

fiscal year, they want to blame the default of this Government, of the shutdown tonight at midnight, on the Democrats.

Stop the foolishness, Republicans. Speaker GINGRICH, on the GOP budget strategy, said "The President will veto a number of things, and we will put them all on the debt ceiling, and then he will decide how much of a crisis he wants." That is according to the Washington Times, April 3, 1995.

The Washington Post of September 2, 1995, quotes Speaker GINGRICH: "I do not care what the price is. I do not care if we have no executive offices and no bonds for 30 days. Not at this time."

It is wrong for the Republicans to treat the American people this way. Let us do what is right for this Nation. Let us send a clean CR to the President, and a clean debt ceiling as well.

TIME FOR A BALANCED BUDGET

(Mr. EHLERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join in decrying the coming crisis. However, I believe it is extremely important to resolve the crisis that we are facing, and believe we should not shut down the Government.

Let me just give some of the facts. You heard earlier from the gentlewoman from California that the deficit is above \$4.9 trillion; in fact, within a few weeks it will be \$5 trillion. In one thousand dollar bills, that would be a stack 300 miles out into space. We have to address the deficit problem.

The Republicans have addressed it. We have voted for a balanced budget. I applaud those Democrats in this Chamber who have voted for a balanced budget proposal. The President's proposal, 18 pages long, does not even begin to outline a solution.

I believe it is time for the President to come to the table to meet in all sincerity with the Speaker and the majority leader of the Senate. It is time for us to reach agreement on a balanced budget. The American people demand it. They deserve it. Let us pass a balanced budget.

DO NOT BALANCE BUDGET BY MEDICARE INCREASES

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I was so proud to read over the weekend that the President has indicated that he will not sign a continuing budget resolution because of the increase in Medicare payments. I think it is really awful to think that the Republican leadership in this House has said that unless the President agrees to increase Medicare part B premiums, which would go from \$46.10 per month to \$53.50 per month, when they are sched-

uled under current law to be decreased to \$42.50 per month. What the Republican leadership is saying is unless you sign this continuing resolution, we are going to make sure that the Medicare premiums go up.

It is not fair to American senior citizens. Over the weekend I talked to a lot of senior citizens. They cannot afford the Medicare part B increase being proposed by the Republican leadership. It is not fair to hold the budget and the Government hostage to this Medicare increase. The President recognizes it. I commend him for the fact he refuses to sign this continuing resolution, primarily because of the Medicare increase.

HOW TO ACHIEVE A BALANCED BUDGET IN 7 YEARS

(Mr. SMITH of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, if honesty were the high road, too often in this debate we are at a much lower level, traveling the course of what happens to the future of this country.

Do we want a balanced budget in 7 years or less or do we not and, if we do, how should we try to change politicians' behavior around to achieve that goal?

What we have done in this case is try to say that we are going to use the continuing resolution, that we are going to try to use the temporary increase in the debt ceiling, to change what politicians have been doing since the 1920's, and we are actually in some areas going to cut some of the funds that have been going into some of those discretionary programs.

In Medicare, it is a farce. It comes as a strong untruth between what the President and the Democrats in the Senate have already suggested of the changes and where we end up with Medicare reform.

AMERICA IS PRESENTED WITH A MANUFACTURED CRISIS

(Mr. DOGGETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, today America is presented with a manufactured crisis, and the inventor of this crisis, the person with all the rights to the patent to this crisis and all the silliness attendant to it, is one Speaker NEWT GINGRICH.

Way back on April 3, he made very clear his determination to manufacture this crisis. He reiterated it on June 3, saying that he hardly worried whether the Government would show up. And then finally on September 22, he said to all that were listening then what was going to happen tonight, he said "I do not care what the price is. I do not care

if we have no Executive offices and no bonds for 30 days. Not this time."

Well, the American people do care. They want their Government working together to take care of the problems that we have, and they do not want to have to pick up the tab for this unnecessary invention, for unless Speaker GINGRICH plans to pay personally for the cost of this whole mishap with the proceeds of the next couple of books that he does with Rupert Murdoch, it is the American taxpayer who will have to pick up the price for this weird invention.

CONGRESS FAILED TO COMPLETE ITS WORK

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, as one who represents 56,000 Federal employees and therefore has always been concerned about the failure of this Congress and the President to do their work in a timely fashion, causing the Government to temporarily shut down, I rise to express once again my deep regret that the Congress of the United States has not done its job.

The fact of the matter is, the only reason there needs to be a continuing resolution signed today or passed today is because we have not done our work, period. All the other rhetoric about balanced budgets, all the other rhetoric about the politics in the White House, are, frankly, not accurate.

There are nine appropriation bills that neither the House nor the Senate have finally acted upon. Therefore, this crisis could have been averted had we done our work.

NOW IS THE TIME TO GET A BALANCED BUDGET

(Mr. WALKER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, what we have heard on the floor today is the liberal extremists who will do virtually anything that they can to stop a balanced budget from taking place. They will just obstruct, they will use anything in their power to stop a balanced budget from taking place.

Now, they would have you believe that they are simply acting for good government. The fact is what they are doing is trying to stop the American family from saving \$37,000 in interest costs on their mortgage, because that is what a balanced budget would do. They are trying to stop the American people from getting \$900 less in interest payments on the family car that they purchase, because that is what a balanced budget would do. They are trying to stop people from getting a \$10,000 interest advantage on their student loans, because that is what a balanced budget would do.

