

seeking Social Security checks or veterans checks or small business loans will not have anybody to work with.

We were not sent here to default on the debt of the Nation for the first time in our history. We were sent here to meet our obligations on a bipartisan basis and really go back home and meet with our constituents. Instead, we are spending late night hours and long, tortuous debates because of this political tangle.

Part of it has to do with the Republican plan to balance the budget. Most of us favor balancing the budget, but the Republican approach goes far beyond balancing the budget. What they are calling for is a \$270 billion cut in Medicare, a cut in a program that is totally unnecessary. They are savaging Medicare far more than they have to in order to come up with extra funds. For what purpose? Not to reduce the national debt, but to create tax breaks. You see the Republican theory from time immemorial is a trickle-down theory. They have always believed that if you make the rich rich enough, it will somehow help working families. Most of us know that is not true. Working families know it for sure.

We are also concerned about cuts in education. I am here today standing on the floor of this hall of the U.S. House of Representatives because this Federal Government, over 30 years ago, loaned me the money to go to college. If they had not loaned it to me, I am not sure what I would be today.

My story is repeated millions of times over, and yet the Republicans believe we need to cut over \$10 billion out of college student loans as part of balancing the budget.

Frankly, if we give up on education, if we give up on educating the kids of working families, we are giving up on our future. What we need now is a more responsible, bipartisan, commonsense approach. We have got to stop this massive cut of Medicare to provide a tax break for the wealthy. We have got to stop savaging the education programs that are so important to our children. We have got to stop playing political games with the operations of the Federal Government and with our Nation's national debt.

Unfortunately, the next several days are not going to be very pretty. I wish Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle would adopt my simple proposal: No budget, no pay. If the Members of Congress cannot meet their responsibility to keep the agencies of the Federal Government in operation and not to default on our national obligations and debt, we should not be paid for it. We ought to basically say if we are going to send the Federal employees home without pay, Members of Congress ought do without a pay check.

Mr. Speaker, I have offered it three times and lost three times. I wrote a letter to Speaker GINGRICH and asked him to make it in order. Unfortunately, there must have been a fire in

his mailbox. He has not gotten back to me.

The concerns that the American people have about the future are concerns that we share in Congress. We do not shut down Federal Agencies and then keep drawing congressional paychecks. That suggests to me the kind of arrogance which people do not want in their elected representatives.

Mr. Speaker, I hope those who follow this debate will remember the simple challenge that is ahead of us. We can balance the budget if we get rid of the tax cuts and the onerous cuts in Medicare, we can make sure that we have a bright future if we stick with investments in education, and we can make certain that this Government stays in business doing its business if we stop the political shenanigans and get down to the real business of functioning on a bipartisan, commonsense basis.

IN MEMORY OF DAVID TODD
HETLAND, MINNESOTA THIRD
DISTRICT FIELD DIRECTOR

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

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, this is truly the most difficult speech that I have ever made before this body.

Yesterday, I was a pallbearer at the funeral of my extremely gifted and talented field director, David Hetland. David passed away Saturday at the age of 28 after a courageous struggle with cancer. Dave Hetland was a dear friend, treasured employee, and a committed public servant.

Dave had a vibrant spirit that was there right up to the end as he battled this awful disease. He did not even know he had cancer until 4 short months ago, yet he never got down and he never gave up. Dave will be sorely missed by all of us who knew and loved him.

Dave and Jeanne Broz Hetland, his brave and loving wife, and their wonderful family are in our thoughts and prayers. Jeanne exhibited amazing strength during David's ordeal. Their love for each other was truly a lasting inspiration to each of the 600 mourners who were at the Colonial Church of Edina, MN, yesterday for the funeral.

Pastor Gary Klingsporn, who also officiated at their marriage ceremony just this past August at the same church, said it beautifully in his very moving homily. He talked about the courageous, inspiring way in which Jeanne Hetland lived up to the wedding vows that she had made just 2 months ago. She truly lived the words about being there for Dave in sickness and in health.

