

LET US ACT LIKE ADULTS

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

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, when the Republican freshmen came to Congress, they promised us that they would run Congress like a business.

Well, let us talk about what is going on right now. We have a disagreement, let us say, between the CEO and the board of directors of a publicly traded corporation, and then, as that disagreement is going on, the board of directors says, "Let us fire all of the employees and pay them, yes, fire all the employees and pay them." Think what would happen to the value of that company the next day.

You know something, that is exactly what my Republican colleagues are doing. They have decided to furlough the employees and pay them.

I hope in the next nine 1-minutes someone tries to explain that inexplicable thing. It does not make sense to anyone out there in America. It just absolutely does not. That is what you are doing.

What is going on reminds me of when my 5-year-old acts like my 2-year-old. I mean, adults really can have disagreements, but they really should act like adults, and what I would recommend to everyone out there, the children of America, is to call their parents in Congress and tell them to act like adults over the next couple of days.

BALANCED BUDGET

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, this is an e-mail I received: I am a Federal Government worker who will probably be furloughed Monday. I think this is a small price to pay if you really do balance the budget. As far as I am concerned the budget should be balanced this year rather than in 7 years. Do not cave in to Clinton and the Democrats. Just remember, the last time we were furloughed in November nobody noticed except Federal employees, the press and Democratic politicians. Most Federal workers are Democrats. The longer the Government is closed, the more pressure will be brought by furloughed workers and their unions on the Democrats in Congress, their representatives, to end the stalemate and override Clinton's veto. If you show backbone and refuse to cave, Clinton and the Democrats will give you everything you want. If you show fear—and cave in to their demands, you will lose the respect of the people who elected you. Hold firm for the good of the country.

NO TAX BREAKS UNTIL BUDGET IS BALANCED

(Mr. STUPAK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, to my last friend who just spoke, e-mail reply, e-mail reply: Here is what the balanced budget does, here is what the majority party is not telling you as they try to balance the budget in 7 years. They do not tell you that for the first 3 years the deficit actually goes up by \$53 billion; it goes up by \$53 billion for the first 3 years because they are giving a \$253 billion tax break to the wealthiest 1 percent of this country, and corporations would no longer have to pay tax with the repeal of the alternative minimum corporate tax.

Tax breaks up front, higher deficits for the first 3 years; that should be the e-mail reply to that Government worker who is facing a shutdown because there is no balanced budget. There is not even a budget for 1996.

So, to achieve their balanced budget, what do the Republican Party propose besides higher deficits and tax breaks? \$270 billion in cuts in Medicare, \$182 billion cuts in Medicaid, huge cuts in student loans, and that is what they call a balanced budget.

Democrats say no tax breaks until the budget is balanced.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL AND TO ALL A BALANCED BUDGET

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I can not think of a better Christmas gift that we could give our country this year than a balanced budget. You see, a balanced budget means that our children and grandchildren will have a future filled with the American dream instead of the American debt. What better present could we give to the American people than a stronger economy, more jobs, lower interest rates on home mortgages, car loans, and student loans.

Mr. Speaker, all this could happen if the President will cut out the gimmicks and excuses and get serious about signing a balanced budget. It is time for the administration to stop the politics as usual.

Our country depends on it. The people deserve it. Merry Christmas to all and to all a balanced budget.

THERE IS A DOUBLE STANDARD IN AMERICA

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, to smooth over the Randy Weaver case, the FBI will now take courses on behavioral sciences.

The record now is clear, the FBI shot and killed Randy Weaver's son; the FBI then shot and killed Randy Weaver's pregnant wife. And after all that, they

have now been cited for illegal acts, but they will not be prosecuted.

Unbelievable, Mr. Speaker, illegal acts. On the streets of America those kinds of illegal acts are known as murder.

Mr. Speaker, the FBI does not need teachers and the FBI does not need to go to school. The FBI should be hauling and trucking their assets to a grand jury, and they should be meeting some prosecutors. There is a double standard here in America, and I think the Randy Weaver case is one that Congress should not let slip by.

PUT GOD AND COUNTRY FIRST

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, in the face of this impasse and in the spirit of the season, I believe we should forget this Democrat versus Republican stuff, legislators versus Executive Branch, liberals versus conservatives, and unite under the common bond of being Americans.

We are reminded of a similar impasse in our history at the constitutional convention when the sage elder statesman, Ben Franklin, stood with these words: "In the beginning of our war with Britain, we prayed daily for guidance. Our prayers were heard and answered. Have we now forgotten this powerful ally? The longer I live, this I know to be true, God governs the affairs of men, for if a sparrow cannot fall without His notice, is it probable that a nation can rise without His aid?"

The psalmist tells us in chapter 118, verse 8, "Put your trust in God, not confidence in men." We have these same words above the Speaker's chair and right over the American flag. I believe that we, as a Congress, should come together as Democrats and Republicans and leaders to do what is best for the American country, put God and country first, not partisan politics.

THE REPUBLICAN BUDGET SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, there are 10 reasons why the Republican shutdown is a bad tactic.

First, a bad Republican reconciliation bill does not get better with the shutdown of government and intimidation.

Second, Republicans cannot say budget numbers count but people numbers do not count.

Third, 250,000 Federal workers that are not working and 500,000 that are working want to be paid, and they want to work and they are going to tell the world about it.

Fourth, a bad Republican reconciliation bill which fails on its merits does not benefit from yet more attention.

