

shutdown of government services, we also need to note that, particularly to my constituents who are concerned, that also the Department of Justice is shut down. That means that if there are some who are interested in the timely filing of an appeal to the Supreme Court for the drastic measures that were taken by the lower court in Georgia, we are just out of luck, because the Department of Justice is among those whose Federal employees have been called off of the job.

We have definitely got to do something to put our Federal employees back to work. The work of our government employees is necessary, it is essential, it is valuable, and it is critical. To deny our Federal employees paychecks just a few days before Christmas is about the most cold-hearted kind of treatment that I have ever, ever thought that anybody could visit upon other people.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TIAHRT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. SAXTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

FRESHMAN REPUBLICANS DEDICATE THEMSELVES TO GETTING AMERICA'S FINANCIAL HOUSE IN ORDER

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

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, it is one of the greatest privileges in the world to serve in Congress and represent constituents who have sent you to Washington. I have had the pleasure as well to represent a smaller constituency in the State House in Hartford, and it never ceased to amaze me, as a State legislator, how I as a State legislator had to make sure that our State had its financial house in order, and yet the Federal Government could deficit spend. I often wondered how those men and women in Congress could do such a terrible thing to our country, to burden future generations with horrific debt, on which we have to pay annual interest payments which are in excess of over \$235 billion annually.

Mr. Speaker, when I got down to Washington I vowed that getting our financial house in order would be my first and highest priority, making sure that we balanced our Federal budget. I have seen during the past 8 years that there has been here a greater awareness that we needed to do this and more and more Members willing to put their, candidly, political lives on the line to do that.

I pay special salute to the freshman class that have joined us this year, because this number of 73 Members has given us the opportunity to lead. We

have not had an opportunity as a Republican conference to lead in 40 years. What we have done in that short period of time, Mr. Speaker, I think is extraordinary. We passed major reforms in the first day of the session by reducing the size of Congress, reducing the number of committees, reducing the staff on committees, requiring or no longer allowing proxy votes, requiring all committee meetings to be open to the public, requiring that Congress live under all the laws we impose on everyone else. I want to say that again; to require Congress to live by all the laws that we impose on everyone else.

Mr. Speaker, we not only voted during the beginning of the year for a balanced budget amendment, but we did something obviously more important, we voted to balance the budget. That is what I want to address at this point.

Mr. Speaker, we are going to get our financial house in order and balance our Federal budget. At the same time we are going to save our trust funds, particularly Medicare, from insolvency and then ultimately bankruptcy. Our Medicare fund will go bankrupt if we do not take corrective action to restore funds in the Medicare Part A fund, which will go bankrupt in 7 years. We are looking to transform our caretaking social and corporate welfare state into a caring opportunity society. We are set to do all three of these objectives, and we are working hard to accomplish that task.

Mr. Speaker, Prime Minister Rabin, who was the former prime minister in Israel, made it very clear that he viewed his responsibility this way. He said he was elected by adults to represent the children. That is what I think Members in Congress have to do. We are talking about not having a horrific debt that mortgages our country's future.

We have a plan. The plan is very simple: We balance the budget in 7 years. Admittedly, we have a tax cut. What do we do? We balance it in 7 years. I could forego a tax cut if we balance the budget in 6 years, but I will be darned if I am going to reduce the tax cuts and then take what we had saved to allow for tax cuts and just spend more money. We are allowing this Government to grow. In the past 7 years we spent \$9 billion. We are going to spend \$12 billion. The issue is should we spend \$13 billion in the next 7 years. We say no. The other issue is we say it should be balanced by the seventh year.

Mr. Speaker, I constantly hear about Republican cuts to the budget. They are just not true. At least they are not true when they refer to the earned income tax credit, a very important program to provide proactive financial assistance to individuals who do not pay taxes, but work. The earned income tax credit grows from \$19.9 to \$25.4 billion. The school lunch program under our plan grows from \$5.1 to \$6.8 billion. The student loan program grows from \$24.5 to \$36 billion. That is a 50-percent increase.

Only in this place when you spend 50 percent more do people call it a cut; Medicaid, growing from \$9 billion to \$127 billion, Medicare from \$178 billion in the seventh year to \$289 billion. That clearly is an increase in spending.

