

paying off liberal interest groups. Plus he is being dragged down by members of his own Cabinet.

Currently Secretary O'Leary in the Department of Energy is falling under fire. It started out with GAO reports as early as the first part of this year when they reported that she had a "mission a minute," quote-unquote, a mission a minute, that there were very large management problems within the Department. Then Vice President Gore's National Performance Review came out, which said that portions of the Department of Energy, like of the environmental management portion, was 40-percent inefficient, and it could cost taxpayers \$70 billion over the next 30 years.

Then we started to see travel problems, with the Secretary of the Department of Energy having the highest travel budget per trip of anyone inside the President's Cabinet, staying at four-star hotels, traveling first class, taking along large staffs for her domestic travel. But that was all based on her current responsibilities in the Department of Energy, which are all domestic.

Then we started to hear about the international trips. Secretary O'Leary has taken 16 international trips, taking along as many as 50 staff members, as many as 68 guests, often CEO's who do not pay their portion of the travels. One trip cost \$720,000. With 16 of them, it is in the millions of dollars, the costs of this. Often she travels on the same plane as Madonna leases. So the material girl of Clinton's Cabinet is spending unwisely taxpayer dollars in these travels.

She hires photographers and video crews to come along, because she wants to be caught at her best. She is very worried about the public image she is presenting and has been quoted as trying to bring the second term of the President's campaign, the ideals of it, to the forefront now.

In the zeal to project a good public image, Secretary O'Leary has hired a personal media consultant at a cost of \$75,000 per year to the taxpayers. She also employs inside the Department of Energy more than 520 public relations employees at a payroll of over \$25 million per year. She has even hired a private investigative firm to investigate reporters and Congressmen who are tarnishing her favorable image. She has developed a list of unfavorables.

Well, it is going to be hard to hit the budget target, especially when you are unable to control spending like this. This is excessive, it is unnecessary, and it is a waste. We are so concerned about the poor, and yet we allow first-class travel within members of the Cabinet overseas, on the same airplane that is leased by Madonna. That is not the lifestyle that is projected by the administration when they are trying to speak for the poor. It is quite the opposite.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would encourage President Clinton to ask for the resignation of Secretary O'Leary. I would

urge him to get back into some honest negotiations on the Federal budget, so that we can enjoy Christmas as a government, get everyone back to work, and also preserve a future for our children, strengthen our economy, and just plain do the right thing. Balancing the budget is the right thing to do.

#### PRESIDENT RIGHT TO STAND FIRM ON BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Connecticut [Ms. DELAURO] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, let me just comment on one thing that the prior speaker mentioned at the beginning of his remarks, and that was that the President was holding out, was hanging tough, whatever phrase you want to use, on the budget, because of the people that he cares about, or the interests that he cares about.

I have got to tell you I am very proud of the President and his holding firm on this budget, because of in fact who he is holding out for, and that is for the folks who are on Medicare, those elderly who are in nursing homes, that get their health care paid for through either in whole or in part by Medicaid, by concerning himself with the environment, and by concerning himself with the working families of this country.

By the same token, Speaker GINGRICH is trying to hold the President hostage on this budget because of the special interests that he has, and I will match the President's commitment to the working people of this country with Mr. GINGRICH holding out for those special interests, those who are going to get the benefits of \$245 billion in tax breaks, those richest of American corporations who are going to see a \$17 billion windfall with the repeal of the alternate minimum tax.

Last month Speaker GINGRICH shut the Government down. He shut it down, and, in his own words, he shut it down because he did not like his seat on Air Force One. Now he is at it again. This time the Speaker has shut the Government down because he is not getting his way on the budget, even though the overwhelming number of Americans reject Speaker GINGRICH's budget, and I might add, that 60 percent of the American public wanted President Clinton to veto the Gingrich budget because of the issues of Medicare, Medicaid, education, and the environment.

The Speaker is not getting his way on this budget. He would like to cut Medicare, Medicaid, education, and the environment, all to help finance that tax break for the wealthiest Americans. Those may be the Speaker's priorities, but in fact they are not America's priorities. But instead of listening of the American people and fixing this unbalanced budget, the Speaker has chosen to shut the Government down for the second time in a month. His decision to shut the Government down

has thrown more than 200,000 people out of work 1 week before the Christmas holidays.

