

the House of Representatives. Since 1977, there have been 57 continuing resolutions. In the 1980s they hung an entire annual Federal budget on one continuing resolution. This is not uncommon.

But on the same path of inconsistency as the President and his alleged desire to balance the budget, Chief of Staff Panetta says, he said on November 9, "Don't put a gun to the head of the President. It is a form of terrorism." Further on he said, "Republicans are now obviously resorting to a form of blackmail in order to push their agenda onto the country. That is not an acceptable choice. This is blackmail."

But when Mr. Panetta was in Congress, and when the liberals were in charge, he said about the debt ceiling: "This is the only vehicle we have as we close these days before recess to try to bring the American public what I think is a very important issue, and it relates to our ability to control spending and to provide a shared sacrifice in terms of our approach to dealing with the deficits in this country." That was on June 28, 1984.

On the continuing resolution he said, "Having to adopt another continuing resolution in this process, I know the chairman and the Members of the Committee on Appropriations would prefer consideration and passage of separate bills, but I think we have to recognize the reality that we must pass on a regular basis massive continuing resolutions, and whether they like it or not, these continuing resolutions set national priorities, they send signals, they lock us into a future in one way or another." That was September 22, 1982. It was okay for the liberals in the Democrat-controlled Congress, but now, it is "blackmail."

Which way is it, Mr. Panetta? Is it "the only vehicle to bring to the American public a very important issue," or is it a form of terrorism, as you said on November 9? Is it that "We have to recognize the reality and set national priorities," as you said on September 22, 1982, or is it a form of blackmail, like you said on November 9?

I think the American public is tired of the doubletalk, Mr. Panetta. They want to lock us into a future, all right, but it is a future with a balanced budget. It goes well beyond—this double talk goes well beyond the Chief of Staff Panetta and the President's alleged balanced budget. It goes to cuts on Medicare. We are actually increasing the payments of Medicare from \$4,800 per year as an average recipient to \$6,700 per year in 7 years. It is the same on college student loans. They are going up over the next 7 years, almost \$9 billion. It is the same on nutrition programs. Many of us remember that the President went to an elementary school and said, "School children will starve under the Republican Plan." No children have been reported starving in public schools. Nutrition programs are

going up 4 percent each year for 7 years, a total of \$1 billion.

The bottom line is "No more cheap excuses for shutting down the government, no more duplicity, no more doubletalk." Let us balance the budget. It will lower interest rates 2 percent, according to Alan Greenspan, from the Federal Reserve, chairman of the Federal Reserve, and that will affect every American, every household, every family. Balance the budget. Let us not have any excuses. Let us have a bright future for our children and our grandchildren.

THE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Ms. BROWN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, when I was a kid coming up, my favorite television show was "Dragnet." Sergeant Joe Friday used to indicate constantly, "The facts, ma'am, just the facts." That is what I want to discuss here today, how did we get in this mess with this Government shutdown, and just the facts.

You know, instead of doing what we should have been doing, working on the budget and the appropriation bills necessary to keep the Government running, the so-called leadership of this House had us waste over 3 months on the Contract on America, a campaign gimmick that most Americans have never even heard of, or, for those who have, did not really care anything about it.

As a result, it is mid-November, and only 4 of the 13 appropriation bills have been approved by Congress, 1½ months after all appropriation bills were due. Republicans still have not passed only four of them. To me, this is unbelievable, how 800,000 Federal workers have been furloughed, many veterans and seniors will not receive their benefits on time, and the Republicans continue to blame the President.

The question I have is this: How in the world can the President be blamed for this shutdown when only 4 of the 13 appropriation bills have reached his desk? In addition, he does not have a vote in this House or the Senate. The answer is that he cannot be blamed for this. The responsibility lies on the leadership, the Republican leadership in this Congress. They are the ones who have failed to do what they were sent here to do. The Republicans are also the ones who have been threatening to shut down this Government if the President does not cave in to their extremist agenda.