The liberal extremists have fought Ronald Reagan, they fought George Bush, they have fought us all the way along. Now when it comes a time when we have an opportunity to really get a balanced budget, they are on this floor fighting again.

Mr. Speaker, we need a balanced budget. Now is the time to get one.

POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to a point of personal privilege.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCINNIS). The Chair would state that under the rules of the House, the gentleman cannot be recognized for a point of personal privilege based on debate during 1-minute speeches.

TIME TO BALANCE BUDGET IS NOW

(Mr. BOEHNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, we have heard about CR's and debt limits, all of this minutia, and we all know this is not what this fight is about. It is about whether we are going to leave for our children and theirs a better future than what our parents left for us.

Each succeeding generation in America has left for its children and its grandchildren a brighter future for them, and what are we leaving for our children? Five trillion dollars' worth of debt. That is what we are doing.

We have heard every excuse in the world why we cannot balance the budget for 30 years. We have heard every Washington gimmick used why we cannot do it. The time is now. We are going to balance the budget to save the future for my girls, my two teenage girls, and every kid of America.

NOTHING THAT HAPPENS TODAY WILL BALANCE THE BUDGET

(Mr. FLAKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. FLAKE. I yield to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

The gentleman from Pennsylvania, after I spoke, talked about liberal extremists and the balanced budget. As one who has voted on numerous occasions for the balanced budget constitutional amendment, as one who voted for the Stenholm balanced budget that did not pass, and as one who voted for the coalition budget which would balance the budget in 7 years, faster than the budget offered by the other side, I do not believe that I fall in that category.

I say again, nothing that happens today will balance the budget, whether

the President signs the continuing resolution or not. The fact of the matter is there would be no necessity for a continuing resolution if this House and the Senate had passed appropriation bills in a timely fashion. They cannot agree. They have not done that, and that is why we are here as we are.

COMMUNICATION FROM CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House a communication from the Chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; which was read and, without objection, referred to the Committee on Appropriations:

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, September 14, 1995.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,

Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Enclosed are copies of resolutions adopted today by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. One resolution approves construction of protective works at the South Water Treatment Plant in Chicago, Illinois, pursuant to section 201 of the Flood Control Act of 1965. The remaining resolutions authorize studies of potential water resources projects by the Secretary of the Army in accordance with the provisions of section 4 of the Act of March 4, 1913, and other statutes.

Sincerely,

BUD SHUSTER, *Chairman.*

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 5 of rule I, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered or on which a vote is objected to under clause 4 of rule XV. Such rollcall votes, if postponed, will be taken after the debate is concluded on all motions to suspend the results, but not before 5 p.m. today.

□ 1430

ELECTRONIC FILING AND PRESERVATION OF FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION REPORTS

Mr. THOMAS, Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2527), to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to improve the electoral process by permitting electronic filing and preservation of Federal Election Commission reports, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2527

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. ELECTRONIC FILING AND PRESERVATION OF FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION REPORTS.

(a) SECTION 304 AMENDMENT.—Subsection (a) of section 304 of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (2 U.S.C. 434(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(1)(A) The Commission shall permit reports required by this Act to be filed and preserved by means of computer disk or any other appropriate electronic format or method, as determined by the Commission.

“(B) In carrying out subparagraph (A) with respect to filing of reports, the Commission shall provide for one or more methods (other than requiring a signature on the report being filed) for verifying reports filed by means of computer disk or other electronic format or method. Any verification under the preceding sentence shall be treated for all purposes (including penalties for perjury) in the same manner as a verification by signature.

“(C) As used in this paragraph, the term ‘report’ means, with respect to the Commission, a report, designation, or statement required by this Act to be filed with the Commission.”.

(b) SECTION 302 AMENDMENT.—Subsection (d) of section 302 of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (2 U.S.C. 432(d)) is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: “for any report filed in electronic format under section 304(a)(1), the treasurer shall retain a machine-readable copy of the report as the copy preserved under the preceding sentence.”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) and subsection (b) shall apply with respect to reports for periods beginning after December 31, 1996.

SEC. 2. WAIVER OF DUPLICATE FILING REQUIREMENT FOR STATES WITH ELECTRONIC ACCESS TO FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION REPORTS AND STATEMENTS.

Section 312 of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (2 U.S.C. 439) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(c) Subsections (a) and (b) shall not apply with respect to any State that, as determined by the Commission, has a system that permits electronic access to, and duplication of, reports and statements that are filed with the Commission.”.

SEC. 3. FILING OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ELECTION REPORTS WITH THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION, RATHER THAN WITH THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

(a) SECTION 302 AMENDMENTS.—Subsection (g) of section 302 of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (2 U.S.C. 432(g)) is amended—

(1) by striking out paragraph (1);

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (5) as paragraphs (1) through (4), respectively;

(3) in paragraph (2), as so redesignated by paragraph (2) of this subsection—

(A) by striking out “Clerk of the House of Representatives and the”; and

(B) by striking out “them” and inserting in lieu thereof “the Secretary”;

(4) in paragraph (3), as so redesignated by paragraph (2) of this subsection, by striking out “paragraphs (1) and (2)” and inserting in lieu thereof “Paragraph (1)”; and

(5) in paragraph (4), as so redesignated by paragraph (2) of this subsection, by striking out “Clerk of the House of Representatives and the”.

(b) SECTION 304 AMENDMENTS.—Section 304 of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (2 U.S.C. 434) is amended)

(1) in the first sentence of subsection (a)(6), by striking out “Clerk, the Secretary,” and inserting in lieu thereof “Secretary”; and