

this, and I think this is very accurate, and once again Mr. Thomasson is not known as any conservative or Republican columnist. In fact he is considered, I think, very moderate, and he said that, and in fact he frequently says things that criticize both the Republicans and the Democrats, and he said this. He said:

"The so-called Republican revolution is being undermined by a political ineptness hard to match in modern history. The result could be a derailing of the best opportunity in three decades to win control over runaway entitlements and to put some sense back in the congressional spending process."

But he goes on to say this, Mr. Speaker, and I think these words are so important for many people to hear. He said:

"For 30 of the 40 years Democrats controlled Congress before last year's GOP takeover, the majority displayed a constitutional inability to deal with the building budgetary crisis. Any effort to stabilize Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, pensions and welfare was not only rebuffed; it was labeled as mean-spirited and used to defeat its proponents."

So politically volatile were these issues that few members of Congress from either party would dare to whisper publicly what everyone knew: that unless something was done to control the costs of these huge programs, our economic future was in grave jeopardy."

Mr. Speaker, I think those words are so very important as we consider the debate that we are going through at this time.

Mr. Speaker, I will have more to say about this later on. I see that my time has expired.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from South Carolina [Mr. CLYBURN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. KIM] is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Mississippi [Mr. THOMPSON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

EXPLANATION OF PRESIDENT'S DECISION TO FURLOUGH NON-ESSENTIAL FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maine [Mr. LONGLEY] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LONGLEY. Mr. Speaker, today is day 3 of the President's decision to furlough nonessential Federal employees, and I know that there has got to be a great deal of concern across the country as to exactly what is happening, and I think that we, as Members of Congress, owe it to the public to explain to them in our view what precisely is happening, and I would like to explain the furlough in these terms.

Yesterday was a defining day. It was a defining day in the debate about the role of the Federal Government and the interests of the respective parties in dealing with the problems of Government spending. It was a defining day for the President because he came out and made it clear once and for all that he is opposed to balancing the Federal budget, despite the fact that in his campaign in 1993 he claimed that he could balance, and would balance, the Federal budget in 5 years, despite the fact that in various times he has come out for either a 7-year balanced budget, a 10-year balanced budget, an 8-year balanced budget, or a 9-year balanced budget, or the fact that in January of this year he submitted to this Congress a budget that will never balance, that shows \$200 billion a year in deficits as far as the eye can see.

The President, Mr. Speaker, made himself clear last night. He indicated that he is opposed to balancing the budget in 7 years.

□ 2350

It was also a defining day for the Congress. Last night we voted a continuing resolution wherein 277 Members of this body went on record in support of a clean continuing resolution, and when I say clean, I mean a resolution that had as its only condition that the President agree to work with the Congress to balance the Federal budget over the next 7 years, no other condition; no conditions about Medicare, no conditions about tax cuts, no conditions about spending adjustments, nothing, other than one simple agreement and understanding, that we will work together to balance this country's budget over the next 7 years.

Needless to say, that passed by 277 votes, nearly a veto-proof majority. But I also need to chide this House, and bring to its attention the fact that in January of this year we had 300 Members who went in support of a balanced budget amendment that would have required and would require that we balance the Federal budget over 7 years. Of the 300 votes in support of that, we received the votes of 72 Democrats.

I should note that since January, four of those Democrats have crossed the aisle to join the Republican party, precisely because of their commitment and support for the objective of balancing the Federal budget. Nevertheless, of those 68 remaining Democrats who voted for the balanced budget amendment, only 48 last evening voted to actually balance the budget in 7

years, per the terms of the continuing resolution.

Despite all the sweet talk and promises and posturing that the public has witnessed, the fact remains that we must get on a track to balancing the Federal budget, that we need a commitment from the Members of this Congress, a commitment to meet their word and to fulfill the promises that they made in their campaigns. We must get this country on the track to a balanced Federal budget.

This is about whether the Federal Government is going to, once and for all, recognize that there is a limit to what it can spend, a limit to what it can tax, and a limit to what it can regulate. Again, I hope that the President sees the light and is willing to fulfill the commitment that he made in his campaign.

REPUBLICANS IN CONGRESS ARE DETERMINED TO BALANCE THE FEDERAL BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. Fox of Pennsylvania). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Connecticut [Mr. SHAYS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I was elected to the State House in 1974, and began to serve office in 1975. At that time the national debt was about \$375 billion. I periodically would pay attention to the spending habits of Congress and note that it would spend more than it raised in revenues.

In the State House, I wondered how Congress could do this, because in the State legislatures, we of course have to balance our budgets. Obviously, a Congress, when times are difficult, during times of war and so on, during times of recession, it is logical that Congress would want to generate economic activity and help bring the economy out of its recession, but Congresses and Presidents collectively, Republicans and Democrats, allowed for deficit spending.

The national debt since that time has grown to \$4,900 billion, or \$4.9 trillion. When I was elected to Congress in 1987, I joined with a group of Republicans, primarily, and a few Democrats who wanted to end this. At the time our group was about 35 Members. Each year it kept growing, with each election it kept growing more and more and larger and larger, until last year our number was about 160.

