

week. They are going to be paying Federal employees to do absolutely nothing in order to accomplish their radical right agenda to cut Medicare and raise the premiums on every senior, on every person with disabilities come January 1.

It is wrong to ask American taxpayers to pay our Federal employees to do absolutely nothing just to satisfy this agenda of power of NEWT GINGRICH.

BALANCING THE BUDGET

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, the Washington Post was just right this morning when they said the real issue is balancing the budget, and this is the time to decide.

Are we going to continue adding to a \$5 trillion debt that smothers the economy and drives up interest rates and imperils our children's future or do we want to exercise some fiscal responsibility, trim the growth in spending and cut taxes?

The choice to me is clear. We cannot continue business as usual. We are going to balance this budget. That is what we were sent here to do.

I still have some hope, perhaps naive, that the President will stop his obstruction and begin to work with us. It was only a month or so ago that the President again conceded that the balance budget goal is necessary and essential. It was only a few weeks ago that he confessed that he had raised taxes too much.

If the President believes his own words have any meaning at all, he ought to work with us to cut taxes and cut spending and, yes, let us balance the budget. Today would be a good time for the President to start to work with us to do just that.

TIME TO REWRITE THE BUDGET

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, we all know that NEWT GINGRICH has a doctorate in history but over the past few days he may have earned a doctorate in revisionist history as well.

The Speaker has tried to blame President Clinton for the Government shutdown but he has been planning this for months.

Just look at what he said in April and in September.

In April: "The President will veto a number of things and we'll then put them all on the debt ceiling and then he'll decide how big a crisis he wants."

In September: "I don't care what the price is. I don't care if we have no executive offices and no bonds for 30 days, not at this time."

"I don't care." That is what Speaker GINGRICH says. Well, the President does care. He cares about our seniors, he

cares about our students, and he cares about our environment. That is why he will not accept this budgetary blackmail.

Madam Speaker, I say to the Speaker, if you want the President to sign your budget, do not rewrite history, rewrite your budget.

KEEPING THE BALANCED-BUDGET PROMISE

(Ms. PRYCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PRYCE. Madam Speaker, President Clinton has said that he would present a 5-year, a 10-year, an 8-year, and a 7-year balanced budget plan.

Obviously, the President has a problem being committed to one particular course of action. It is really difficult to know where he stands.

Well, the American people do not need this kind of indecision. The national debt stands at \$4,985,913,011,032.65. Republicans in Congress are not backing down from the promise we made a few months ago, to balance the budget and give our children a brighter future.

Madam Speaker, when it comes to the budget, the President has offered no leadership, has given us no plan, and has left us no choice.

PUTTING FEDERAL AGENCIES IN THEIR PLACE

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Madam Speaker, the last I heard we are still a participatory democracy with a Constitution, with rights, and the Constitution is supposed to protect our citizens.

Well, all of America has been up in arms over Waco and Ruby Ridge and all these Federal agencies came before the Congress and testified these were big mistakes, they would never let it happen again.

Ladies and gentlemen, the FBI wants the unusual authority, expanded authority to simultaneously monitor 1 out of 100 calls if you happen to live in a high-crime area.

Beam me up here, Madam Speaker. We have let the IRS, ATF, and FBI get in our kitchen. Now we are going to put them in our bedroom, in our businesses?

What is going on here, Congress? Big brother is one thing. But this is starting to sound like the KGB.

Do your job, Congress. The American people want you to put these agencies in their place.

STOP THE MADNESS

(Mr. WAMP asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WAMP. Madam Speaker, yesterday the gentlewoman from Colorado [Mrs. SCHROEDER] came to the House floor and declared how mad she was that this could happen, that the President and Congress could not get together and that Federal employees may be furloughed.

Let me tell you what makes me mad. It even makes me sick, that in my lifetime, since 1969, this Government has run up 5 trillion dollars' worth of debt and our children are going to have to pay it. And almost everything they earn is going to go to the Government in the future.

Stop the madness, Mr. President. Balance the budget. That is all we have to do is come together this week for our children and their future.

TIME FOR REPUBLICANS TO DO THEIR WORK

(Ms. FURSE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FURSE. Madam Speaker, let me just get one thing clear. This has nothing to do with balancing the budget. The budget that the Republicans are talking about increases Pentagon spending by \$63 billion more than they asked for, and gives a \$245 billion tax break to the wealthy. That is not balancing the budget.

It is very simple. What this is about is that the Republicans have not been able to get their job done. In the first year they have been in control, instead of playing a PR game, they should have been toiling in the field. This is a crisis because they have not managed to get the appropriations bills sent to the President. The bill sent to the President for the continuing resolution and the debt increase was a Christmas tree. It was hung, hung with all sorts of extremist things, like gutting environmental laws and raising the Medicare premiums. As usual, it seems that the extremists are in control.

This is a time for common sense and fiscal responsibility. It is time for a sensible and responsible budget. It is time the Republicans did their work.

□ 1030

AMERICA IS TIRED OF PLAYING MAKE BELIEVE

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

Mr. HEFLEY. Madam Speaker, first, Bill Clinton as a candidate said he would balance the budget in 5 years. Then he got into office. He said it is not really important to balance the budget. Then he said maybe we can do it in 10 years, then maybe we could do it in 7 years. Only his figures did not balance.

So I guess now he is back to the point where balancing the budget is no longer important again.