Yesterday my colleague from Virginia, Mr. MORAN, was on the floor, and he put the Government shutdown into human terms that I think everyone who is listening can understand. He said he visited a school in his suburban Washington district where the teachers told him that the children are not enjoying Christmas this year as they have in the past. Why? Because many of their parents are Federal employees who are out of work today, people who want to go to work, people who take on personal responsibility for themselves and their families. They are out of work today, thanks to Speaker GINGRICH. Their parents are fighting more, worried that they will not get paid, and afraid to spend money on the Christmas holiday gifts.

We should not be surprised that Speaker GINGRICH is willing to go to such extreme lengths to get his way if you take a look at what the Speaker said in September about shutting the Government down. This is a quote from the Washington Post on September 22. It says, "I don't care what the price is. I don't care if we have no executive offices and no bonds for 30 days—not at this time. I don't care what the price is."

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Quite honestly, that sums up the philosophy of the Speaker. It explains why he is willing to shut down the Government and ruin the holidays for thousands of hard-working families in this country.

This is someone who talks about a budget that is good for our children. What happens to these youngsters who are watching their parents worry about their jobs and what they are going to be able to do in the future? It explains why Speaker GINGRICH's budget cuts health care for the elderly and the poor while providing massive tax breaks for the wealthiest people and corporations in this country.

Believe it or not, this is the same man who last week was named Times "Man of the Year," leaving America to wonder who was the runner up, Ebenezer Scrooge?

#### BALANCING THE BUDGET IS A MILESTONE FOR AMERICA

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

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, to respond for a moment to the prior speaker, it is not about ruining the holidays for Federal Government employees, it is about restoring faith in America. It is about people coming to Washington and honoring their commitment to balance the budget.

It is interesting when we have votes on the board whether Democrats and

Republicans will seek to balance the budget. Overwhelmingly, both parties join in saying, yes, we want a balanced budget. The President wants a balanced budget. He said it many times.

In reviewing the document that the President submitted to this Congress, the only difference is that it incurs hundreds of billions of dollars of budget deficits for the next 7 years. That is not balancing a budget. Maybe in Washington spending \$115 billion more than we have next year is balancing a budget, but in real America, in the real business community that is bankrupt. That is out of business.

So as we approach the season of Christmas, the Speaker and Members of Congress have committed to staying here as long as it takes. That is not good news for families. It is not good news for anyone that Congress would work in session through Christmas. But I think we must honor the tradition of this House.

When we run for elections we tell voters if they will send us to Congress, that we will do the heavy lifting; that we will bring back a balanced budget and restore fiscal unity and dignity to this Nation. So we cannot just say, oh, well, it is almost Christmas. We have to be home. We have to leave Washington. We cannot be here. We cannot be away from the house, our districts, because certainly the balanced budget can come later.

This is a milestone in our Nation. This is a unique opportunity. As Mr. GINGRICH says, this is gut-check time, whether we have the fortitude to bring down overspending or do we want to just keep playing games.

We have heard the Medicare scam, and many people have talked about it, but we have seen the tapes, we have seen the visuals of Mr. and Mrs. Clinton saying we should bring it down to 6 or 7 percent a year. Well, we are doing 7-plus percent a year in Medicare spending per recipient. So it is not a cut. We know that. We have proven that. We will go on to the next issues.

Wasting taxpayers' dollars, though, is legendary around this process. We have appropriators, authorizers, the Committee on the Budget, all working somewhat together and then, at times, apart.

Mr. Speaker, I had an interesting opportunity to kill the gas turbine this year, which was an exciting year for me and an exciting project for me, because it had spent hundreds of millions of dollars a year. Always killed in the Senate, denounced by three Presidents, but here in the House it survived year after year. We killed it here in the House, went over to the Senate and killed it there, and, finally, the gas turbine no longer finds its way into our budget. The same Government that had the Department of Defense procurement system paying \$450 for a hammer.