Finally, with the election of 1994, we got a bulk of Members, Republicans and Democrats, who voted for the balanced budget amendment, as the gentleman from Maine [Mr. LONGLEY] pointed out, 72 Members on the other side, and every Republican except 1, I think, or 2 in the House. What are we trying to do? The first thing we are trying to do is get our financial House in order and balance our budget.

The second thing we are trying to do is save our trust funds, particularly Medicare, from bankruptcy. The third

thing, and it is equally as important, we are trying to transform the social and corporate welfare state into an opportunity society.

This is not easy; if it was easy, it would have been done a long time ago. It is not popular, or it would have been done a long time ago. We are determined to balance our Federal budget, but we are doing it, in many cases, by slowing the growth of spending. We are still allowing programs to grow.

The earned income tax credit, which some of my colleagues on the other side accuse us of wanting to cut, we are going to have it grow from \$19.8 billion to \$27.5 billion. The school lunch program we are going to have grow from \$6.3 billion to over \$8 billion. The student loan program is going to grow from \$24.5 billion to \$36 billion, a 50-percent increase in the student loan. Students are going to grow in the next 5 years from 6.7 million students to 8.4 million. It is a growing program. Medicaid is going to grow from \$89.2 billion to \$124.3 billion, and Medicare is going to grow from \$178 billion to \$273 billion. Only in this Chamber and in Washington, when you spend so much more money, do people call it a cut. We are spending more money.

I really appreciate and I really want to thank the Washington Post. It is nice to have a paper that has been pretty hard on us recognizing that the real default is not in this Chamber, it is by the White House, in failing to want to participate in this effort.

When Leon Panetta was a Member of this Chamber, he said, "The only way you are going to control the spending in Congress and our Federal budget is to control the growth of entitlements." We are taking on entitlements. It is not an easy thing to do. No complaints. I am proud of it. I am happy to go to my constituents and explain what we are doing. For instance, with Medicare, we have no copayment increase, no deduction increase. We are allowing the premium to stay at 31.5 percent. The taxpayers will continue to pay 68.5 percent.

We are allowing individuals to stay in their private fee-for-service system that has gone from the 1960's on up, this Blue Cross-Blue Shield program. We are allowing them to stay there, but we are also going to give them a Medi-Plus program. They can get better service if they get into private care. If they leave and get private care and it turns out they do not like it, they have the opportunity every month for the next 24 months to get back into the traditional Medicare program. My point is, I am so proud of what this Republican majority is doing when it comes to dealing with the budget.

Now, would I like the President to weigh in? Yes. I want him to agree to a 7-year balanced budget. But I am not saying he has to agree to our priorities. If he wants to put more money in urban areas, frankly, I hope he does. I would like to join him in that effort. If he thinks that our tax cut should be

slightly different, then I hope he does. I would be happy to assist him in that effort.

The bottom line, Mr. Speaker, is that we are going to get our financial house in order, with or without the President's help, but it would be a lot easier with his help.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PALLONE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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.]

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

[Mrs. THURMAN addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

The following Members (at the request of Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CLYBURN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. THOMPSON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. THURMAN, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. DUNCAN) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. KIM, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. LONGLEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. RIGGS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ROYCE, for 5 minutes, on November 17.

(The following Member (at his own request) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. SHAYS, for 5 minutes, today.

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

By unanimous consent, permission to revise and extend remarks was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts) and to include extraneous matter:)

Miss COLLINS of Michigan.

Mr. LANTOS.

Mr. HOYER.

Mrs. MALONEY.

Mr. LIPINSKI.

Mr. TRAFICANT.

Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts.

Mr. GEJDENSON.

Mrs. COLLINS of Illinois.

Mr. SANDERS.

Mr. PALLONE.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. DUNCAN) and to include extraneous matter:)

Mr. DAVIS.

Mr. SHAW.

Mr. FUNDERBURK.

Mr. PACKARD.

Mr. CRANE.

Mr. FIELDS of Texas.

Mr. SCHAEFER.

Mr. RAMSTAD.

Mr. HORN.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. SHARP) and to include extraneous matter:)

Mr. HEINEMAN.

Mr. PAYNE of Virginia.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM.

Mr. CAMP.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 59 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, November 17, 1995, at 9:30 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XXIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

1690. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Assistance Agency, transmitting notification concerning the Department of the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance [LOA] to the United Arab Emirates for defense articles and services (Transmittal No. 96-13), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(b); to the Committee on International Relations.

1691. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Assistance Agency, transmitting a report stating that on November 13, 1995, the deaths of five Americans were caused by a major explosion which occurred in the parking lot of the headquarters, Office of the Program Management-Saudi Arabian National Guard Modernization Program [OPM-SANG], pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2761(c)(2); to the Committee on International Relations.

1692. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 11-147, "Safe Streets Anti-Prostitution Temporary Amendment Act of 1995" pursuant to D.C. Code, section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. DREIER: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 272. Resolution authorizing a specified correction in the form of the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R.