

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

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, the day you have longed for is here. You have brought the U.S. Government to a halt and the verge of default. I hope you are happy.

And why has it come to this. Why are our national parks closed, why can't senior citizens or veterans apply for Social Security or veteran benefits, why can not people get their passports? Because you have not done your work. You have been so busy pursuing your extremist ideological agenda that you have ignored the business of the people. And now you want to blame the President.

Well, the President is right and the American people agree. The President will not give in to your drastic proposals: Your extremist plans to cut Medicare, destroy our environment, defund education and give tax breaks to the rich while raising taxes on working families.

Stop playing the blame game, Madam Speaker. Stop blackmailing the President. Show some leadership. Send the President a clean bill and he will sign it, and let us get on with the business of governing.

The American people are watching and waiting.

PUTTING OUR FINANCIAL HOUSE IN ORDER

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

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Madam Speaker, in the last several months we were warned repeatedly by the administration that if the train wreck happened, financial markets would collapse. Well, let us look at the facts; Financial markets hit a record high yesterday, and they are up again this morning.

Why? Because Americans are expressing confidence in this Congress. We are serious about controlling entitlements and putting our financial house in order.

It is unfortunate that we have been forced to send 800,000 nonessential Federal employees home. But it would be a tragedy of historic proportions if we backed down now on our commitment to balance this budget.

LET US GET ABOUT THE PEOPLE'S BUSINESS

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

Mr. FRAZER. Madam Speaker, we are elected to represent our constituents before this body. But in my district there is an expression we use. It is called poppy show. It means unnecessary rhetoric and deliberate foolishness.

Today the U.S. Government is about to shut down because my colleagues on

the other side of the aisle are set; they are set in forcing the President and the minority Members of this body to accept their ideology of how the Government should be run.

This is not about balanced budgets. We all agree we need a balanced budget, but not on the backs of those who can least defend themselves, such as senior citizens and students.

I support the President and the Members of this body who believe that we cannot cut programs such as Medicare, student loans, and the Clean Air Act; that we should not cut these programs only to fulfill a promise to the wealthy in this country who make over \$100,000.

We are in a crisis. We call for leadership, bipartisan leadership, leadership where all parties come together for the good of the American people. Now it is time to act. Let us be responsible and pass the budget. Let us pass the resolution without riders. Let us get about the people's business.

PRESERVING AND PROTECTING MEDICARE

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

Mr. GANSKE. Madam Speaker, the President is shutting down Government because he wants to decrease Medicare premiums.

Madam Speaker, does the President not read his own Medicare report? These are his own appointees who are telling him that Medicare is going bankrupt. Is there any American in this country who pays health care premiums that has not seen an increase in premiums?

Everyone has to contribute something to save this system: Doctors, hospitals and, yes, Madam Speaker, recipients, too.

This plan does not increase deductibles. It does not increase copayments. But it only asks seniors to maintain the current share of their premium. Is that too much?

Madam Speaker, most of the senior citizens that I talk to understand that we must save the system, that they are willing to contribute, and that by doing so we can preserve and protect the system for future Medicare recipients.

PERMISSION FOR SUNDRY COMMITTEES AND THEIR SUBCOMMITTEES TO SIT TODAY DURING 5-MINUTE RULE

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the following committees and their subcommittees be permitted to sit today while the House is meeting in the Committee of the Whole House under the 5-minute rule.

Committee on Banking and Financial Services, Committee on Commerce, Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, Committee on International

Relations, Committee on National Security, and Committee on Resources.

It is my understanding that the minority has been consulted and that there is no objection to these requests.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MYRICK). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kansas?

There was no objection.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Tim Sanders, one of his secretaries.

CORRECTIONS CALENDAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is the day for the call of the Corrections Calendar.

The Clerk will call the first bill on the Corrections Calendar.

REPEALING AN UNNECESSARY MEDICAL DEVICE REPORTING REQUIREMENT

The Clerk called the bill (H.R. 2366), to repeal an unnecessary medical device reporting requirement.

The Clerk read the bill, as follows:

H.R. 2366

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

SECTION 1. REPEAL.

Section 1862 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395y) is amended by striking subsection (h).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. BILIRAKIS] will be recognized for 30 minutes, and the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. BROWN] will be recognized for 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida [Mr. BILIRAKIS].

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. BILIRAKIS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2366, legislation to repeal the unnecessary regulatory burden of the cardiac pacemaker registry imposed by the Social Security Act.

Section 1862(h) of the Social Security Act requires doctors and hospitals receiving Medicare funds to provide information to the Federal Government upon the implementation, removal, or replacement of pacemaker devices and pacemaker leads. However, in 1990 the Congress amended the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetics Act to establish comprehensive reporting requirements that make the registry requirement in the Social Security Act duplicative and unnecessary. Removal of this unnecessary reporting requirement will be welcomed by the health care community and by manufacturers as well