

because they are the most accurate. We have that continuing resolution out there now. The Senate has passed it, but he has chosen to veto it.

I would call upon the President tonight to extend that arm, as we extend our continuing resolution, and join us halfway and meet us to sign this continuing resolution for the good of the country. Let us not get caught up in the politicizing of this budgetary process any longer.

At this point, Mr. Speaker, I would urge my colleagues to join with us on both sides of the aisle and help get this Government back up and running and at the appropriate time that we can begin to negotiate where we have legitimate disagreements.

THE BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate joining my colleague from Maine and the freshman Democrats who have come to this House floor seeking not only a mere opportunity for collegiality, but fairness for the American people.

I come this evening because this is an important matter before the House. I come in the name of my son, Jason, age 10, who has a Thanksgiving feast this Monday, my daughter Erica, age 15, who has a basketball tournament this weekend, and my husband.

Thanksgiving happens to be a time when most families would like to have time together. I take issue with the gentleman on the floor about this regular Sunday dates with his family. We all would like to be with our family. I would imagine that the 28,000 individuals who are applying for Social Security benefits probably need to have the Government operating, because they are in dire need.

Mr. Speaker, I would think the 10,000 claims for veterans benefits are important to those people who have given their service to this country; and, the 10,000 applications for Medicare that are not being processed also impacts seniors who have come now to a time in their life when they need medical care; and the 2,500 home mortgage applications that are not being processed.

Mr. Speaker, it happens to be very interesting. I have heard myriad comments made by my Republican friends. I think the American people need to know the facts. The Republicans are in the majority. They are the ones who are in control and they came into this Congress, along with those of us who are freshman Democrats, on January 4, 1995.

We have had now some 11 months to pass the appropriation bills that should have been passed as of October 1. Interestingly enough, we were willing in the first 100 days to do things like dismantle the crime bill. We were willing to dismantle the welfare reform package

that most of us thought we could agree with, and put some million children off the rolls in order to allow for them to be unfed and hungry. A million children that would not be able to have the benefits that they need on a welfare reform package.

They were willing to tack on the appropriation bills the elimination of affirmative action; all kinds of unrelated activities were taking up the time of Republicans, when we should have been dealing with the appropriation bills for this country.

So it amuses me, and saddens me as well, when I hear our Republican colleagues come to the House floor with such piousness. They are in the majority in this House and they have not done their jobs and the American people need to know that. They need to know when little children picket the White House because they are not able to go to the museums of this Nation that belong to them that the Republicans simply have not done their job.

If further amuses me for them to say we do not need to work this weekend. Yes, we do, because there are people in this country who will come on Monday and face another day of being unsalaried and not being able to work. Frankly, let me tell my colleagues that this continuing resolution is not at the President's desk. It is still over in the Senate. It has not gotten to his desk.

If it has not gotten to his desk, we will have Saturday and we need to be here Sunday to resolve the matter. I wish we would come down to the bare facts of what the truth actually is. We have a schism here.

We do not have a reconciliation bill. We have a bill that actually divides this country. It divides this country because it eliminates the low income house tax credit, something that helps inner cities develop affordable housing for their citizens. It reduces payments to hospitals and causes urban and rural hospitals to close.

Mr. Speaker, it increases the Medicare premium upwards of \$10 for our citizens, one of whom I heard from tonight who said she gets \$600 a month in her Social Security and she is 85 years old. I venture to say, Mr. Speaker, she cannot afford the extra \$10.

In Texas, we will find that Medicaid has been reduced now to \$5 billion, reduced down to \$5 billion. We will see many of our urban hospitals, the Harris County Hospital District and the citizens that it takes care of, impacted drastically.

Then the Republicans talk about the investment for their children. They are good about talking about what is happening in the 21st century. Let me tell my colleagues the truth. They reduced R&D 35 percent. Research and development creates jobs for Americans. Then they decreased the student loans some \$5 billion. They put a thousand schools out of the direct student loan program. This is the future that Republicans offer.