Mr. Speaker, we are cutting some programs, and maybe some we should not, but we had to make choices. Now it is up to the President. We have spent a whole year working on our budget. We have closed it and advertised it, and have proclaimed it to our constituency and the entire United States. Now it is time for the President to say where his priorities are.

A member of our conference pointed out that we have been authors and the President has been a critic. It is important now that the President be an author of what he favors and show us what he wants, and then compare the two options. I think we can have an agreement on 24 hours, as soon as the President and the leaders in the Democratic side of the aisle, the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. GEPHARDT] and the gentleman from South Dakota [Mr. DASCHLE], determine that the American people want to balance the budget in 7 years and get our financial House in order. We are not asking that they agree to what we are doing with Medicare and Medicaid or the tax program or our discretionary spending. We are asking them to present their plan, see where we agree and, where we agree, case closed. Where we disagree, then iron out our differences.

Ultimately, the President is the President of the United States. He is going to have to pass judgment on what we do. There will have to be an agreement. But rather than compromise, we are looking to find common ground and save this country from bankruptcy. We are determined to get our financial House in order and balance the Federal budget. We are determined to save our trust funds, particularly Medicare, from bankruptcy. We are determined to transform this social and corporate welfare state into an opportunity society and end this cycle of 12-year-olds having babies, 14-year-olds selling drugs, 15-year-olds killing each other, 18-year-olds who cannot read their diplomas, 24-year-olds who have never had a job, and 30-year-old grandparents. That has to end.

We need to transform this society into truly what is an opportunity society. I look forward to doing that, and working with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to accomplish that task. Mr. Speaker, I would just conclude by saying I am proud to serve in this incredible opportunity as a Member of Congress, and to represent the people of the United States.

REEMPHASIZING THE DETERMINATION OF REPUBLICANS TO BALANCE THE FEDERAL BUDGET

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

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, the issue that we have got to address is this deficit. This Government is accumulating a debt of \$30 billion an hour more than it brings in. In other words, it is spending \$30 million an hour more than it brings in. How, you would ask, is that done? It is done by using a credit card. The most misused credit card in the history of this country is right here in my hands.

What is this misused credit card? It is the congressional voting card. For 40 years this card has been inserted in that slot and additional debt has been put onto the next generation. It is like any other credit card. You can go ahead and charge things without having the cash to pay for it. That is exactly what this country has done. The status quo in this country is not a pay as you go. The status quo is not to act like every other American family has to act; that is, they cannot spend any more than they bring in. The status quo in Washington, DC is to get more taxes and more taxes and spend more money and more money. If the money coming in does not match the money going out, that is okay, just spend more money, and periodically go back and get more taxes.

We cannot continue to allow this society to run on a deficit. It does not work. No country in the history of this world has been able to run their country with deficit spending like some in this body would like this country to run.

Mr. Speaker, we are up against the status quo. Anytime you take on the status quo—and frankly, there are a lot of us who have had enough guts, and there is the momentum this year to take it on—whenever you take on the status quo you are going to be criticized. They are going to blame everything they can on you. Tonight, earlier, I heard one of my colleagues even somehow associating the tragic plane crash last night in Colombia to the Republicans and the balanced budget idea. That is the kind of thing we are being blamed for. We are going to throw seniors out on the street. No more student loans. What a bunch of baloney. No more school lunches for the kids. What a bunch of garbage. That is not going to happen. A year from now the people of this country will be enjoying the fruits of a balanced budget. And you know what? None of these scare tactics being used by the protectors of the status quo will come true.

We can all remember in our own history when Christopher Columbus sailed for the new world. Where was that criticism? "What is the guy, crazy? The world is flat." He had to sail through some rough waters. He had to go through severe criticism, but he did it. Look what happened. He sailed into a new world. In this country, we can do the same thing.

Sure, we get a lot of naysayers around here that say to us, "You cannot balanced this budget," or "Let us

pretend we are balanced it," and continue to spend more and more and more. We are being criticized for everything you can imagine, but we are determined to sail through those rough waters. We are determined to deliver to the next generation a balanced budget. We are determined to force the Government in Washington, DC to behave just like every other family in America has to behave. That is that they cannot spend any more money than they bring in.

