

going to get enough to eat, the poor kids, the school lunches, the food stamps, we are going to take care of our kids because we are going to balance the budget. That is a pipe dream.

They say, according to their projections they are going to balance the budget. Let us be truthful about it. According to the projections of CBO, you are going to balance the budget in 7 years. Well, folks, you have not taken the time to look at those projections. You need to do that. You need to look at those projections, and if you do not agree with them, like I do not agree with them, and I do not agree with the cuts in Medicare and all of those things, you are not going to have a balanced budget. They are not going to have a balanced budget, but yet they want to shut down the Government.

BALANCED DEBATE GOOD FOR BALANCED BUDGET

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

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, I come here to this floor to add a little balance to the debate. The rhetoric that you have heard from the other side of the aisle, I think has been very strong, many times stretching the believability of almost anyone who would be listening. I think the American people can see through this debate.

The last speaker, my good colleague from Missouri, has a selective memory. His selective memory forgot about the Carter administration and double-digit inflation, unemployment, and interest rates. He can go back only a little ways, and of course I would have to defend Ronald Reagan, who had a very liberal, a very spending Congress who certainly never helped to balance the budget.

The time has come to try and balance the budget. We know we have a tough job to do it even in 7 years. But this party, the Republican Party in this Congress is dedicated to doing that.

I want to talk about the shutdown. We have heard some very, very strong words about the shutdown and revolution. Well, many people back in the country do not realize any of Government is shut down, and the part that is shut down, if we look at it, we might say, those employees have the best of all worlds. They will probably get paid and have the week off before Christmas. I do not think that is so mean-spirited to those employees.

Then we have to look at why we have even a partial shutdown of Government. Well, most of it is because the President vetoed the spending bills that we sent to him. He did not like those; they were not spending enough. Very basically, the disagreement between the President's budget and Congress' budget is that we want to spend \$3 trillion less over the next 7 years.

We are going to spend more on every program of importance to this country

for environment, for education, for senior citizens, for health care, more money, in many cases, a high percentage of increase in the spending.

Why have we not reached a budget then? Why have we not reached an agreement? Well, the White House is too interested in talking about talking. They do not want to talk about anything specific; they only want to talk about how we are going to talk about the specifics if and when we can get to the specifics if the President is in town and if it can be done, and it is on and on like that; and then the President makes an agreement with the leadership, and before they can get back to the Capitol, he sends the Vice President out and reneges on every agreement.

The American people are surprised, I think, about all this talking and no action. They want something to happen, and so does this caucus. And that is why the Republicans have said, no more temporary spending, Mr. President. Come to the table. The budget could be put together before Christmas.

There is only one viable document on the table, and that is the Republican version that we have worked on for months; no one else has one that is so complete, and changes can be made in that. Within 2 days the President and the leadership of this Congress, if they would stay at it continuously, would have a budget and we would be on the road to balancing the budget; we would be on the road to funding social programs in this country, yes, at a higher level, and we would be on the road to a balanced budget.

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I do not think that we could give the American people a better Christmas present, if we would put away the cruel, mean-spirited, yes, the rhetoric from the other side, and sit down and start talking about the issues. We are here, we are ready to do that. We will stay ready to do that right through the holiday if necessary, so that we can accomplish what is good for America, and to it at this time of good will, this Christmastime when we all should be thinking not only of our families but what we can do for our neighbors and everyone in our society.

IN MEMORY OF STEVE ROULETTE

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, as Americans celebrate the holiday season with their families and friends, my thoughts turn to the family of a young man in my district in my hometown of Lorain, OH.

This Christmas season will be an especially difficult time for Steven Roulette's family. Steve, a seemingly very healthy 23-year-old, was playing basketball with friends when he collapsed. He died a short time later.

It is always disturbing when a young person dies. In Steve's case it was even

more tragic. A native of Lorain, Steve believed in giving back to his community. He worked diligently in my campaign in 1994. Prior to that, he had worked at the Nord Family Foundation that supports social services in Lorain County.

