

ready to open the Government again. Frankly, all but the Speaker would have kept the Government open.

The President and Mr. DOLE and Mr. DOMENICI could have kept this government open, but what happened? First, the Speaker got a bad seat on an airplane, and so he shut the Government down. Now, he has gotten bad poll numbers and he figures he cannot rebuild himself, so he is going to tear the whole Government down, hoping to bring everybody down with him.

We are one country trying to resolve some issues and it seems clear to me that the way to resolve these issues is not to set out to put our citizens in harm's way, put our Federal workers in harm's way, and disgrace this country by an inability to keep this Government working.

When we were first elected in 1980, we had grave differences with Ronald Reagan. But we had Democratic Speakers who gave the President every courtesy, who then proceeded to work with President Reagan to make sure the Government kept working, even where we had grave disagreements.

But not this Speaker. This Speaker refuses, of all the leaders here, he refuses to keep this Government operating. It seems clear to me that if he was a military leader, he would start bombing his own cities as a demonstration of strength. What we need to do is get back to work.

Mr. Speaker, I will be happy to yield to the gentlewoman from Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE].

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the words of the gentleman from Connecticut, because I rise this morning to ask if we could simply tell the truth. I think if we put the truth on the table, we might get going.

The continuing resolution, and I think the gentleman from Connecticut was here that weekend of the 19th, insisting that we worked to ensure that the Government not shut down. I think it is important to remind the American people that the President is not standing on weak ground.

I would caution my colleagues on the other side of the aisle about believing in Santa Claus. There are millions of children around this world and in this country that we hope will hold a vision of hope and we hope they will believe in Santa Claus. But the President and the Congress signed onto a continuing resolution that indicated that we would provide adequate funding for Medicaid, education, Medicare solvency, agriculture, national defense, and the environment and to ensure the protection of generations of people.

This morning, I spoke to my 10-year-old and this is in tribute to Jason, because I am not there with him for his Christmas program. We all believe in moving this country forward. But the American people are seeing, first of all, their Government shut down with innocent, hard-working Federal employees out on the streets, hindering their

opportunity to provide for their families. But more importantly, all of the services that they provide are no longer here for the American people.

This side is standing for the American people. I believe those who say they do not believe in Santa Claus are just about bringing Scrooge to the national forum. What we should be doing is coming together and working, telling the truth so that I can go home and tell the mother who has a young child with a brain tumor, and a mother who has another child with respiratory problems, and another child with a heart condition, and who is a single parent on welfare and needs Medicaid, that she is an American too and that we are trying to help her bridge out of this condition into independence.

Mr. Speaker, I think we need to stand on the side of the American people, tell the truth, and to make sure that we provide an opportunity for a fair, balanced budget, not on the backs of those who are most needy.

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. MORAN].

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman mentioned President Reagan, and think it is important to bear in mind that when we had a budget conflict in 1987 and 1988, between a Republican President and a Democratic Congress, what we did was to pass a continuing resolution that lasted all year long; a clean continuing resolution. But Federal employees were not made pawns in that process. There is no reason why Federal employees should be furloughed today.

Yesterday, in a press conference, Speaker GINGRICH indicated that those Federal employees may not even be paid at Christmas time. How unbelievable could this situation be that we would have families with children who are working for the American people, laid off, put on furlough just before Christmas, and told they may not even be paid during Christmas?

But it is believable. We just fired 11 people that served this House in the well of the House, doing necessary work. They had built up compensatory time, because they worked late at night. But because we will have the same laws that apply to the private sector apply to us January 1, we fired them just before Christmas time so we would not have to compensate them. Talk about mean spiritedness.

#### DEMOCRATS SHOULD PRESENT A 7-DAY BUDGET PLAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Maine [Mr. LONGLEY] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. LONGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I had a chance to talk to my daughter, Sarah, this morning, who was very proud that tomorrow morning she is going to be in a Christmas play. She was very concerned as to whether I was going to be able to make it or not.

In very simple English, I told her that unfortunately I could not, but that the reason I was not going to be there was that I had to be here because there were some people who wanted to spend her money, money that she was going to have to pay back, and she did not think that was a good idea.

Mr. Speaker, I have got a challenge for the other side of the aisle. Our agreement of 30 days ago said, yes, we are going to ensure Medicare solvency, Medicaid, education, veterans, and the environment, all of the nice programs, all of the programs that we support. Well, I ask my Democrat colleagues to put their money where their mouth is. Tell us that they would spend. Give us a budget that reflects their priorities and stand up like men and women of integrity, not just mouthing off about the fact that they are in favor of this or in favor of that. Give us a legitimate 7-year budget. Tell us where they stand, so we can compare our plans with theirs.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the previous order of the House of January 4, 1995, morning hour debate may not continue beyond 9:50 a.m. today. Pursuant to clause 12, rule I, the House will stand in recess until 10 a.m.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 50 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until 10 a.m.

□ 1000

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 10 a.m.

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

We are grateful, O God, that You have given to us the goals of justice and the designs of freedom. Remind us this day, gracious God, that it is our work to develop the strategies and the plans of achieving those goals being aware of the prodding of Your spirit. We know that You have given to each of us the abilities to do good works so we pray that we will be faithful in our tasks, responsible in our actions, and fervent in our desire to serve. We pray this together with the petitions of our own hearts. Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House this approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. The gentleman from Georgia [Mr. KINGSTON] will lead the

membership in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KINGSTON led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledged allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 395. An act to designate the United States courthouse and Federal building to be constructed at the southeastern corner of Liberty and South Virginia Streets in Reno, Nevada, as the "Bruce R. Thompson United States Courthouse and Federal Building."