It was the Speaker who said last April that a Government shutdown and default would be political tools he would be likely to use as a leverage to push his extreme agenda. You know, if the Republicans really want to keep the Government up and running, they would have sent the President a clean continuing resolution. Instead, they

forced the President to veto this legislation because of all the riders attached to it. Then, after the President vetoed the CR, the Republicans blamed him for shutting down the Government. But the American people are not buying it, and the American people are beginning to realize just how mean-spirited and extreme the Republican agenda is, and they do not like it.

Along with this extreme agenda, the American people are also against the Republicans blackmailing and refusing to compromise. The Republicans need to stop playing blaming games and get down to business and do what the people sent them here to do. You know, I often say, "You can fool some of the people some of the time, but you can't fool all of the people all of the time," and the American people are waking up to the Republican party.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, let me be first to say that in my concept of new technology, we could install them on both the Democrat and Republican microphones, so that when a Member of either party get off the farm and reality we could have a little beep come on. It was an idea in technology.

I thought my good friend from Texas was going to ask to yield the floor and see if we could set up a study committee for this truthometer on the microphone.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. If the gentleman will yield, Mr. Speaker. I will be glad to talk about the veracity of polygraph tests.

Mr. KINGSTON. If it is polygraphs, the technology is out there, and that is the point. If we could just do this, I think it would be great.

Mrs. THURMAN. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. KINGSTON. I am happy to yield to the gentleman from Florida.

Mrs. THURMAN. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman tell me who has control over what is truth and what is false?

Mr. KINGSTON. The American people.

I would also say maybe we can put in some Math-101 classes so when folks say Medicare going from \$4,800 to \$6,700 is a cut, we can work on that, because maybe they can do that without the beep being triggered. There could just be some misunderstanding on what number is greater.

Mr. Speaker, I do want to point out one thing, though. There has been discussion about attaching things to this bill that has put the President in this bad position. In the words of the budget director, the Chief of Staff, and I believe I can quote him without causing any ruckus, the Republicans are now obviously resorting to a form of blackmail in order to push their agenda onto the country. This is unacceptable. This is blackmail.

Those were the words of Leon Panetta in the White House press release November 9. Yet, as a Congressman he said, yet this is the only vehicle we have as we close these days before this recess to try to bring the American

public what I think is a very important issue that relates to our ability to control spending and provide a shared sacrifice in terms of our approach.

That came from the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on June 28, 1984, which then-Congressman Panetta was saying, yes, it is okay to put stuff on these bills. They are a good vehicle. This is the only way we can do it.

So, Mr. Speaker, when we talk about the Republican Party overloading some of the budget bills and trying to blackmail the President of the United States, I would say there are true philosophical differences. The Republican Party wants to reduce the size of Government. They want to end the micromanagement out of Washington. They want to give the middle class some tax relief.

Yes, we are using legislative vehicles to do that. Members of the minority party do not want that; I understand that. But perhaps if the President would just agree that we want to balance the budget in 7 years, perhaps we could scale back on all this stuff.

I think it is important to have the dialogue. I think it is important to have a debate, but, most importantly, let us put the American people first. Let us put their interests first and try to do the right thing.

THE VOTERS VOTED FOR CHANGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mrs. THURMAN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. THURMAN. Mr. Speaker, today during the debate I was not given an opportunity, because we only had about 20 minutes on each side, to kind of explain what I think is a very important part of this process and a concern that I have. It concerns specifically when I came into the House in 1992, with about 110 freshmen, both Democrats and Republicans. Actually, there are several of them sitting on the floor tonight.

Let me tell my colleagues, when I listened to the debate today, I was astonished about hearing what happened in 1980. Oh, we had 52 CRs, and this is what has happened over and over and over again. Well, my folks did not send me here because they wanted to see business done as usual. They said they wanted a change. They wanted a difference. They wanted Government to run efficiently and effectively and they wanted to see things happen.

Democrats and Republicans in 1993, this same date, November 14, 1993, all 13 appropriations bills had been signed into law.

