

control. With that, I would just urge and tell the American people I am positive and optimistic that we will have a balanced budget and all of us, including the next generation and especially the next generation, will be better off for it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COBLE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida [Ms. BROWN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Ms. BROWN of Florida addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

SPEAKER AND HOUSE REPUBLICANS SHOULD NEGOTIATE WITH PRESIDENT AND END GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, the President reached an agreement with the Republican leadership last night, both to begin intensive discussions about how to balance the budget on a rapid timetable and also that the Congress would pass a continuing resolution today to reopen the Government. Evidently, the extreme elements of the House Republicans have rejected this agreement and prevented the Government from reopening today.

Mr. Speaker, the President is committed to balancing the budget in 7 years and doing so in a way that reflects our values and also our priorities: health care, education, the environment, tax fairness. He is prepared to talk with the Republican leaders today, tomorrow, the next day, as long as is necessary to get the job done.

But Congress in the meantime should reopen the Federal Government. We cannot achieve this important goal through threats and ultimatums. The Republicans in Congress have threatened to keep the Government shut down unless the President agrees to deep and unconscionable cuts in Medicare and Medicaid. The President will never give in to these kinds of threats, nor should he.

Mr. Speaker, this country has a responsibility not only to balance the budget, but also to protect our values and our interests as people. We must act in the interest of the 3.3 million veterans who will not receive their benefits checks due December 29 unless the Congress passes a continuing resolution by tomorrow morning.

Our first obligation must be to these people, not to confrontational tactics or extreme agendas. Let me last say this. I believe that if this cannot move forward today, we are in a constitutional crisis. This is the first time in memory that the Speaker of the House and a majority in the House has said that the President's veto, being an extraordinary power, must be met on the side of the majority in Congress if they

disagree with that veto, not with a two-thirds majority to override the veto, not with another bill that might gain the President's signature, but with shutting the Government down.

Mr. Speaker, there is no language in the Constitution that says that is what the majority in Congress should do if they are displeased with the veto. The Constitution says we override the veto or we pass another bill that the President may or may not sign.

It is irresponsible, it is unconscionable, it is immoral to have taxpayers' money to pay for services and then to say we are not going to give those services to people or, in the case of veterans, their checks for their pension, because we are in a pique with the President with his priorities on the budget.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot believe this is happening to our country. In the name of sense, in the name of morality, in the name of logic, in the name of decency, I ask the Republican majority and the Speaker of this House to come to this floor today to pass a continuing resolution, to open this Government back up and to get in a room with the President of the United States and the other leaders in Congress and try to see as hard as we can if we can find a budget for this country for the next year, if not 7 years.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GEPHARDT. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, the Leader is obviously here, as are many Democrats, ready to work this afternoon. I am advised that unless this Congress, which went into a kind of recess at 2 o'clock eastern time today, unless by 8 o'clock in the morning it has approved a continuing resolution, thousands of veterans in Austin, TX, and I believe you said 3.3 million across the country, people that have served our country, who have put their lives on the line, many of them disabled veterans, will not get their checks on time if that resolution is not passed within just a matter of hours.

Mr. Speaker, does the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. GEPHARDT] know of any reason why those veterans should be asked to sacrifice and should be caught in the middle of all the crisis that is going on here in Washington?

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, there is absolutely no justification for it. It is immoral. It is immoral to say that they will not get their benefits because there is a disagreement between the Congress and the President on a budget. That is not the adult way, the sensible way to handle this disagreement.

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

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

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN UNNECESSARILY INCONVENIENCES CONSTITUENTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio [Ms. KAPTUR] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to follow on the remarks of our distinguished minority leader here. This is a serious moment for our country. Our congressional office has now been in receipt of phone calls from constituents who are not able to get their passports processed because of the shutdown of the Government. So, in addition to veterans, whose checks are being threatened at this point because this Congress and this Speaker chooses not to move legislation through this body that will keep the various agencies operating, and not inconveniencing the public during this very busy travel season, it is truly a tragedy what is happening here just to make some sort of political point.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is time for people here to grow up or get out, and to deliver the kind of services to the American public that they expect of us. We have thousands of families across this country who have filed for home mortgages that have a relationship to HUD where they insure and process those mortgages. Mr. Speaker, 20,000 of those a month cannot be processed because of this Government shutdown.

We are inconveniencing the American people from coast to coast. We have tourists all around this country that cannot get into the monuments. Think of when in recent history my colleagues ever remember this happening. This does not need to happen, especially during this very important season of the year when so many people are traveling and expecting the goodwill that this season represents to govern our actions toward others.

YES! TOLEDO WINS IN OVERTIME

Mr. Speaker, I came to the floor this afternoon on a little bit lighter subject, and I would like to say that my good colleague from the State of Nevada has elected not to join me here this afternoon, but I am compelled to rise to tell my colleagues that if they happened to miss the first college bowl game of the 1995 season, they may have missed the best, most historic bowl game of the year.

Mr. Speaker, in the Las Vegas Bowl, the still undefeated University of Toledo Rockets beat the University of Nevada Wolf Pack 40 to 37 in the first overtime game in the history of post-season college football.

It was a close game, as evidenced by the 34 to 34 fourth quarter score sparkling with flashes of offensive brilliance on both sides. But in overtime, Reno's Wolf Pack defense could not withstand the onslaught of Rocket star Wasean Tate's powerful running game.