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

Mr. MCINNIS. I yield to the gentleman from Connecticut.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman's analogy of leaving the old world for the new world, I just want to make this point. We have left the old world for the new world, and we are not going back to the old world. We have burned our ships. We are in this new world, and we are determined to save this country from bankruptcy. I thank my colleague for yielding to me.

□ 1930

Mr. MCINNIS. That is what we are going to do. That is the beauty. I know that right now the storm is out. A lot of people like to bring their ships into the harbor when the storm is out there. We are right in the center of it. We are willing and ready to do that, and I think that is the optimistic news for this country.

Mr. Speaker, I will end on an optimistic note. No. 1, the spending and the spending of this government has to be brought under control. We are going to do it. For those young people in our country, let me tell you, there are so many more things that are going right with this country than are going wrong, and you have a great future. My colleague, the gentleman from Connecticut [Mr. SHAYS], myself, and most of the people, a majority in this body, will deliver to this next generation economic sensibility in the Nation's Capitol. We will deliver to that generation a credit care like the one I have that is not loaded with debt. We are going to do something about it. We are in the new world. We are ready to take the pot shots that people are making at us. We do it for the next generation.

A CHRISTMAS RECITAL

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

Mr. DORNAN. Mr. Speaker, a Christmas recital. Man does not live by legislative tension alone, and my apologies to Mr. Moore.

The night before Christmas.

T'was the night before Christmas and all through this House, the liberals were playing the cat and the mouse. The budget was hung by threads of despair, while we hoped and we prayed Bill Clinton would care.

The night before nestled all sung in his bed, visions of veto pens danced in his head. He dreamed of Web Hubble all through the night and vowed he would hold out if only for spite.

While out in the land there arose such a clatter, taxpayers demanding, just what is the matter? Balance that budget, shut some Feds down. Our poor Army's in Bosnia, they said with a frown.

The moon on the breast of the new fallen ice gave delusions of grandeur to Hillary; how nice. When what to our wondering eyes should appear, but Willie as Santa, his gang as reindeer, passing out pork in Fed buckets and pales, while frightening the old folks with Medicare tails.

More swooping than vultures his coursers they came, they whistled and shouted and called them by name: Now Al Gore, Panetta, McCurry and Stephanie; on Flowers, on Troopers, McDougal and Betsy. From the top of the heap to the top of the Hill, now bash away, bash away, go for the kill.

While back in the House the hurricane rages. The freshmen are busy inspiring the pages. What sad words from ladies, and gentlemen too, who would rather be home with an egg nog or two. Where children and grandchildren snuggle in bed, waiting for Santa, the real one, in red.

But struggle we will until our promise is met, a budget that is balanced; down national debt. A tax break for families with children to raise, a gift to the Nation in conservative days.

And then in a twinkle we heard on this roof the stomping and pawing of each liberal hoof. As the Speaker called order, we all turned around. Bill came through the cloakroom looking smug and quite round. He was dressed all in glitter, because fur is not allowed. He threw Big Macs and french fries all over our crowd. You have won now; it is over, I fear. The budget is signed, my election draws near. But if I should lose, I will still be around. I am heading to Hollywood. It is my kind of town.

He plopped in his sleigh, to his libs gave a yell, and then they were gone like bats out of hell. But we heard him exclaim as they galloped toward heaven. BOB DORNAN impeaching me? Film at eleven.

Mr. Speaker, may I place in the RECORD the update of:

REAL SLEAZE IN THE NOT-SO GAY NINETIES

I. WITH WHOM DOES ANY THINKING PERSON ASSOCIATE THESE NAMES AND EVENTS?

A. *First the good guys & gals*

Jean Lewis and other law respecting workers at the Resolution Trust Corporation.

Paula Corbin Jones—victim of criminal flashing—the ultimate sexual harassment, right up there with criminal groping—worse if you are the employer, i.e. the Governor.

Billy Ray Dale and 6 other innocent Travelgate victims.

B. *Once "in sin" but now seeking redemption*

Sally Perdue, Gennifer Flowers, Mailyn Jenkins, and Arkansas Troopers #1, #2, #3, #4, #5 ("J.D.").