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Do you know what? We had big fights. Do you know what we were able to do? We actually reduced discretionary spending. I think some of you remember that. We reduced discretionary spending. We came in under our caps. We cut 40 programs. We took

408 other programs, and we slashed them from the previous year's expenditures. We did that, and we still continued. 1994, every bill, one more time, was done again by September 30, signed into law, had gone to the President. Democrats and Republicans voted for it.

Now, I want to talk about what I see happening today. Let me tell you all what maybe some of you do not know. Do you know that the Agriculture Department is open? It is open today. Federal employees were not furloughed. They were not put under the same restraints. Farmers are going to be able to be taken care of, because this House had passed a bill, the Senate had passed a bill. They had a conference committee, which is the process. It is to take what the House and the Senate and look at the differences, reconcile them and then bring them back to each body for them to agree or disagree on. And we did that. We did the work. And it went to the President. It was signed into law. But let me tell you what has happened now on the other 12 bills.

Yes, some of them have been passed by the Senate and by the House. But what has happened is, in the conference committee, the conference committee, and I hate to be partisan, because when I came in here with my 110 new freshmen, we did not make it partisan. We sat down and got the work done. We decided what needed to be reconciled.

But now, for example, let me tell you what some of the issues are. The crime and judiciary programs are being delayed because Republican leaders insist on rewriting the 1994 community policing program. Okay. Rewrite it. Bring it back. You have the votes to pass it. But guess what is stopping it. Within their own Senate and House conferees on their side, they cannot reach a compromise. They cannot agree on how to do the policing program, one of the most popular programs that was done in the crime bill and was used by many of our communities.

Veterans and housing programs, something that every one of us stand on this floor and we talk about our veterans and what the sacrifices were. What is holding Veterans and Housing programs up? Want me to tell you? A bill that had riders that were 17 demands which would have weakened environmental laws. Okay?

Let me tell you what is so interesting about this, the House rejected the bill two times. They did not like the outcome. We passed the amendment, took the riders out. Did not like the outcome of it. Brought it back until they got the results. Sent it over to the Senate. The Senate said no. They brought it back to the House again. They cannot reconcile their differences between themselves so we have no spending bill so they are shut down.

Then we have the Interior appropriations bill that is being delayed. Why? Because there are some Members who want to give away American lands to

foreign mining interests. They cannot decide if they want to do that. So what has happened? We do not have an Interior bill.

The list goes on and on and on. We would not have to be doing what we are doing today and having the pressure put on if these bills had been done and signed. We would have had an opportunity to debate the other issues.

I think that is awful. But I have to tell you something, and I think that this is what is very interesting. First of all, let me suggest to you all, I called by district office, 21 new requests. I will come back here in about another hour because I have some other things that I want to thank the American people for doing, because I believe they are the reason why we have the difference.

Veterans and Housing programs are being delayed because Republicans have included 17 demands which would weaken environmental laws. The House has rejected this bill two times, yet Republicans don't get it.

The Interior appropriations bill is being delayed because some Members want literally to give away American lands to foreign mining interest.

All of these bills could now be law if only the excess baggage had been thrown overboard. For instance, while the rest of the Government is closing down, the Department of Agriculture is working. Why?

Because all sides were able to resolve their differences and put a fair bill on the President's desk and he signed it.

Some people are blaming the President for this action, but every school child knows that Congress makes law and the President executes them. If no bill has been passed, there is nothing to execute.

If you cannot pass the easiest of bills then you cannot direct the country.

The Republicans simply don't pass.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. RIGGS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

VOTERS REJECT GOP AGENDA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas, Mr. GENE GREEN, is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to discuss, and I am glad my colleague from Georgia talked about the concern of the American people because they hear a lot of different things from the different mikes on the floor. Oftentimes the frustration they have and some of us even in Congress do not know what to believe.

But let me just go over some of the poll results because I have never, as a Member of Congress or even in earlier life, serving many years in the legislature, responded to polls because I think