Steve Roulette believed in public service in the best sense of the term. He always had a twinkle in his eye and a passion in his voice when he talked about commitment, when he talked about involvement, when he talked about helping his fellow men and fellow women. He cared deeply about his family and passionately about his community.

So many in Lorain whom Steve's life touched were so saddened by his untimely death. I would like to offer at this Christmas season my sincere condolences to his family. Steve left behind his fiancee Denise, his parents Orah and Kathryn, his stepmother Alice, his brother Alan, and his sister Angela. As a father of two young daughters, I cannot begin to imagine their grief but my thoughts and prayers are with his family and his friends during this holiday season.

WELCOMING A NEW REPUBLICAN, THE BUDGET, AND NATIONAL DEFENSE BILL

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

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, I was not aware of the situation the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. BROWN] had reference to there, but I commend him for taking the floor to recognize this young man and all our best wishes for this holiday season go out to his family.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to talk on a couple of things here. First of all, I had a very special point of pride today when I received a phone call from my hometown advising me that in spite of all the lambasting of Republicans by folks on the other side, that this morning the sheriff of my county, the Honorable Billy Howell, a two-term Democratic incumbent, switched to the Republican Party.

I commend Sheriff Howell on what I think is a very wise decision for him. I welcome him to the party. He is a good friend, and I know will continue to serve the people of my county in a Republican manner the same as he did in a Democratic manner.

I cannot help but make one quick comment about my good friend, and he is truly my good friend, who serves on the Committee on Agriculture with me, the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. VOLKMER], who was critical of the Republican budget, saying that our budget is not a balanced budget because it does not balance the budget now. Well, by golly, we could balance the budget now but the best way to do that is to

cut out all congressional pay and send all of us home. That would certainly go a long way toward balancing the budget now.

Everybody understands we cannot balance the budget now. We presented a budget that will balance the budget of this country in the year 2002. Everybody knows and understands that, I hope, and I hope the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. VOLKMER] will better understand that. He said he has been here since 1981 and frankly that is part of the problem. We have had too many people who have been here too long, who have spent too much money over the years and, by golly, it is just time we stopped spending so much money.

I really got up here, though, to talk about another matter that I am extremely excited about and something that took place on the floor of this House several days ago, and that is the passage of the national Defense authorization conference report. The report passed in the House, it also passed in the Senate yesterday, and it is headed to the White House as we speak.

The President has given every indication that he is going to use the same veto pen that he used on several other authorization bills and veto this bill. I hope he changes his mind. I want to encourage him to change his mind, because in my opinion the national Defense authorization conference report that we passed in the House, has been passed in the Senate, is a good bill. It is not a perfect bill. There are a lot of ways that perhaps we could improve it. But it is a good bill, and it does a lot of things that are absolutely necessary from the standpoint of the national security of this country that have needed to be done for many years.

First of all, one thing this bill does is give all of our active military personnel a pay raise. Admittedly, it is only 2.4 percent, I wish it could have been 24 percent, but it does give the military personnel of this country an immediate pay raise.

I am very pleased, when I go on the three military bases that are located in my district and have an opportunity to talk to the young men and women, all of whom are volunteers in the military, when I talk to those young men and women and find out that without question they are absolutely the finest young men and women that America has to offer. It gives me a real sense of pride, and I am extremely proud of those young men and women. If anybody deserves a pay raise at this very difficult time in our budget process, it is the men and women in military service.

Right now here we are at Christmas-time. Here we are dealing with a very serious crisis in a very cold and distant land called Bosnia, a country which a lot of folks in this country had never heard of before 30 or 60 days ago. We are sending 20,000 of our finest to Bosnia at this time of year. The President has an opportunity to give those folks a very special Christmas present, to say thank you for a job well done.

That Christmas present will be a 2.4-percent increase in their pay.