Tate scored a touchdown and the game, as it is often said and this time never more true, was history.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague, the gentlewoman from Nevada [Mrs. VUCANOVICH], for graciously honoring our friendly wager by awarding our team this Nevada Wolf Pack sweatshirt, which I intend to present to the team at an appropriate moment, for it was they who won it fair and square.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say to the Rockets, because I know many of them are listening, and as this particular T-shirt indicates over here, are undefeated champs of the mid-American conference. Our newspaper had a complete front page headline: "Toledo Rockets Win Vegas Bowl." We are so extremely proud of them and their hard work.

Go Rockets and Go Toledo and thank you, Mrs. VUCANOVICH.

NOW IS NOT TIME FOR BUSINESS AS USUAL

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

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Speaker and I thank many of our colleagues for joining us here on the floor today.

Mr. Speaker, I listened with great interest to the gentlewoman from Ohio [Ms. KAPTUR], and indeed would offer in the spirit of bipartisanship, congratulations to the Toledo Rockets for their great victory. I am sure I am speaking for my colleagues from the great State of Nevada. She was more than happy to supply the Tee-shirt and she is equally proud of the Wolf Pack of Nevada, Reno, even though they came up on the short end of the score.

Mr. Speaker, again, on that bipartisan remark, let me address the remarks of my colleague from Ohio and other remarks in this Chamber earlier today with reference to what is transpiring here in Washington, DC, and indeed throughout the country.

There has been a plea from the other side of the aisle, a request to go back to business as usual. Indeed, this morning, my dear friend from New Jersey, who is also here on the floor, basically said that in his opinion, what is transpiring now is not the way a majority should govern in the United States.

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Let me simply offer these thoughts. It is precisely because of business as usual and the constant drumbeat of taxing and spending and spending a little more and making special accommodations and spending more and more and more and more that we never come to grips with the central issue we must confront. And that is we are committing fiscal suicide upon this Nation and upon future generations if we fail to stand now and respond to the clarion call of the American people who say enough is enough. Balance the Federal

budget now. Put into place the framework today is that in 7-years time we can have a balanced budget and start to eliminate this national debt that will suffocate generations to come.

There is nothing moral about taking the money from generations still to come simply because they do not have a vote. Good people may disagree, and my good friend from Massachusetts is here on the floor, and I am sure he will get a chance to speak here in a few moments. Good people may disagree on how money may best be spent. But for the executive branch of this Government to walk away from a public commitment and, moreover, a public law, signed 30 days ago by the Chief Executive, committing this Nation, committing this Government as terms of the previous continuing resolution to use the framework of a commitment to a balanced budget in 7 years using the honest numbers of the Congressional Budget Office, but for the President to walk away from that statement, to walk away from that public law is absolutely patently wrong.

Now, others may try to massage the wording, and there may be countervailing philosophies, but the undergirding part of that public law was a commitment to work for a balanced budget within 7 years using the honest, non-partisan numbers of the Congressional Budget Office.

Are there differences in philosophy? Of course, but there should be no difference on that board bedrock of principle.

Mr. Speaker, I freely acknowledge that good people can disagree and, indeed, we are here to debate those differences. But surely, certainly the bounds of common decency suggest, that, even though good people may disagree, there should be a basic framework upon which to work out the disagreement. Now this White House and this administration and regrettably some others in this Chamber want to walk away from that basic agreement.

Much is made of the holidays. Much is made of the hardship that many Americans face. But again, Mr. Speaker, the greatest Christmas present that we can give the American people is to make sure that we have a Nation fiscally sane and sound, morally responsible for generations to come, saving the health care system for our grandparents, ensuring fiscal responsibility and no to business as usual, trying to find a way to always tax and spend and spend some more.

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

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

TRIBUTE TO AARON FEUERSTEIN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Massachusetts [Mr. KENNEDY] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, as we face a kind of conflagration in Washington, a meltdown, a fire storm that seems to be taking place both on the House floor and in Washington in general tonight, the truth is that there was a real fire that took place in the State of Massachusetts last week that I think can act as kind of a moral for all of us in this Chamber to take some advice and some lessons from.

I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable man in Aaron Feuerstein. Aaron is the owner of the Malden Mills in Methuen, MA. He saw his family business go up in flames last week. Over 2,400 families worked in that company.

Against all odds, Aaron Feuerstein built up a company in Massachusetts that has for the last several decades lost tens of thousands of mill jobs to other countries. Tens of thousands of mill jobs have moved down to the South and have left Massachusetts because of high wages, because of the high cost of energy. But while others were abandoning the State, Aaron Feuerstein was building up the State. He pays union wages. Ron Alman, the head of the International Ladies Garment Workers, has nothing but kind words to say about Mr. Feuerstein.

Mr. Feuerstein, at a time when his company and his life savings were burning, stood and made a commitment to his workers that he would continue to pay them through the Christmas season, would continue to pay them on into next month and committed himself to rebuilding that plant. Maybe the Congress, maybe the President, maybe the House and Democrats and Republicans can learn a little something about Mr. Feuerstein's commitment to this country, to his community.

This is an individual who employs immigrant workers as well as people that have lived in this country for generations. He has invested in their education. He spent millions of dollars of his own funds to teach people English, to give people job training. He has worked with the Government. It is through that kind of partnership and commitment that he has built up his company. He has made a recommitment to making certain that we in this Nation can have the kind of high wage, high skilled jobs that mean the future of America is going to be safe.

Yet, as that goes on in Methuen and Malden and other parts of the State of Massachusetts, what we see is divisiveness and name calling and a tearing apart of the future of this country. We are saying, as this guy is standing in Boston making certain that his workers, when he has no income, are going to get paid. We are saying, we are going to cut off the workers in this country today.

There should be a lesson that we all take about how we can try to get