The message also announced that the Senate had passed a joint resolution of the following title, in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S.J. Res. 38. Joint resolution granting the consent of Congress to the Vermont-New Hampshire Interstate Public Water Supply Compact.

#### PRIVATE CALENDAR

The SPEAKER. This is Private Calendar day.

The Clerk will call the first individual bill on the Private Calendar.

#### ARTHUR J. CARRON, JR

The Clerk called the bill (H.R. 418) for the relief of Arthur J. Carron, Jr.

There being no objection, the Clerk read the bill as follows:

H.R. 418

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. WAIVER OF TIME LIMITATIONS.

The time limitations set forth in section 3702(b) of title 31, United States Code, shall not apply with respect to a claim by Arthur J. Carron, Jr., of Bark River, Michigan, for amounts due to him by the Department of the Navy. The amounts due are represented by the following checks that were received but not negotiated by Arthur J. Carron, Jr.:

(1) Treasury check number 2,831,843, dated October 18, 1966, in the amount of \$10,850.74 for salary and expenses.

(2) Treasury check number 10,445,856, dated January 29, 1971, in the amount of \$1,361.00 for salary and expenses.

(3) Treasury check number 71,681,041, dated April 1, 1971, in the amount of \$562.25 for retirement pay.

#### SEC. 2. DEADLINE.

Section 1 shall apply only if Arthur J. Carron, Jr., or his authorized representative, submits a claim pursuant to such section before the expiration of the 3-month period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### BENCHMARK RAIL GROUP, INC.

The Clerk called the bill (H.R. 419) for the relief of Benchmark Rail Group, Inc.

There being no objection, the Clerk read the bill as follows:

H.R. 419

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. FINDING AND PURPOSE.

(a) FINDING.—The Congress finds that Benchmark Rail Group, Inc., of St. Louis, Missouri, satisfactorily performed emergency work after the Northridge earthquake, but has not been reimbursed as a result of a technicality under California State law.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to fairly compensate Benchmark Rail Group, Inc., for the work for which, except for the technicality under California State law, it would otherwise have been paid under the provisions of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121).

#### SEC. 2. PAYMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall pay to Benchmark Rail Group, Inc., of St. Louis, Missouri, an amount equal to the total amount owed to Benchmark Rail Group, Inc., by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the State of California to compensate Benchmark Rail Group, Inc., for the emergency work and services performed at the request of the Southern California Regional Rail Authority to the extent that such work and services are otherwise eligible for reimbursement under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121). The payment shall be made from funds appropriated to implement such Act.

(b) DEOBLIGATION OF FUNDS.—The Federal Emergency Management Agency shall deobligate an equal amount to that obligated previously for payment to the State of California to cover the costs of work performed for the Southern California Regional Rail Authority by Benchmark Rail Group, Inc., after the Northridge earthquake which would have been eligible for reimbursement under such Act.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### KRIS MURTY

The Clerk called the bill (H.R. 1315) for the relief of Kris Murty.

There being no objection, the Clerk read the bill as follows:

H.R. 1315

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. RELOCATION EXPENSES FOR KRIS MURTY.

For the purpose of receiving reimbursement for relocation expenses under sections 5724 and 5724a of title 5, United States Code, Kris Murty of El Paso, Texas, an employee of the Department of the Army, is deemed to have been an employee transferred by the Department of the Army from one official station to another for permanent duty when he relocated from Houston, Texas, to Fort Bliss, Texas, in February 1985.

#### SEC. 2. LIMITATION ON AGENTS AND ATTORNEYS FEES.

No amount exceeding 10 percent of a payment made pursuant to section 1 may be paid to or received by any agent or attorney in consideration for services rendered in connection with the payment. Any person who

violates the provisions of this section shall be guilty of an infraction and shall be subject to a fine in the amount provided under title 18, United States Code.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This concludes the call of the Private Calendar.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will recognize 20 1-minutes on each side.

#### LET OUR PEOPLE GO

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

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, let our people go, let them go back to work.

Yesterday, we passed a budget resolution saying we would balance the budget in 7 years using CBO figures. Let us do it.

I would like to, during this third day of Hanukkah, with 6 days before Christmas, point out there is a face to this shutdown of Government, this partial shutdown. Yes, it affects 260,000 Federal employees and their families who are victims. Yes, it affects the private sector, those who have contracts. yes, it affects the financial market.

But I would like you to know, as I was driving in this morning I saw two cars in the driveway, two doors over, people who are usually gone at 7 o'clock in the morning, and that is because one of them works at Health and Human Services and one works at Commerce. They have four children. They have two children who are currently in college, and they are hit by the facts that we have not come up with a balanced budget.

I would also like to reflect the fact about a pharmacist at NIH, the human face is something we have got to realize and get on with our job.

#### BRING UP A CONTINUING RESOLUTION

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I am a little weighted down today, as you can see, but I just wanted to point out that, and this is following up on what the gentlewoman from Maryland just said, that the reason that the Federal Government is shut down today is because the Republican majority has not brought up a continuing resolution to let the Government continue to operate.

On Friday they did not bring one up. Yesterday they did not bring one up. Today again I have heard no talk of bringing it up.

I think it is simply not fair to keep the Government shut down while we