

today? Have they even gotten half of these bills passed? Well, now, as we begin to approach Christmas, having completed Thanksgiving, they have yet to send to the President's desk almost half of the appropriations bills.

Let me review what pends here as these Republicans enjoy their siesta today:

The Commerce, Justice, State, and Judiciary appropriations bills have not been presented to this House for action.

The District of Columbia appropriations bill, it says in the latest report that conference was continued on November 17, and it is still continued. We do not have the bill out here to act on.

The Committee on Foreign Operations, the latest report says the conference deadlocked on November 15. That means that the Senate Republicans and the House Republicans cannot agree on the same bill. So it is not out here for us to act on.

The Interior bill, that is the one we defeated just before the Thanksgiving break because of that giveaway that the Gingrich-ite majority wanted to give to the mining companies to take public property and use it for private gain.

The Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education bills, they failed to begin floor debate over in the Senate at the end of September. It has not even passed the U.S. Senate.

Then the Veterans' Affairs, Housing and Urban Development legislation which was taken up and defeated today, recommitted for the second time, the second time that this House has recommitted that bill, the first time because our Republican colleagues wanted to bind and destroy law enforcement against pollution with some 17 binders, and so it was rejected. They came back kind of with their tails between their legs, saying, "We really did not mean to do so much damage to the environment as we did."

Today this House said "yes," but you are doing damage to the veterans that secured this country. You are taking \$213 million out of their health care that ought not to be taken out of that health care, and this House soundly rejected and recommitted that bill.

We have got half the business and well over half of the appropriations of the Government of the United States that have not been signed into law, and these folks take a siesta for the rest of the day.

They say they want a balanced budget. Well, they do not have much balance to the way they are getting that budget. The problem is they do not have any balance in the budget that they propose.

I believe in a budget that is balanced. I come from the pay-as-you-go approach of Texas. I want those figures to balance so that we do not leave our grandchildren with debt upon debt.

But how about a little balance for the people that are affected by that budget? Oh, yes, they say we have got

to sacrifice. They said this morning that those veterans had to sacrifice to the extent of \$213 million out of their health care.

But what sacrifice do they demand of the most wealthy of our citizens? They said, "Could you, please, pretty please, take a tax break at the same time we cut the rest of America?"

That is wrong, and so is this siesta.

#### BALANCING THE BUDGET IN 7 YEARS

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, I did not rise to defend this Congress. But I can vouch personally for the fact that the overwhelming majority of Members of this body are working quite hard, thank you.

I did want to speak and address some of the remarks that were made by the gentleman from Hawaii [Mr. ABERCROMBIE] because I think he has raised a very important point relative to the role and interaction of the Social Security trust funds with the deficit. I do not have the precise numbers, and I am sure I am going to be looking forward to the Members' discussion over the next several days and weeks. But I would be interested to know the extent to which the Social Security trust funds actually comprise a significant percentage of our \$5 trillion national debt.

I would suggest that there are clear implications to that which relate to how, in fact, we are dealing with balancing the budget and whether, in fact, we are using the type of honest numbers we have come to expect.

I have confess that, having spent the Thanksgiving weekend, frankly, with two of the most important people in my life, my two children, I have got maybe a little bit of a different perspective of what we have been doing over the past several months, particularly as it relates to the deficit. Again, I think we all agree there is no issue that is more important than balancing this country's budget once and for all.

I for one was very pleased to see that the President agreed just about 2 weeks ago to the concept that we are going to work together, Republicans and Democrats, to come up with a 7-year plan to finally once and for all balance the Federal budget.

But I have to confess that I think the public expects an awful lot more of the Members of this body on both sides of the aisle with respect to how we work toward that objective, and specifically I was very distressed to know that barely was the ink dry on the agreement when the President's chief of staff made the comment that, well, he was not sure we were really going to balance the budget in 7 years, that it might take 8 years or longer.

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Then over the weekend, Mr. Carvel, the President's chief political strate-

gist, made the comment that from his perspective, the President might just as well drive a hard line that would result in a continuing resolution or even a Government shutdown until November of 1996, almost over a year from today.

I have got to say there is no more important issue in this body than our once and for all coming to grips with many of the petty, partisan differences that stand in the way of our doing the work that the people elected us to do, which is to find a way to honestly get the Government spending under control so that we can move in the direction of a balanced Federal budget.

Again, I respect the points that are being made by the gentleman from Hawaii [Mr. ABERCROMBIE], and I would suggest that they are very much factors that need to be considered in how we go about doing it. But the bottom line is that we need to work toward balancing the budget, and that means making tough decisions relative to cutting spending.

Yesterday, again, the chief of Staff of the White House made the comment that the White House was not going to be willing to agree to any 7-year plan to balance the budget unless we obtained the support of 100 Members of the Democratic side of this House. While as laudable a goal as that is, I think what it is suggesting to me is that, frankly, we may be wasting our efforts, Republicans and Democrats, attempting to work with the White House, and perhaps it is the responsibility of this party, this body, to come to grips together as Republicans and Democrats, to finally get the heavy lifting done on the budget, because I interpret the Chief of Staff's comments yesterday as a suggestion that the White House, frankly, is not really serious about working together to get to a balanced Federal budget.

When we cannot even agree on the number of people who are participating in the negotiations, I would suggest that this is a major embarrassment on everybody involved in the process. As I said, I think the public expects an awful lot more than they are receiving. When we have a government that over the next 7 years is going to spend in excess of \$12 trillion, some \$3 trillion more in the next 7 years than we spent in the last 7 years, and that is using the numbers from the Republicans budget, then I think that we need to take serious stock of where we are and how seriously we are committed to making the tough decisions that need to be made.

