

months. As far as I'm concerned, that's 4 days and 2 shutdowns too many.

Yes, my friends, we're at this point again because Speaker GINGRICH and the new majority just can't seem to do their job. They haven't done their job when it comes to passing the spending bills needed to keep the Government running.

And, they haven't done their job when it comes to living up to their side of the deal to deliver a budget that protects Medicare; Medicaid; education; the environment; and poor children.

Unfortunately, for the Nation, when the new majority doesn't do its job, we all suffer—crucial services for the elderly; veterans and National Parks have, once again, been cut off, and the stock market is now dropping. This Nation can't afford another day of Speaker GINGRICH's Government shutdown. It's time to stop the partisan bickering; pass a temporary funding bill; and get to work on a balanced budget that protects Medicare; Medicaid; Education; the environment; and poor children.

BUDGET IMPASSE TO BLAME ON STOCK MARKET PLUMMETING

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

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the stock market plummeted by over 100 points. That is the biggest drop in nearly 4 years on a single day. I do not think we need to ask why. Investors, market analysts, traders, economists and, yes, common folks that buy and sell stocks are telling us why. They are worried that for the first time that this budget impasse is going to continue. They thought we were going to have a 7-year balanced budget. They thought at the end we would get that. But now they see the intransigence of this President; that we may not actually get a 7-year balanced budget, and they know what that means.

It means that we are talking about higher interest rates. It is the American family that will suffer. They will be paying more for their automobile. They will be paying more for their children's education. They will be paying more for their mortgage because we cannot get a 7-year balanced budget. We cannot do what we have to do in order to get interest rates down so that American families can thrive; and so that, yes, those CEO's somebody was talking about earlier can make jobs for Americans.

That is what this budget is all about. It is for our future. It is for our children's future and we should do it now.

SPEAKER GINGRICH NAMED MAN OF THE YEAR

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

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, congratulations on being named man of the year. The Speaker has had an impact on our country, but has the Speaker's impact been good? The poll that accompanies this article, "The Man of the Year" article, appears to demonstrate that the American people do not believe the impact has been good.

"Which descriptions apply to the Speaker," asked the poll. Listen to this. Only 24 percent described the man of the year as someone they could trust. Only 26 percent describe him as someone they would be proud to have as a leader in Congress. Even worse, 63 percent described the Speaker as too extreme in his views.

The Speaker has had an impact. He has had an impact on the country, but I hope and pray that cutting Medicare, cutting education funding, and cutting crime fighting funding to finance a tax break for the wealthy is not the way to become Time magazine's "Man of the Year." nor do I believe that shutting down the Government twice to win concessions from the President, concessions which include severe cuts in Medicare, Medicaid, education, and crime fighting, while simultaneously providing extreme tax breaks before we balance the budget, is the most upstanding way to become "Man of the Year."

PRESIDENT WOULD RATHER SEE SHUTDOWN CONTINUE THAN TO SUBMIT A BALANCED BUDGET

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

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, it has been 29 days since the President agreed to enact a 7-year balanced budget, and Congress is still waiting for President Clinton to produce a serious budget. I am led to believe that the President would rather see the shutdown of the government continue than to submit a balanced budget.

Congress, as I emphasize that word, "Congress", because in a bipartisan effort, a bipartisan effort of Republicans, and Democrats kept our end of the bargain. We submitted a balanced budget in 7 years that met the CBO standards, but the President vetoed that.

Since that veto, the President has failed to present a legitimate alternative. His only attempt at a balanced budget is \$365 billion out of balance. \$115 billion of that comes in the last year and higher amounts in between.

Mr. Speaker, it is all very simple. If the President wants to avoid the continuing shutdown, let him submit a balanced budget that we can lay on the table, talk about, and it will pass in this Congress if it meets CBO numbers.

237 MEMBERS VOTED AGAINST SENDING TROOPS TO BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

(Mr. PETERSON of Florida asked and was given permission to address

the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PETERSON of Florida. My friends, the magic number is 237—237 Members of the House of Representatives last week voted against this resolution. This resolution said that the House of Representatives unequivocally supports the men and women of the United States Armed Forces who are carrying out their mission in support of peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina with professional excellence, dedicated patriotism, and exemplary behavior.

Two hundred and thirty-seven Members of the House of Representatives cannot even agree on supporting the troops in Bosnia. Does that tell my colleagues something about the possibility of a budget deal? Ladies and gentlemen, this is a disgrace. It is a disgrace to this Nation. I have never been so disappointed in my life to see people walk up here and cast a "no" vote against support of the troops.

PRESIDENT IS FAILING TO HONOR COMMITMENT MADE ON NOVEMBER 20, 1995

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, yesterday Congress voted to overwhelmingly support the agreement that President Clinton signed into law on November 20, 1995, stating that Congress and the President shall enact a 7-year, CBO-scored balanced budget. The vote proved that the President is failing to honor his commitments and his word.

Today should also be very interesting. Later, Congress will debate and vote on the President's fourth budget. Just like the first three, it fails to balance. And just like the other budget, it fails to address issues like the solvency of Medicare or reprimands to agencies like the Department of Energy, where Secretary O'Leary is spending millions of dollars on overseas travel where she has no responsibility.

President Clinton is long on spending, short on ideas. He is unable to present a balanced budget and he is unable to be honest about the details about the budget that is before him, just as he is dishonest about the details of Bosnia.

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO UNEMPLOYED NOT AVAILABLE DUE TO GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I have heard some callously suggest that if you shut down the Government no one would notice.

