Head Start routinely provides preventive health and dental care treatment.

It is estimated that the \$54 billion cut from the safety net last year will push more than 1 million additional children into poverty and millions more will be pushed even deeper into poverty.

The poet June Jordan warned us "Our children will not survive our habits of thinking, our failures of the spirit." If all of the promise of democracy is to mean anything, if all of the incredible wealth we have accumulated is to mean anything, if all of the work, the struggle, the suffering, the dreaming, the devotion that make this country what it is today is to mean anything, then we must answer the question: "What shall we give our children?"

Let us give them a chance. Let us at least make their health a right and not a privilege. Let us make sure that in this Congress every child will have access to quality health care when he or she is sick, regardless of the ability of their parents to pay. Let us make sure that every mother receives prenatal care regardless of ability to pay. Let us make sure that every child receives preventive care regardless of the ability of their parents to pay.

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A guarantee of quality accessible health care for every child cannot be the full answer to the question, but we must give our children nothing less.

#### SOCIAL SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore [Mr. STEARNS]. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from South Carolina [Mr. SANFORD] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SANFORD. Mr. Speaker, I had the good fortune this past weekend of going to the bipartisan retreat in Hershey, PA. There we discussed many issues, many problems common to the Congress, but one thing that we did not discuss was a thing called Social Security.

What is interesting about this issue is that not only is Congress not talking about it right now but the White House is not talking about it. Yet by anybody's definition, Social Security is on its way toward bankruptcy because what the trustees have said, and let me say that again, what the trustees have said, not what Republicans have said, not what Democrats have said, not what Ross Perot has said, but what the trustees have said is that if we do nothing, Social Security will go bankrupt in 2029 and it will begin to run deficits in 2012 such that either current benefits have to be cut by about 14 percent at that time or payroll taxes have to be raised by about 16 percent.

Any of the young folks that I talk to say, "I don't like the idea of payroll taxes going up by another 16 percent." Any of the older folks I talk to say, MARK, the idea of cutting benefits by 14 percent is just not acceptable."

And so what you are struck with is, is there another way out? I think that brings us to some very good news that there is another way out because what has been tried in a host of places around the globe, whether it is in a number of countries in South America or whether it is with changes being made in Australia or with changes being made in Great Britain or in a number of countries or even States within our own country, what folks have tried is the idea of personal savings accounts. When you switch from a system of sending your money to Washington and then hoping it comes back 30 or 40 years later to instead a series of personal savings accounts, wherein it is a public-private partnership, it is still a mandatory savings, it is still watched by the Government. Again, if one wants to, I guess, go gambling, you would go to Las Vegas, you would not use these accounts, so it is controlled, but by having money in your own personal savings accounts, a number of very good things seem to happen. One is that you save Social Security because again by the trustees' own numbers, the current rate of return for most people out there working