In a statement that made each of us in that church nod in unison and wipe our tear-filled eyes, Rev. Klingsporn noted that if the roles had been reversed, that Dave would have been at Jeanne's side, night and day, day and night, just as she was there for him over these last difficult months.

Jeanne was truly the perfect partner for Dave, except when Purdue University played Dave's alma mater, the University of Minnesota. I will never forget when Dave came to me when they first started dating and asked for tickets for that game so they could sit in the middle of the University of Minnesota section. The Gophers lost, but Dave won the heart of one diehard Boilermaker fan. Dave and Jeanne have a wonderful love story that has inspired us all.

Dave has been a key staff member for me since 1991, my first term here. I met Dave through my predecessor and mentor, Congressman Bill Frenzel. Dave served as a college intern for Bill.

Dave came to us energized to pursue the highest standards of public service, and he really represented the absolute best in public service. He had a spirit and motivation that never waned and never left him. That spirit of Dave Hetland will be with me and my staff always, driving us even harder to help people in need and to respond to their problems back in Minnesota.

As my field director in Minnesota, every day Dave Hetland showed up for work performing at the absolute highest level. He was known throughout the district as always being well-prepared and well-versed on the issues before Congress and how they affected the people that we represent.

One of the many accomplishments that Dave will be remembered for is his creation of our "School of the Month" program. We recognize one outstanding elementary school each month in our district, based on Dave's research of a lengthy list of applicants each month.

My school visits with Dave would include a short talk to the students and then a presentation of the award. Dave was an expert at making these presentations interesting to the students and understandable to the young people in our district.

Dave Hetland was a wonderful teacher himself. He taught me and everyone in our office a great deal about life and living. He also taught us about death and dying. He never made any excuses when his pain was too much for any mortal to endure. In fact, I remember the last time I saw Dave at the office he could barely walk to his car, but he was there working for the people of our district, putting them above his own needs.

Dave faced death and dying the same courageous, upbeat way that he lived his life. He was a true profile in courage.

Dave remained optimistic to the end and focused on helping constituents and his other work, which he always performed in a first-rate manner. Dave's favorite part of his job, one of his favorite parts of his job, was Service Academy Coordinator. Just recently, the Air Force Academy Associate Athletic Director, Jim Bauman, visited my office in Washington and said that Dave Hetland was personally responsible for bringing enough Minnesotans to the Academy to field their

hockey team and to make them competitive with the best in the land.

Dave's special skills in dealing with constituents and their problems and his deep sense of compassion served the people of the Third District of Minnesota very, very well. His friendly ways and relentless pursuit of solving problems helped literally hundreds and hundreds of Minnesota people.

Another area in which Dave shined was working with people with disabilities. It is a major emphasis in our office, and Dave organized many meetings for people with disabilities to listen to their concerns and to convey those concerns back here to Washington.

Dave also knew every member of the police departments in the Third District by their first name and worked with me on crime legislation. He was always there when I was back in the district, a wonderful adviser and trusted friend.

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Mr. Speaker, in one of the most touching eulogies I have ever heard, Dave's father-in-law put it best when he said, "Dave told me something after his cancer was diagnosed that I will never forget. He turned to me and said, 'You know, Jim, relationships are the most important thing in life.'"

Dave, speaking for all of us in our office, let me say we could not agree with you more. We will treasure our very special relationship with you forever. We love you, Dave. We are devastated by your passing. We will miss you a lot, but your special spirit will be with us every day for the rest of our lives. We will never forget the lessons you taught us, Dave, nor the inspiration you gave us.

Dave Hetland, you will live forever in our hearts.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. AL-LARD). Our hearts and prayers go out to Dave Hetland and his family and friends.

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

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

CONTINUING RESOLUTION AND DEBT LIMIT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Mr. Speaker, sometimes it is hard to follow a moving tribute, and certainly one would want to recognize the great service of a very fine individual.