Mr. Speaker, I think we need to not only be here tomorrow; we need to be

here Sunday. We need to be here maybe on Thanksgiving Day, so that we have truly reflect what America is all about and there would be a real Thanksgiving, and that is a budget that reflects the needs of all working Americans, not just the talented tenth and not just the wealthy who will be getting \$245 billion in a tax cut.

Mr. Speaker, I am gratified to be amongst those freshman Democrats who are standing here to say we are prepared to work for the American people so the doors of this Government can be open on Monday and we can serve them in the manner that they should be served.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to strongly urge my colleagues to work throughout this weekend to resolve this budget impasse. My Democratic freshman colleagues and I introduced a resolution today that recommends that the House complete action on a continuing resolution and debt ceiling to end this budget impasse. We urged the House Rules Committee to allow this resolution to proceed to the House floor.

This crisis is taking a toll on millions of Americans, particularly Federal employees and their families. Some 800,000 Federal employees have been furloughed. They are wondering whether they will get paid for this furlough period and be able to meet the economic needs of their families.

Each day that the Government is shut down, 28,000 applications for Social Security benefits are not being processed; 10,000 claims for veterans' benefits are not being processed; 10,000 applications for Medicare are not being processed; 2,500 home mortgage applications are not being processed; 22,000 passport applications are not being processed; and 60,000 young children are unable to attend Head Start programs.

This crisis is affecting business firms that have contracts with the Federal Government and affecting localities that depend upon Federal employment to stabilize their economies.

This impasse is causing America to lose its credibility with the rest of the world, particularly among the international capital markets.

The budget impasse is unacceptable. The Members of this House were elected to do a job, which is to appropriate funds to operate the Federal Government and carry out our oversight function over Government agencies. We have failed to exercise this responsibility because the House leadership spent valuable time during this session on the "Contract With America" proposals instead of moving the appropriations bills through the legislative process.

While millions of Americans are experiencing anxiety over this impasse, Members of Congress are still being paid. Since we are getting paid, let us remain here over the weekend and resolve this crisis by passing a clean continuing resolution or pass appropriations bills without extraneous legislative riders so that the Federal Government can conduct its business.

Most Members of this House want a balanced budget. Many of us have voted for balanced budget proposals during this session of Congress. However, the budget must not be balanced on the backs of those Americans that can least afford it. There is an appropriate way to achieve this goal. We must not hold

the American people, particularly Federal employees, hostage in the process.

This is not the time for Members to focus on perceived slights by the President. This is not the time to focus on partisan politics. This is the time to act in a responsible manner and ensure that the Federal Government is up and running to serve the American people.

BUDGET IMPASSE

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, I think it is important to focus on not just where we are now, but how we got here. Several days the House passed and sent over to the Senate a continuing resolution which would fund every part of the Government that is now shut down, and fund it at a level that I take it the President does not object to, because he has not objected to that part of the continuing resolution.

There was only one other condition attached to it: That the President agree to balance the budget of the United States in 7 years according to realistic numbers. The President has announced, before the bill was even passed the President announced that he would veto the legislation.

Why? Because the President would shut the Government down rather than balance the budget in 7 years, and the Congress would allow the Government to be shut down rather than prevent the budget from being balanced in 7 years. A number of Members on both sides of the aisle have talked about the schism, about the philosophical differences.

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield for a question?

Mr. TALENT. I yield to the gentleman from Maine.

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, I think that the American would say that everybody is in favor of balancing the budget, but does your proposal have a \$245 billion tax break on top of balancing the budget?

Mr. TALENT. We provide family tax relief. Is the gentleman in favor of balancing the budget in 7 years?

Mr. BALDACCI. Yes.

Mr. TALENT. Did you vote that way?

Mr. BALDACCI. Yes.

Mr. TALENT. Did you vote for the balanced budget amendment?

Mr. BALDACCI. I voted for the Stenholm budget. I voted for the Orton budget.

Mr. TALENT. Did you vote for the continuing resolution?

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Mr. BALDACCI. I support a 7-year balanced budget.

Mr. TALENT. Did you vote for the continuing resolution?

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, I want the gentleman to understand, our balanced budget did not have tax breaks in it. I think that the proposal that you put forward did.