Would not it be wonderful to be like Bill Clinton and wake up in a new world every day? When I was a kid, and many of you will remember this, too, by the way, today I will be the cowboy, you be the Indian; tomorrow I will be the Indian, you be the cowboy; maybe we will be policemen, maybe we will be explorers. We called it playing make believe.

Bill Clinton is still playing make believe. Maybe it is fun for him to wake up in a new world every day and decide who he will be. But it is not fun for the rest of America.

Decide, Bill Clinton, who are you? Liberal, conservative, whatever? America is getting tired of playing make believe.

TAKE MEDICARE AND STUDENT LOANS OFF THE TABLE

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, for months Speaker GINGRICH has threatened to shut down the Government in order to score political points and to give tax breaks to the wealthiest people in this country. The President has vetoed these bills because he is unwilling to increase Medicare premiums 25 percent and because he is unwilling to cut student loans to middle-class families.

It is simply wrong to increase Medicare premiums and to cut student loans so that Speaker GINGRICH can bestow huge tax breaks on the largest corporations and the wealthiest people in this country.

Let us take Medicare and student loans off the table and work together in a bipartisan way to run the Government the way that it should be.

BORROWING FROM OUR CHILDREN'S FUTURE

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

Mr. NORWOOD. As a nation, we are almost \$5 trillion in debt. The share of the national debt held by the people of the 10th District of Georgia is \$11 billion. The share of the national debt my 2-year-old grandson owes is 19 thousand dollars. I do not care whose fault it is; this mindless borrowing from our children's future must stop.

Mr. Speaker, as the duly elected representative of the people of the 10th District of Georgia, I cannot and will not vote to increase the debt limit of the United States without a clear commitment to balance the budget in 7 years. I cannot and will not vote to continue the spending of the U.S. Government without a clear commitment to balance the budget in 7 years or less.

The people of the 10th District of Georgia have my word on it.

DRIVE-BY DEBATE

(Mrs. SCHROEDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Madam Speaker, one of the prior speakers said that I came to the floor yesterday and I was very angry about how dysfunctional this House has become, and I am. I am, angry the tenor of this debate. It is like drive-by debate. People stand up on each side and go blah, blah, blah, and back and forth and back and forth. The American people have every right to deserve more.

Let me tell Members what this is about. This is not about whether or not we have a balanced budget. It is how we have a balanced budget.

The President says we will have a balanced budget by standing for the American values of continuing education, environmental cleanup, helping our seniors. That is what it is.

They have to take money from them because they made pledges to special interests. But forget what I am saying, because I just am engaging in the drive-by debate. Let us say that a picture is worth a thousand words.

Here we have from the Cincinnati Inquirer, not exactly a liberal paper, the Speaker taking food away from the children because there good friends who want a tax cut have not had enough. It says, "I need your pie back. They are still hungry."

UNCLE SAM NEEDS A CREDIT COUNSELOR

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

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, I ask you to imagine an American family, Mr. and Mrs. Doe, who have accumulated a debt more than three times their annual income and who are spending each year 10 percent more than they receive as income. Within a few years, their credit card companies say, "We have to cancel your credit cards," and their other creditors say, "We want to be paid off." Mr. and Mrs. Doe go to see a credit counselor. They say, "We would like to work this out. We want to achieve a balanced household budget, but we would like to have 10 years to do it, or at least 7 years. What do you think?" The credit counselor is going to say, "That is absurd. You have to do it this year."

Yet we as a nation have a national debt over three times our annual income. Furthermore, Uncle Sam is spending 10 percent more than his annual income each year. What do you think a credit counselor is going to say to Uncle Sam? I think Uncle Sam needs a credit counselor. The counselor is going to say, "You have to balance the

Federal budget. You do not have the luxury of the 10 years the President is asking for. You probably do not even have the luxury of 7 years."

Let us balance the Federal budget right away, just as the American family has to do.

PRESIDENT NEEDS OUR COOPERATION

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

Mr. RICHARDSON. Madam Speaker, just think how all of these gunfights at the OK Corral and gridlock play overseas where America has enormous interests. We are the laughingstock of the world.

How can a President of the United States go to Osaka, Japan, to meet with Asian leaders and talk about trade and commerce when he gets no cooperation from his own Congress on keeping the Government open? How can the President of the United States negotiate a peace agreement in Dayton over Bosnia when his own Congress is trying to undermine him even before he concludes a peace treaty?

Mr. Speaker, let us end these games and get serious. We are all going to be losers if we do not resolve this crisis soon.

LET US NEGOTIATE A BALANCED BUDGET

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, I am proud to be a member of the reform-minded freshman class here in Congress. We came to change the way business is done here in Washington, DC. We want to balance the budget.

But it has been really frustrating. The House has agreed to balance the budget. The Senate has agreed to balance the budget. But the President and the liberals in Congress are willing to say anything to keep us from balancing the budget, even if it is not true.

We have heard about cuts to education, but yet student loans are increasing. We heard about cuts to Medicare, yet the average recipient is going to get \$4,800 this year and \$6,700 in 7 years. We heard about cuts to nutrition programs, and yet we are increasing them 4 percent every year, a total of \$1 billion over the next 7 years.

The truth is the President and the liberals in Congress do not want to balance the budget, but the American people do. Let us get real, Mr. President. Let us stay home from Japan and negotiate a balanced budget.

STOP PLAYING THE BLAME GAME

(Mr. LEWIS of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House