Well, Mr. Speaker, nothing could be further from the truth.

In my home State of Rhode Island, 27 Almacs supermarket stores have gone

out of business during the holiday season.

Normally, these 2,000 workers from Almacs would be eligible for emergency assistance from the Labor Department. But, with the shutdown, there is no one to process the State's application for assistance, and as a result, there will be no help for the families of Almacs workers during the holidays. And that, Mr. Speaker, is a shame.

The Speaker could have prevented the shutdown and responded to last year's call for an end to gridlock. Because right now gridlock is back.

The Republicans have a 7-year budget plan that is just too extreme, and they know it.

I am glad the President did the right thing to protect the education, health care, and the environment.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you to end the politics and start serious negotiations.

MEDICARE PLAN NOT GOING TO KILL MEDICARE

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

Mr. GANSKE. Mr. Speaker, I was in my office a few minutes ago when I heard a statement made on the floor that I felt I had to respond to. I would be ashamed to stand on this floor and say that the balanced budget plan, the Medicare plan is going to kill Medicare. That is simply not the case.

I can speak with some credibility to this because I am a member of the Committee on Commerce, and in my opening statement on the markup I said that I thought a savings of \$270 million would be tough and that it would be my preference to lower those. And the fact of the matter is that the current budget numbers are significantly lower in terms of the savings from Medicare. This is a message that I think we are obscuring.

Can these savings be done that would still give quality Medicare? As a physician, I think so. But I will tell my colleagues what will happen if we do not. If we do not reform Medicare, in 6 years there are, I understand, insufficient funds to pay the bills. Let us get past the demagoguery.

FURLOUGHED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

(Ms. MCCARTHY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, thousands of Federal employees in my district are once again furloughed and nine cabinet-level agencies plus EPA and NASA serving millions of Americans have shut their doors.

The Republican leadership for a second time has chosen to use American taxpayers as pawns in an effort to compromise the President's vow to protect

Medicare, Medicaid, education, and the environment.

The Republican leadership has failed in its responsibility to the American people to enact a budget. This failure has wide-ranging effects.

It's not just the Federal employees who are prevented from working. Crucial services to the American public are not available: FHA mortgages are going unprocessed; small businesses are not receiving assistance; and veterans' benefits may be delayed.

As a former member of the Missouri State Legislature and chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee—we balanced our budget while protecting vital services and passed our spending measure every single year. We do it at the State level as do county's and cities and business and homes and we should be able to do it at the Federal level.

It is time to work together to get the job done. It is time to pass necessary spending bills and to offer a budget resolution that protects the values of the American people. The American people want teamwork and this is what we as Democrats insist upon.

PRESIDENT SHOULD BE KEEP HIS COMMITMENT TO AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. CANADY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, just moments ago the President signed into law the Lobby Disclosure Act of 1995. I am very pleased that the President has taken this action, and I congratulate the President on his support for this important reform measure.

But today, as we are facing a Government shutdown, as we are facing the challenge of balancing the budget, I must remind the President of something he signed into law just a few days ago. The President signed this language into law: "The President and the Congress shall enact legislation in the first session of the 104th Congress to achieve a balanced budget not later than fiscal year 2002, as estimated by the Congressional Budget Office."

This is a solemn commitment that the President has made to the American people, and I believe that the President is obligated to come forward with a plan which will accomplish this goal. The President said he would do it, now is the time to do it.

The House, last night, voted resoundingly on a bipartisan basis to support the same goal. We can do it. The President needs to put his plan on the table.

NOT A SEASON OF JOY FOR FURLOUGHED WORKERS

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

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, this is the Christmas season. This is the observation of Hanukkah. Both of those religious communities now celebrate what should be a joyful season. It is the season of Advent. It is the season where we have certain words that come to mind, like sharing of family values and those things that are essential. It is the season where we learn to give within our means. I hope it is the season that is instructive to us as we are debating the balanced budget.

It certainly is not a season for joy for those workers who have been furloughed. There does not seem to be a sense of fairness when the poor must suffer while the rich are given big tax breaks. It is certainly not the season for living within your means when indeed we find the deficit will go up at the end of 7 years rather than go down.

Yes, this is the season where we should be reasonable people. I would expect that reasonable people will learn how to compromise. Shame on us in this season of joy, this season of Advent, when we bring such discord, such dis-joy and such pain on the most vulnerable. We should be sharing our wealth not taking away health care for the vulnerable people of this country.

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STOP WEAVING FABLES AND TELL THE TRUTH

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

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, how could the President of the United States gather little schoolchildren for a media event backdrop to veto a bill and not tell them and the American people the truth?

Mr. Speaker, our President should remember the story of Pinocchio when he weaves these fables. The President and the American people should know what is happening with their Federal Environmental Protection Agency and hazardous waste dollars. The truth is the General Accounting Office has said raw politics, not public health or safety, is the prime consideration for picking cleanup sites.

The truth is that 85 percent of Federal Superfund money goes for attorney fees and studies. The truth is that we have doubled the size of the Environmental Protection Agency in Washington, with almost 9,000 bureaucrats in Environmental Protection Agency downtown just a few miles from here.

The truth is that even the courts say that cleaning up dirt to an edible standard is wasteful and ludicrous. We need to stop weaving these fables and tell the truth.

CONTINUING RESOLUTION FOR D.C. KEEPS CITY'S HEART BEATING, BUT BREAKS THE HEARTS OF CITY'S RESIDENTS

(Ms. NORTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1