

AN APOLOGY

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

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, Friday evening the gentleman from California [Mr. CUNNINGHAM] directed an inappropriate remark at me for which he subsequently apologized. Unfortunately, I responded to that remark in an even less appropriate way by forcing Mr. CUNNINGHAM to leave the House floor with me and then instigating a physical confrontation outside the doors. I acted in a way that is unbecoming a Member of the Congress.

If this were an athletic ring, a top gun Navy fighter pilot the size of DUKE CUNNINGHAM would certainly have made for a fair fight of it. But we are supposed to be engaged in a battle of ideas, demonstrating to the American people and other countries how we settle our differences in a nonviolent way.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM deserves an apology from me. I hereby offer one.

□ 1430

FINALLY A PLAN TO BALANCE
THE BUDGET IN 7 YEARS

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

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, this is a truly historical day in this country, not because we have agreement on a final balanced budget plan, but because we finally have the executive branch and the legislative branch agreeing to balance the budget in 7 years.

Now we have seen a lot of flip-flops over the past year. We are going to put that behind us. We are going to do what it takes to protect and preserve Medicare and to also balance our budget for the next generation.

Of course, we have heard the Democrats attacking our plans on Medicare, saying that it was mean-spirited, but let us hear what the Washington Post had to say about the difference between the plans. They said:

Though many of the President's advisers think the GOP's proposal is sensible and it differs little from his own plan, the President fired sound bites from the Oval Office daily taking the low road in ways that only Washington pundits could recast as standing trial.

Let us forget the demagoguery, let us admit that there is only \$4 difference between our Medicare and the President's Medicare plan, and let us get on with the people's business, and stop looking at the polls, and do what is right. That is why we were elected, and that is the principle that we stand firmly on.

Balance the budget for the next generation.

THANKSGIVING INTROSPECTION

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, among those many blessings for which we can give thanks this Thanksgiving, one is our good fortune at being a part of the greatest Nation in the world.

Yes, I have listened to those who come almost daily to this House floor to whine about almost everything that has happened in this country over the last six decades, beginning with President Roosevelt signing Social Security into law, something they have never gotten over. But while we are gathered at the Thanksgiving table this Thursday, let us look at our own families and think what we want our national priorities to be.

As we look at the oldest member of our family, do we want to deny her health care security just in order to give those who have the most another tax break? As we look at the youngest, do we want to put more obstacles in the way of their educational opportunities so that they, too, can share in the great bounty of this Nation just in order to give the Pentagon \$7 billion in costly weapons systems it never asked for? And are all of us going to have to buy bottled water next Thanksgiving because this Congress cannot stand up to the polluter lobby? I think not.

The American people can speak out this Thanksgiving about what they have to be thankful for and what they will be thankful for when this budget is concluded.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MY BRAVE
COLLEAGUES FOR STICKING TO
THEIR GUNS

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

Mr. BONO. Mr. Speaker, what really happened?

First of all, the Members that decided to stay on the floor over the weekend accomplished zip, and zero, and nothing. All they did was they, and do not hiss. That is kind of foolish.

Mr. Speaker, all they did was make the Capitol Police stay here on Sunday and keep their staffs here. But what did they accomplish? Nothing.

What happened? We finally made the President understand that he had to balance the budget in 7 years. No one else did. We did by sticking to our position. Eventually it dawned on the President that he had to balance the budget, and, therefore, he can no longer play any more games, and we got what we wanted.

Other than that, that was what occurred over the weekend so we had a lot of brave Members here, and I congratulate all of my colleagues for sticking to their guns, and that is all that brought this about, nothing else. Everything is rhetoric.

BALANCING THE BUDGET IN A
FAIR AND EQUITABLE WAY

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

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I think that, as we are on the brink of having a chance to balance the budget in a fair and equitable way, I am begging that we take into consideration the crisis which exists for the veterans in this country with the current budget put forth by Republicans. The budget is setting, as it is now, a double whammy on veterans. Do my colleagues realize that Medicaid has been cut, and the Medicaid cuts alone would force as many as 172,000 veterans to lose Medicaid coverage in the year 2002.

I come before my colleagues this morning to beg that they watch what is happening to the veterans of this country because these are the people who went to wars and to foreign wars to help each of us, so it is up to us now to be sure that in addition to the harsh Medicaid cuts, look at the cuts in the VA budget that are going to severely impact veterans.

And I want to say to my Republican friends we are spending a lot of money on the military budget. Let us think of those who have already extended their lives into the military.

SEVEN YEARS MEANS SEVEN
YEARS

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

Mr. LIVINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, Medicaid has gone up, Medicare has gone up, veterans benefits are going up. But 7 years is not going up. Seven years means seven years. The President committed to 7 years, not 8, 9, 10, 12, anything else. He committed to 7 years last night, and we are going to hold him to it. This is not a goal of a balanced budget in 7 years, it is a commitment, it is a contract, a rock solid contract.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we have to go through the implementing legislation. The President has to provide his guidelines on how he wants to reach that 7-year balanced budget. We will look at his figures. But it is going to be balanced within 7 years according to Congressional Budget Office scoring. That is a deal.

NO MORE BRINKSMANSHIP WITH
FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

(Ms. NORTON asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, Republicans have focused on the No. 7. Now focus on the No. 4 for Medicare, Medicaid, then education, and the environment. President Clinton has explained that the agreement means, "nothing will be agreed to unless all elements

are agreed to," and he said, "I cannot sign a budget that devastates" these programs.