Another thing that this bill does is it provides a 5.2-percent increase in what we call BAQ housing allowance. What BAQ housing allowance is, it is a provision which pays to military personnel a certain amount of money to allow them to rent an apartment or rent a home that is off the military base where they are serving.

If we do not have military housing on base, a lot of times our personnel are required to go off base, and we provide them some money to do that with. It is never enough to fully fund what it costs for an apartment or a house but it does help out. We provide an increase in that. Mr. President, that increase is needed. I urge you to sign it.

Another thing we do is we equalize the retired military COLA's to retired civilian COLA's. That is something that is an extremely important aspect of this bill. Mr. President, I urge you to look at this bill. If for no other reason than from these standpoints, please sign the Defense authorization bill.

THE BUDGET PROCESS

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

BOSNIA

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, let me pick up where the previous speaker left off in the sense of talking about Bosnia for a second. The first West Virginians are now passing through Fort Dix, NJ, Mr. Speaker, en route to Bosnia.

As Reserve units are called up and others are activated and, of course, active duty, I think it is most likely that we will see a lot of West Virginians going to Bosnia. West Virginians always answer the call. Certainly the C-130 squadrons, the 167th in Martinsburg and the 130th in Charleston, are just about everywhere on the globe anytime there is a problem. They have been to Bosnia as well before.

And so at this Christmas time we need to reflect on what is happening, and as these West Virginia troops pass through Fort Dix and as the others activate or are shipped out.

I voted against the initial military involvement, not because I questioned the good intentions of the policy, and certainly it is well-intentioned, but I questioned whether or not the military would have the ability and means to carry it out.

That question has been answered in an affirmative vote here on the House. The decision has been made. The troops are going, and we must now all stand behind our troops and I am going to make sure they have whatever is necessary to carry out their mission.

I am encouraged by the fact that the rules of engagement for these troops are different than we have seen in Somalia, than we have seen in other areas, where we have now the ability to hit back and hit back hard should our troops be threatened in any way.

But as these troops leave this country, millions of American citizens are asking, what about the other parts of our Government? We know these troops are going to operate efficiently and effectively and carry out their mission. Why are not other parts of Government?

Why do we have parts of our Government shut down? That is a fair question. We are now in our 11th day cumulative this year, the Federal Government or parts of the Federal Government not working. That is an all-time record, I believe, for the Republic, certainly for this century.

There are two parts really that have to be dealt with. Unfortunately the two processes have been brought together by the leadership of this House. One part is the annual budget, what you do to fund the Government on a day-to-day basis for a year at a time, for the fiscal year 1996.

The other part is the budget debate that is taking place in negotiations between the White House and the Republicans and Democrats in the House and the Senate for a 7-year balanced budget. Running the Government day-to-day, one process. Balanced budget, the next. Regrettably, the leadership under Speaker GINGRICH have chosen to tie these two inextricably, and so the Government is held hostage while these important negotiations take place.

So what happens to those who say, well, really are we seeing much of a shutdown in Government? Yes, we are seeing cumulative right now about 60,000 students who will not be able to fill out applications for Pell grants and other student loans as the next semester comes on. We are seeing thousands who had vacation plans turned away.

Well, vacation plans, is that very important? No, but what about people who call the EPA hot line for drinking water violations and want some assurances about the environment? We are finding that those folks are not going to have their calls answered.

When this leadership, the Republican leadership, took over in the spring, I complimented them, not because I agreed with the Contract with America, but I thought that they brought it to the floor in an orderly way and in a very purposeful way and they moved it through quickly. It was not much fun for anybody but they did it. They demonstrated an ability to command the floor.

Unfortunately I have to say, in the same vein, I have seen a total breakdown of that ability in the appropriations process. I recognize this is a complicated area. It sounds like it ought to just be beltway gobbledegook except for this.

The appropriations process is very important. We have 13 appropriation bills that fund the Government on a yearly basis. October 1 is the deadline to get them all passed. We had a handful at best, three or four, that had