Mr. TALENT. Reclaiming my time, Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. HOKE].

Mr. HOKE. Does the continuing resolution have a \$240 billion tax cut in it?

Mr. TALENT. No, I appreciate the gentleman saying that. The President has complained and several Members of this body have complained about certain parts of our budget that they do not like this aspect of it, they do not like that aspects of it.

The continuing resolution does not say the President has to accept the congressional budget, does not say the President has to accept any budget. It says the President has to agree to balance the budget in 7 years. One of the problems we have in this Congress is that instead of debating the import of the matters before us, we keep making contrary assertions about what is before us. We cannot even agree on what we are talking about.

The continuing resolution says the Government will continue if the President will agree to balance the budget in 7 years. He does not like our budget. He can offer his own. In fact, he did offer his own budget. He did offer his own budget some months ago, I believe in the form of a 22- or 24-page press release, which he claimed balanced the budget in 10 years.

This is how the Congressional Budget Office scored it. Continued deficits through another 10 years at \$200 billion. It was a budget that no Member of either party in this House would even offer on the House floor. It was offered on the Senate and it was rejected by a vote of 96 to 0.

The President is not opposed to the continuing resolution. He is not trying to get the Government to shut down because he does not like our budget. He is shutting down because he does not like our budget. He is shutting the Government down because he does not want to balance the budget in 7 years. Why does he not want to balance the budget in 7 years? About the only good thing about this controversy, Mr. Speaker, is that it does highlight the very major philosophical differences between the two parties here in Washington. The President of the United States and the leader of the Democratic Party believes basically that what is important about America is the Federal Government and its agencies and its instrumentalities, as if the United States was a pyramid with the Federal Government at the top of it. And the policies the President has followed and the national Democratic Party, not all Democrats to be sure, but the national Democratic Party have followed has sucked up that pyramid power and resources away from the American people for the last 30 years.

But our party believes in the people and what they have built, their families their communities, their neighborhoods, their local schools, serve and civil and charitable organizations. We want power and resources located in the people, and what built in their communities. And we do not want the Federal Government to bankrupt everything that the people of this country have built and have worked for for the last several hundred years.

Mr. Speaker, the President was against the balanced budget amendment. He is against the budget that we offered. He refuses to offer a serious budget of his own. And now he vetoes a continuing resolution that calls for him to do nothing except accept in principle that we will balance this budget within 7 years.

Mr. Speaker, if some family or some business in the United States was awash in red ink the way the Federal Government is and their deal with their creditors and the bank was, we will get our budget balanced in 7 years, not eliminate the debt, just eliminate the deficit in 7 years, people would laugh at them. That is all we are trying to do here. That is all we need to do to get this government open. The minute the President agrees to balance the budget in 7 years, according to reasonable numbers, this Government will open for business.

MORE ON THE BUDGET IMPASSE

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

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, let me begin tonight by thanking the staff of the House of Representatives for staying so late and giving us a chance to address each other and our fellow countrymen. We appreciate it. It must be very scintillating for you to listen to all of us. We appreciate that you are here.

It is a great honor and a humbling experience to serve in this body. It is something I am very proud of. But frankly, we have not brought ourselves very much honor the last couple of days by what has gone on.

Tonight I would like to talk about a question and a challenge that I would offer to everyone on both sides of the aisle as we try to struggle through the next couple of days. It must be, Mr. Speaker, thoroughly exasperating to watch what we have done the last couple days or have not done the last couple days, when you consider the fact that there is a short-term question before the Congress and a long-term question before the Congress.

The short-term question is, what do we have to do to open up the doors of the Federal Government again and get these 800,000 people back to work? Virtually everyone from both parties that comes to the floor says they want to do that. And then they degenerate into why the other side has blocked them from doing that. And I find it inconceivable that 535 Members, including us and the other body and the President, cannot come up with a sensible solution in the next couple of days that would do that.

The longer term question is, do we want to balance the budget in 7 years? The answer is an overwhelming yes. Almost 300 Members of this institution have voted to do exactly that, not in