

have undertaken has stopped Government. Two hundred and forty-five billion dollars in Medicare cuts, \$170 billion from Medicaid, an assault on the environment, student loans, the Endangered Species Act, the Arctic National Refuge.

Mr. Speaker, every part of the program is too extreme, and that is why Government has come to a halt. It cannot get through the House and Senate, so they are trying to blackmail the American people by shutting down this Government.

Mr. Speaker, if they take the tax cut off the table, we could even reach the balanced budget in the time they want to. But no, their goal is to take seniors and throw them off Medicare, to take children and take away their lunch program, to end the kind of environmental protection that has cleaned up the air and our rivers, a program even this week's Business Week says is too extreme.

AMERICAN DREAM, NOT AMERICAN DEBT

(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, as Members of Congress we are sent here to, as the Constitution says, "secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves, and our Prosperity." For a generation now Congress has forsaken the mandate laid out in the founding documents: limited government freedom of opportunity, and common responsibility.

For years now, Congress has helped to create a government that is too big, taxes too much, and makes people dependent. Well, last year the American people said "Enough." They are tired of seeing their paychecks shrink while the Government gets bigger and goes further and further into debt, and elected a new majority to Congress.

Congress and the President are now in a conflict over the budget. It must be made absolutely clear, the people and the President that Congress now follows a very different agenda than it did before. This Congress is committed to balancing the budget, so that our children will inherit the American dream and not the American debt. I hope the President will join us in this commitment.

REPUBLICANS THROWING BUDGET TANTRUM

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

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, the Republican leadership is throwing a budget tantrum that has shut our Government down.

Speaker GINGRICH and his freshman troops decided months ago to force their extreme agenda on the American people by creating this crisis.

Accept our cuts in Medicare, education, and the environment, the Republicans say, or else we will shut the Government down and cause a default.

Mr. Speaker, that's no way to run a country. NEWT GINGRICH should not be shutting the Government down in order to force his agenda on the American people.

Republicans and Democrats should sit down together and pass bipartisan bills to keep the Government running. Unfortunately, the Republican leadership is more interested in provoking confrontation than they are in governing responsibly.

The American people overwhelmingly support our budget priorities—they agree that we should not cut Medicare, education, and the environment. We should not raise premiums on Medicare 25 percent. The President is fighting for the priorities of the American people, and he is clearly standing firm.

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SEVEN SUMS UP BUDGET DEBATE

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

Mr. GANSKE. Mr. Speaker, let me sum up the current debate on the budget. One word: Seven. We are committed to balancing the Federal budget in 7 years with honest numbers. Not 8, not 9, not 10. Seven. Why seven? Because it is not too extreme, it is not too fast. But is realistic. We will not compromise, we will not back down. We will balance the budget in 7 years. The sooner the President of the United States understands this, the sooner we can stop the Government shutdown, and the sooner we can balance the budget. Seven.

BALANCING BUDGET A MATTER OF PRIORITIES

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, Speaker GINGRICH tries to blame the President for the Government shutdown but he has been planning this now for months.

Just take a look at the Speaker's words 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 what happens." That is what Speaker GINGRICH says. President Clinton does care. He cares about seniors, he cares about our children, and he cares about our environment. The question is not will we have a balanced budget, the question is how will we balance the budget. What are our priorities?

The President and the Democrats are standing with the American people in opposition to Medicare, education, and environmental cuts to pay for tax

breaks and tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans. This is not the American way. It is wrong.

DO IT FOR OUR CHILDREN

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

Ms. PRYCE. Mr. Speaker, I hope the mothers of America are watching what is going on in Washington.

As a mother, do you know that your child will have to pay \$187,000 during his or her lifetime just to pay for interest on the national debt?

As a mother, do you know that interest payments on the national debt eat up one-third of the entire Federal budget?

As a mother, do you know that generational accounting indicates that your children will face lifetime tax rates of more than 80 percent in order to pay off the debt?

Well, as a mother, I know I will not stand for this.

As a mother, I believe it is time to get our Federal house in order.

As a mother, I believe it is immoral to continue to saddle my children and all American children with the national debt.

I hope the mothers of America will join me.

Call the President. Tell him it is time to get down to the people's business. It is time to stop politicking, pass a balanced budget, and save our children's future.

Come on, Moms, keep the pressure on.

SPEAKER OUT OF TOUCH WITH AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, this partial Government shutdown is causing a great deal of anxiety for people who utilize Government services and for the 800,000 Federal employees who are currently being furloughed. We must stop that shutdown and end that anxiety as soon as possible. But we should also be clear as to what is really going on here. What is going on is that Mr. GINGRICH and the Republican leadership are attempting to blackmail the President and accept an agenda that the vast majority of American people disagree with. Very few people in this country think that we should give huge tax breaks for the rich, build B-2 bombers that the Pentagon does not want, and slash Medicare, Medicaid, veterans' programs, student loans, environmental programs, and job programs that protect our kids.

Mr. GINGRICH is dead wrong. He is out of touch with the American people. He should back down and let Government start running again.