Another drop-dead date, December 15, looms just before Christmas. We should not even think about further brinksmanship with Federal employees.

A week of shutting down the financially devastated District has taken a new, catastrophic toll inflicted by this body. A short continuing resolution makes it impossible to calibrate payments to avoid overobligation in running a complex city.

The D.C. appropriation will probably not come to the floor this week. Yet 85 percent of that appropriation comes from D.C. taxpayers.

Free the 85 percent that is our money.

LET US BALANCE THE BUDGET FOR OUR GRANDCHILDREN

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

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I am here this afternoon to announce that my second grandson, John Allan Simpson, was born this morning at 8:30. Mother and son are doing fine; father not doing so well, but he will come down to earth soon, too. But it is the grandchildren that caused me to run for Congress.

Before I came here, I had a much better job, made about twice as much money and had actual vacations. But it is important for us as leaders in this country to get control of the runaway spending that we are passing the bill on to our grandchildren. John Allan Simpson, if we do not change our ways, will have a \$187,000 bill for just interest on the debt over his lifetime. That is immoral. For 30 years we voted ourselves wishes and dreams and passed the bills on to our grandchildren. That is immoral.

I am proud to say that this weekend we have gotten some movement. I am pleased that the President has agreed that within the framework that we have proposed we will come to terms with not spending more than \$7 trillion over the next 7 years. We will get control of the debt, balance the budget and grow out of this mess for our grandchildren.

NOW IS THE TIME FOR CONGRESS TO DO ITS WORK

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

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, the budget crisis having been temporarily averted, the Government back to work, credit being over claimed, everybody won; now, the hard part. Now is the time for Congress to do its work, pass the appropriations bill, send the reconciliation bill to the White House, accept the vetoes, and then let us sit

down like adults and work out a bipartisan balanced budget that protects our values for Medicare, which I would argue the differences are not \$4, but hundreds of billions of dollars for Medicaid, for education, and the environment.

Seventy-five Democrats and Republicans, myself included, know where to start. Let us build on that. Let us build on the coalition budget. Let us do what the people sent us here to do. Let us work out an acceptable compromise.

HOW DO WE SPEND \$12 TRILLION OVER THE NEXT 7 YEARS?

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

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, the President agreed to 7 years, CBO numbers; Republicans have been saying 7 years, CBO numbers. We have come to an agreement, but that really is not the parameter of the agreement. The agreement is how do we spend \$12 trillion, over the next 7 years? Basically it is an agreement between the majority party, House and Senate Republicans, and the President.

The Democrats come to this well the morning after the agreement and continue to talk about cuts. We are talking about how we spend 12 trillion more dollars over the next 7 years. To the degree the Democrats do not begin to be part of the solution, they are going to be even more irrelevant than they are now. To the degree they continue to talk about cuts, they are simply not going to be at the table.

We are going to work out over 7 years how to spend \$12 trillion according to the Congressional Budget Office numbers. We would like to have our colleagues as part of the team. We are not cutting, we are adding. To the degree our colleagues think we are cutting, they are irrelevant.

LET US MAKE THE BIPARTISAN AGREEMENT HAPPEN

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

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I applaud the agreement finally reached by the President and Republican leaders to end the shutdown and put government back to work again for the American people.

The deal to balance the budget in 7 years is good. But even better is the acceptance, finally, by Republicans in the deal that balancing the budget in 7 years must protect the needs and desires of the American people.

It must protect future generations; protect Medicare; protect education; protect Medicaid; protect working families; protect agriculture; protect national defense; protect veterans; protect the environment; and protect economic growth.

We finally have a bipartisan agreement to balance the budget in a way

that is fair and just to all Americans and not just the rich.

We have a bipartisan agreement that reflects the American values and priorities that the President and Democrats have been fighting so hard to preserve.

Now let us work to make it happen.

HELP STIMULATE THE ECONOMY

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

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, there have been several speakers who have come to the floor this morning and talked about the agreement and the entitlement programs that it will address in the next 3 weeks, but there is another very, I think, very influential and very important portion of that agreement and that is that we shall adopt tax policies to help working families and stimulate future economic growth. Tax policy to help working families. That is the \$500 tax credit that not only we have proposed in legislation and passed this year, but also that the President proposed earlier this year.

Stimulate economic growth. When the minority leader appeared before the Committee on Ways and Means earlier this year, I asked him about a provision in the Tax Code that I think have cost more assembly line jobs than any provisions that have been implemented and would he support repealing it; and his answer was yes. And that is the alternative minimum tax.

The capital gains tax. What more has history proven that will help stimulate the economy than the capital gains tax? Mr. Speaker, we do not need to overlook this very important part of this agreement.

□ 1445

WHO ARE THE TRUE WINNERS IN THE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN?

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

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, who are the true winners of the Government shutdown battle? Is it (a) the Democrats, (b) the Republicans, (c), the American people, or (d) all of the above?

The correct answer is (d), all of the above. Everyone can claim victory for the compromise made by President Clinton and the Congress last night. The compromise allows Republicans and Democrats to legislate and even compromise, which is what the American people sent us here to do. However, in this time of euphoria, we must remember that we have agreed to a temporary cease-fire and not a permanent settlement. The tough sledding lies ahead. Republicans must understand that while we all want a balanced budget, it must be done while