This day, however, brings a great deal of concern to me. It has been a hard day and a long day. Particularly it relates to the responsibilities of the

U.S. Congress in making sure that we are responsible to the American people. We are charged now, having not been able to pass under the leadership of the Republican majority, the appropriations bills, we are now faced with the desire and the responsibility to promote and pass a continuing resolution that would, one, lift the debt ceiling but allow, most of all, the proper negotiation in order to provide the correct funding for projects and programs and Government responsibilities.

I am willing to stay here tomorrow on Veterans Day in order to be able to ensure that the documents sent to the U.S. Senate but as well the document that ultimately will go to the President will be one that can be signed. I am well aware, as we are on the eve of Veterans Day, that, if that does not occur, we may have some time around Christmas the biggest nongift to the American public, for we may deny our senior citizens their Medicare benefits. We may deny children who are recently immunized their Medicaid benefits. Veterans, whom we celebrate tomorrow, may not receive their veterans benefits. Hard-working Federal employees throughout this Nation will find the doors locked and the services that they render no more.

Interestingly enough, in terms of the discussion on the debt ceiling, this Republican Congress has raised it many times. Now there is some big debate about how, where, and why and a refusal to extend this process for 30 days after it gets on the President's desk, a motion to recommit that was presented on this floor today, not so much partisan or to get one upmanship, but simply to allow us in a reasoned but rushed manner, because it is rushed, it is 30 days after the President gets it, to look at these issues of do we really want, as has been proposed by the Republicans, to increase the premiums on Medicare and part B.

Do we want to do that rather than leaving it at the 25-percent portion versus the 31.5-percent portion that is now being proposed in this bill that is not streamlined to deal with the issue at hand but bagged, if you will, with increasing the premium, with a regulatory bill that is 122 pages tacked on.

Reasoned portions of that bill could be addressed in a bipartisan way by this House. Yet, we have tacked onto this particular legislation dealing with the crisis at hand a bill that the Senate has not even dealt with, never passed a regulatory reform bill. And we have grabbed bits and pieces from that bill, unpassed by the Senate, and tacked it on this legislation now dealing with the crisis that we face, 122 pages, obviously not reviewed in a bipartisan manner by this Congress.

Then we wanted to deal with the habeas corpus matter. Rather than addressing that where it could be heard in a fair presentation of the issue, for no one knows and hopes that they are never incarcerated and never finds themselves in that capacity, but I do

believe that Americans applaud the right to seek a redress of grievances. It is important that, if we have the opportunity to seek a redress of grievances, that hasty and frivolous legislation attached to this bill dealing with the debt ceiling and as well the opportunity to continue to pay the Government's bills so that we can do our jobs. How wrong we are to not be focused on the main issue.

I would hope, Mr. Speaker, that we will ultimately get a streamlined bill to the President, sit down at the table of reason and confront ourselves on behalf of the American people to fund appropriately this Government on behalf of all Americans.

NATIONAL SECURITY REVITALIZATION ACT

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

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak for just a moment about the defense authorization conference report which we hope will be reported from the conference this evening. Last year Republicans made a treaty with the American people. In effect, we said that, if Republicans are put in charge of Congress, we would turn things around. We would not let Washington operate as it had in the past, and the Republican Contract With America was a line in the sand saying, enough is enough.

One of the key components of the contract was the National Security Revitalization Act. This act was a commitment to the men and women in uniform that Congress would not allow a return to a hollow military force like we had in the 1970's. The National Security Revitalization Act made a commitment to stop the 10-year slide in defense funding. That is right. Every year for the last 10 years, we spend less in real dollars than we did the year before.

The specific implementation of that commitment is contained in the 1996 defense authorization bill. I am happy to hear that we are nearing final agreement with our Senate colleagues on a final bill. This bill has been a long time in the making. In fact, there are skeptics who thought we may not be able to produce an authorization bill at all.

Those skeptics were wrong. Soon we will be able to bring a bill to the floor which represents a watershed in defense funding.

Contained in the bill, I believe, are some key elements, some things that are very, very important to the new threat that we face today.

For example, with regard to the quality of life of our military men and women, we provide for a pay raise, something that is much needed and overdue. We have also provided for a new housing initiative which adds \$450 million, making a total of about \$1.5 billion in spending which will go to