REPUBLICANS DETERMINED TO BALANCE BUDGET

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

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, former Prime Minister Rabin of Israel once said, "Politicians are elected by adults to represent the children." Children do not vote, they do not respond to political polls, but they ultimately are the ones who will be helped or hurt by what we do here. That is why we are determined to get our financial house in order and balance our Federal budget within 7 years, save our trust funds, particularly Medicare, from bankruptcy, and transform our social and corporate welfare state into an opportunity society.

For our children we are determined to balance our Federal budget within 7 years, with or without the support of the President.

We are doing it by increasing spending. EITC goes up from \$19.8 to \$27 billion. School lunches go up from \$6 to \$8 billion. Student loans go up from \$24 to \$36 billion. Only in America and only in this place when you spend more money do people call it a cut.

DEMOCRATS READY TO DO THE PEOPLE'S WORK

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

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, all across our Nation, millions of Americans wake up every day, go to work, and do their jobs.

Sometimes it is tough. Some days it would be easier just to stay home.

But our people do it. Because it is a duty, you might even call it a contract.

Well, the Members of the House of Representatives also have a duty, a contract, to do our jobs.

And our job is to pass administration bills on time and keep our country running so veterans and seniors and students and families get the services they pay for and deserve.

Well, for all the Republican talk about a Contract With America, this body has failed spectacularly in honoring its contract to do our job.

Let us be clear—Government is closed—and people are suffering—because the Republican Congress cannot do its duty and pass these bills.

On the Democratic side of the aisle, we hear the alarm clock, and we are ready to do the people's work.

I hope my friends on the other side of the aisle are ready to rise and shine and do something more than talk about a contract.

A LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT

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

Ms. DUNN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I received a copy of a letter written by a senior citizen and businessman who lives in Seattle. It is addressed to President Clinton, and this is what he wrote:

When you were elected President, I felt issues you addressed in your campaign, such as balancing the budget in five years, were important.

Let me interject, Mr. Speaker, that the President now says that balancing the budget by 2002—10 years after his election—is unacceptable.

The writer goes on:

At the age of 62, I qualify as one of those you are trying to scare, but I can count . . . You speak of "huge and horrendous cuts in programs" which, in reality, will increase at well over the rate of inflation.

Please settle down, and without posturing, deal in a thoughtful way with our budget problem. . . . Even the poor, old, infirm and students will benefit from lower interest rates. . . .

Your posturing and inflammatory scare rhetoric may, in the short-run, accomplish some objective, but history will not treat anyone well who fails to lead us out of the mess that years of excessive spending has created.

Mr. Speaker, that says it all.

CLEAN CR BEST HOPE TO END BUDGET BATTLE

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

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I call today on the Republican leadership and my President to resolve the current shutdown of the Federal Government. The livelihood of many Americans and the stability of our Nation's political system demand as much.

I have heard from many Rhode Islanders who are upset and confused. They may all have different concerns, but they all share a common question—why did this happen?

Rhode Islanders realize that the current impasse did not have to occur. They understand that the House is behind in its work. They know that instead of passing appropriations bills in a timely, responsible manner, this House has been playing politics.

Each year this House has the duty to establish priorities and appropriate the funds to meet them. There are 13 such bills and they are supposed to be sent to the President before the start of the fiscal year.

Regrettably, this House, and, in particular, this new Republican leadership failed in this task. Instead of seeking bipartisan support for a fair, balanced budget, the Speaker crafted an extreme plan that included unnecessary cuts in essential programs like Medicare and education. More importantly, Mr. Speaker, this failure shut down the Government.

Balancing the budget is important, but there can be no progress in this environment of hostility. The majority has failed to get the appropriations

bills to the President. Now, they must be responsible and end the shutdown. A clean continuing resolution is the best and only solution. Moreover, it would provide the only real framework for the bipartisan solution the American people want.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you to do the right thing and end this game.

RESOLVING THE BUDGET SHOWDOWN

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

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, this whole budget showdown boils down to one question—why won't the President do what he promised and help balance the budget? This showdown is not about one side wanting to furlough Federal employees. This is about character, this is about trust, this is about our children, this is about our future as a nation.

The American people can no longer shoulder the burden of debt that the Federal Government is placing on them year after year after year. We now have a \$5 trillion debt. We spend over \$200 billion every year just to pay interest on this debt. The irresponsibility has to stop. Period.

Our President said he would present a 5-year plan to balance the budget.

We challenge the President to end the excuses and end the gimmicks. We encourage him to keep his promises. He should not be keeping us from keeping ours.

GETTING ON WITH THE PEOPLE'S BUSINESS

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, only one thing good has come out of this shutdown. It has exposed the extreme agenda of the Republican Party. What are they doing? What are they proposing? To raise Medicare premiums on seniors, gut environmental regulations, gut worker safety laws, gut health rules for food inspection, gut education, gut student loans, and let us remember, we would not be in this crisis if the Republicans were doing their job. Ten of 13 appropriations bills have not yet been sent to the President that were supposed to have been sent by October 1.

It is easy to see that the Republican leadership has provided this crisis in order to blackmail the President to accept their extreme agenda. Let us listen to what some of the leaders said just a few months ago.

The chairman of the Committee on the Budget: "If we close down, people will listen."

The Speaker: "The President will veto a number of things and we'll put