I was pleased this morning to be part of a group from my side of the aisle of Republican Members who are going to be trying to work with Democratic Members, with the Coalition, to try to find a common ground that we need to finally get the type of accommodation, the type of agreement, that will allow us to make the serious decisions we need to make.

With respect to the comments of the gentleman from Hawaii [Mr. ABERCROMBIE], and I think it is an important issue that we need to address, the fact that some percentage of our \$5 trillion deficit actually consists of funds loaned by workers who were paying into the Social Security trust fund, again we have some serious issues. We need to address it. But first of all, we need to work together to finally get Government spending under control.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GANSKE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. LEWIS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

#### BUDGET RECONCILIATION

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

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, our budget should reflect our values.

We now have a chance to achieve that important goal. Before Thanksgiving, we voted to return all government employees to work—ending the false distinction between those referred to as essential and those as non-essential.

In addition, the President and leadership from the majority in Congress reached an agreement, in principal, to balance the budget, to use reliable revenue projections, and to protect vital social programs.

As part of that agreement and our action, in the House and in the Senate, we are aiming at December 15th to deliver on those commitments. The American people expect us to reach that target. Another Government shutdown will not be tolerated.

How can we reach that target, what are the obstacles to reaching that target, and what are the values of America? We can reach that target by putting principal and people above politics and party. We can reach that target by discovering our similarities and overlooking our differences.

Now the obstacles, admittedly, are many.

But this Nation and this Congress have faced obstacles before. And we have overcome those obstacles by holding to our values.

We believe in equality. We believe in fairness. We believe in justice. And, we believe in family. Those are values held by every Member of this Chamber.

And, since those are our similarities, there is really no reason for our differences to prevent us from enacting a long-term, balanced budget bill by December 15.

If all of us believe in equality, fairness, justice, and family—and we do—why should achieving a balanced budget in 7, 8, 9 or 10 years be an obstacle?

It should not.

If all of us believe in equality—and we do—why should there be any distinction in tax relief between those making \$100,000 dollars a year or more and those making \$28,000 dollars a year or less?

Doesn't fairness require that we treat our seniors, our children, and the poor with the same concern and respect as we treat the able-bodied and the well-to-do?

And, what does justice require?

Is it just to insist upon a rigid set of numbers and a rigid time frame that have been subjectively selected?

Is it justice to increase spending by \$245 billion on a tax cut, while reducing spending on medicare by \$270 billion or on Medicaid by \$175 billion or while reducing spending on education and the environment?

Can we not agree that justice requires that if we must spend a dollar to help some, we should not take a dollar and hurt others?

And, family—one of our most important values.

Family is more than a strong father and a sturdy mother.

Family is a healthy grandfather and grandmother.

Family is fit children who can count on and look forward to educational and economic opportunities.

Family, in the larger sense, is a community of friends and neighbors who have jobs at liveable wages, who have safe and sanitary housing, and who can breathe free and drink safe water.

Not one Member in this Chamber will deny those values.

And, the budget we enact, before December 15, should reflect each of those values.

If it does, we would have reached our goal.

If it does not, we have surrendered our values.

And, so, I challenge the Speaker, the majority leader, others with authority in the majority, the leaders on this side of the aisle and all Members of this and the other body—hold fast to your values—put people first—advance a budget bill, but do not retreat from equality, do not shrink from fairness, do not withdraw from justice, and do not wince from family.

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

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker,

#### HAITIAN POLICY SUCCESSFUL, BUT MORE NEEDS TO BE DONE

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

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, there have been several explosive developments in Haiti in the last few weeks. The wisdom of President Aristide, no matter what course these developments take,

is still the greatest asset of Haiti. The wisdom of Jean-Bertrand Aristide is still necessary for this country to have a new birth. Recent statements by President Aristide and recent behavior by President Aristide are clearly understandable in the light of certain recent developments.

It is important for us to remember that the liberation of Haiti still represents one of the moral and humanitarian mountain tops of United States foreign policy. This Nation took a giant step forward and we did the right thing. Americans set new standards for the hemisphere, and we set new standards for international law and order. Criminals will not be allowed to seize control of a nation, take over its legitimate government, oppress its people, and terrorize its people. Criminals aided by the United States and an army set up by the United States will not be allowed to do this in one of the countries in this hemisphere. We clearly established that policy.

The policy has already succeeded. I congratulate the Clinton administration. But, still, so much more can be done to facilitate democracy, peace, and progress in Haiti. So much more can be done without any great costs, additional costs.

The most basic needs of Haiti right now are judges, jails, and electricity. We have the capacity, the United States and the United Nations forces which are still in Haiti have the capacity, to deliver those three items, those three basics: judges, jails, and electricity.

Haiti needs jails because there are many wrongdoers from the previous regime who are moving about with impunity. They have no fear of the government whatsoever. There are many that have been seized and many that have been judged and put in prison who just walked away because they do not have decent jails or stockades. One thing the U.S. Army or military force can do is build some jails and stockades, but we have refused to do that. If would not cost very much.

Haiti needs an improved criminal justice system. The judges were run out of Haiti. They are spread out among the world; 1 million Haitians are in France, the United States and Canada. They will come home if a clear system is set up with the backing of the United Nations and United States. We can give them judges and jails.

And Haiti needs electricity. That is the basic necessity for industry in Haiti. We promised to do that when we went in there. We have not delivered on that capacity.

Understand if we have these basics in place, you would have an atmosphere and environment established which would create trust between the Haitian people and the United Nations that are trying to help the people. Instead of those few basics being met, what we have is the kind of situation where the United States is withholding documents that it seized from the Haitian