We just heard from one of my colleagues, the gentleman from Kansas [Mr. TIAHRT], talking about Secretary O'Leary's trips. As I recall, we started the Department of Energy during the

Carter administration because we had a gas shortage, a crisis, and they wanted to make certain that the thermostats would stay at 78 degrees. Now we are traveling the globe trying to seek out whatever we are trying to look for and spending hundreds of millions of dollars to do it.

I think the Cabinet Secretary needs to reexamine her priorities, reexamine why the Department was created and show some leadership and some frugality and not spend the taxpayers' money as if she is, in fact, a corporate executive on the shareholders' nickel.

Yes, Congress has failed to act. Many people look back at the Reagan years and say, oh, it is Reagan's fault for running up massive deficits. Hey, the buck stops here in Congress, folks. The buck stops here in Congress. The Congress are the appropriators. They are the authorizers. They are the check writers. They are the fiscal clearinghouse for this Nation. So Congress has to accept the responsibilities.

The President submits a budget, and we have sure seen his. It does not look like it is going to reduce the debt, but, no, he gets a chance to submit it and he gets a chance to veto, which he has done.

I was proud today, Mr. Speaker, when we came to the securities legislation, that a number of our colleagues, both Democrats and Republicans, overrode his veto. We are sending him a message that it is time to start working and stop vetoing messages and then sending hollow bills back to this floor suggesting he is committed to deficit reduction.

We have a lot of problems in America and we have a lot of problems we can solve together, and I think there has been a great bipartisan spirit on a number of issues. But I do think it is time for all of us to end the charade, end the political games, end the characterizations and assaults against the Speaker, and on both sides of the aisle. The Republicans do not need to fire missiles over to the Democrats, and I think the Democrats need to cease and desist.

Mr. Speaker, I listened to the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. FRANK] talk about the exonerations of the Clintons. The same thing is happening to the Speaker on the numerous charges being filed by the other side of the aisle, in order to tie up the process, in order to try to impugn his reputation and trying to do a number of things.

So I think if this Congress is serious about Christmas, about the holidays, and about the future of this Nation, that we will put aside personalities and get down to balancing the budget initiative, and we will work on it successfully, like we should. We have all voted for it, we have all supported it, and now let us do the heavy lifting and provide the leadership necessary in order to pass it.

## ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. MILLER of California., Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to exchange special order times with the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. STUPAK].

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COBLE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman?

There was no objection.

## FRESHMEN REPUBLICANS DO NOT CARE ABOUT FAMILY VALUES

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

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, the previous speaker said that this was not about ruining the holidays for the families of Federal employees; that that really was not important and what was important was a balanced budget.

I think that that shows such incredible lack of respect for those families, for their relationships with their children at a time of the holidays, for their religious beliefs. I think it shows such an incredible lack of respect for our families and our religious beliefs. This is more than shopping days. This is a religious holiday. It is a time when we gather with our families and we think of our fortunes and our misfortunes, and we take stock of the year we have and the year we look forward to and we pay respect to our God.

The suggestion somehow is that that can all be held ransom, that can be held ransom and somehow that will make the negotiations more serious; that, apparently, the Speaker of the House of Representatives is incapable of negotiating unless he has a hostage. He shut down the Government a month ago because the President of the United States would not talk to him. Now he is shutting down the Government because the President is talking to him.

Last night the President agreed to sit down with Senator DOLE and with Speaker GINGRICH, they would roll up their sleeves and they would negotiate a balanced budget that would be scored, the numbers would be guaranteed so it truly came into balance by the Congressional Budget Office.

They walked out of that office with that agreement: and, apparently, the Speaker brought that back to the Hill and the freshmen Republicans told him, no; that that was not good enough to release the Federal hostages; that that was not good enough to let people enjoy Christmas; and that was not good enough to put people back to work.

Maybe we were wrong. I assume that the President assumed that when the Speaker said he wanted to negotiate vis-a-vis the President, that he assumed he had the authority to negotiate. The President was speaking for the Presidency, the executive branch and the people he represents. Senator