Fifth, the Congress speaks with 535 mixed voices, hardly a Christmas hymn, the administration but one.

Sixth, repeating the balanced budget mantra does not cause the public to go into a trance. They are awake and aware—

Seventh, Republicans trying to undo the shutdown they caused on a piecemeal basis to get out the checks on a reasonable basis is seen as and is political posturing.

Eighth, paying government workers for not working when they want to work is a syllogism that has a faulty premise. You fail the logic test.

Ninth, when the Republicans are 3 months late doing their job, it is best not to call attention to it.

Finally, with a Speaker with a name like GINGRICH, it sounds too much like "Grinch," not a warm, fuzzy image of Boys' Town but rather the Medicare withering on the vine image persists.

I think we have to understand the congressional responsibility and realize we ought to get on with our work and pass a CR and a reasonable budget on their merits—not on shutting down the Federal Government.

LET US GET PAST THE BLAME GAME

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

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, in response to the last speaker, I would like to say two things: First, the government is in a partial shutdown as much because the President of the United States vetoed three appropriations bills as because Congress has not passed three other legislative appropriations bills. If the President had signed the three appropriation bills he was given by the Congress the national monuments that I see on the news every night would, in fact, be open today.

I think it is time to get past the blame game. That brings me to my other point. The last speaker criticized the Republican Budget Reconciliation Act, the Republican 7-year balanced budget plan.

I do not agree with all provisions of that act. But where is the alternative? The President of the United States could make a good-faith effort by putting forth his proposed 7-year balanced budget, evaluated by the Congressional Budget Office, as we agreed in the past 1 month, to show where his priorities are. This way, we have two budgets to compare with each other.

In conclusion, I want to say if the President puts forth such a budget, I will support a continuing resolution for negotiating time.

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SHUTTING GOVERNMENT DOWN IRRESPONSIBLE

(Mr. DOGGETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, if this afternoon our Republican colleagues were to pile up next to the Capitol dome 1 billion \$1 bills and set them afire, they would have accomplished the same thing they have with two stunts closing down the Government: The "cry baby" stunt that closed it down in November and now another one that costs us \$40 million of taxpayer money a day for absolutely nothing, nothing more than burning those 1 billion \$1 bills.

But if you came to Washington hoping to see our national cemetery, hoping as a group from the Lockerbie victims yesterday to lay some flowers in Arlington Cemetery next to the victims, you would find it slammed shut, exactly like our veterans are going to find their checks slammed shut and not present when January comes around, like millions of children across this country will not find the money there to buy the food they need, because of the irresponsible act of shutting this Government down and making the taxpayers pay for this foolishness.

Mr. Speaker, it is outrageous for these people to sneak away this afternoon instead of standing here and doing their job for the American people.

SMALL BUSINESS NOT A SPECIAL INTEREST

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

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, how many times have we heard President Clinton claim that he is for small business? Yet he vetoed the Balanced Budget Act.

The fact is our balanced budget contained real incentives to help small businesses and to promote economic growth. It increased the health insurance deduction for the self-employed to promote private health-care coverage. It provided estate tax relief to ensure that family-owned businesses will not be forced out of business simply because they cannot pay their estate taxes. It allowed small businesses to expense a greater amount of equipment purchases, thus making additional capital available for business expansion. It cut the capital gains tax rate to allow small businesses to keep more of what they earn to expand and create new jobs.

Mr. Speaker, small businesses employ over half of the entire work force and create the vast majority of new jobs. Relieving the tax burden on America's small businesses and encouraging economic growth is not a giveaway for the wealthy and the special interests. If President Clinton truly supports small business, he would have signed our balanced budget. Small business is not a special interest in America. Small business is America.

MEDIGAP PREMIUMS TO RISE

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

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, as one of my colleagues on the Democratic side mentioned a few moments ago, it is odd that all this discussion about a balanced budget is occurring when in fact the deficit will begin to go up for the first time in 3 years.

With no Republican votes, we voted back in 1993 to lower the deficit 3 consecutive years. Democrats have taken proactive action, but the Republicans want to play the game. Those of you who ever watched the Popeye cartoons, there was a character called Wimpy who said, "I will gladly pay you Tuesday for a hamburger today." The Republicans say we will gladly balance the budget in 2002 if you give us credit in 1995. They say they are not cutting Medicare. We say they are.

Who is right? the marketplace says we are right, because the insurance companies have set big increases on Medigap premiums, 30 percent, because they will not be covering it. More elderly people will be going into the program, less money will be there, and Medigap insurance rates across this Nation for senior citizens are going up 30 percent. The marketplace knows who is right, and it is not the Republican majority.

OPERATION EAGLE

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

Mr. SANFORD. Mr. Speaker, this holiday season, I want to pay special tribute to those in the military who will be far from their family and friends. I also want to pass on a way that we can all thank them.

For the last 12 years, Bill Herrmann of Ladson, SC, has directed Operation: Eagle, which encourages people to send cards and letters to overseas service men and women. Through his efforts, thousands of cards and letters have been delivered to those who might otherwise feel alone and far from home this holiday season. This season, Operation: Eagle is concentrating on serving military personnel in and around Bosnia.

I encourage everyone to send cards and letters to this address: ATTN: Any Soldier, Task Force Eagle, APO AE 09135.

This is the least that we can do to thank service men and women for their sacrifices.

NEVER BEFORE SUCH A CRISIS IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL

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