

today, the last act of the year, bipartisan act, keeping the District open, allowing those on welfare to get their checks, allowing veterans to get their checks, that that will be the first, the first indication that it is possible to get bipartisanship, and we start on small matters.

Then surely on large matters where we are very close, like the balanced budget in 7 years, we can do what needs to be done without drawing our swords on one another. We have drawn much blood, figuratively speaking, in this Chamber.

□ 1545

I think in so doing, we may have paved the way for a third party to come down this aisle. We have got to restore confidence in this body. I hope the last vote of the year does that.

WHY THE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN?

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. Mr. Speaker, I would like to send a message to the people in my district in California. Over the past few days, a lot of people in my district are calling me and asking me what is going on here, why the Government has to shut down? I represent the 41st District in California, about 40 miles east of Los Angeles, and about 3,000 miles from Washington, DC. My district is a typical suburban middle-class district in sunny, southern California.

These folks are hard working people who spend most of their time working and raising their families. As a result, they are not familiar with all the political games we are playing in Washington, DC. They told me to go ahead and shut down the Government so we can save money, so we can balance the budget. The fact is, there is no financial savings. All the Federal employees still get paychecks.

They also are wondering why we have so many nonessential employees in our Government anyway. I do not know how to answer that. But let me tell you, I feel sorry for the Federal employees furloughed. They have been treated like pawns in a chess game. They have been sent home, being called nonessential, not once, but twice. I bet you their emotional scars are really deep. They are really emotional victims.

But there are some other victims, too. The folks from California come all the way out to Washington, DC, spending their savings to see the Washington Monument, which is closed. It is not that easy planning a trip to Washington, DC. It is expensive. They are truly victims, financial and emotional.

How about the small businesses that depend on tourism, all the small shops, motels, coffee shops. They have to lay off their employees. They do not get paid. How about them?

How about some other private contractors who depend on Government contracts? They have got to stop. They have to let their employees go home, without pay.

How about those folks? They are really the true victims, emotionally and financially. Do they complain? No. They are afraid to complain because they may lose the contract from the Government. I know it, because I was one of those silent victims myself in the past. These are the ones that are the forgotten victims during this holiday season.

Let us take a look at whose fault is this. People are saying it is the Congress' fault, you are the ones that did it. Some are saying it is Mr. Clinton.

Let us take a look at it. I will ask the people in California to make their own judgment. Government does not have to be shut down. The Congress and Senate submit the budget to Mr. Clinton. He vetoed it, three times. Interior, he vetoed. VA-HUD, Commerce, Justice, State, et cetera. If he did not veto it, but went ahead and accepted the budget and worked out the details later, it would have been all right. He actually vetoed. That is why we have to have a Government shutdown. Or he could accept this budget proposal, which is nothing but a balancing of the budget within 7 years using Congressional Budget Office projections.

Back in February, he submitted, which is \$276 billion off; resubmitted, June, \$210 billion off, rejected; third time in December, only a few weeks ago, \$115 billion off, rejected; last Friday he submitted, \$87 billion off. Getting closer. By that time Congress took action and Congress rejected his proposal unanimously.

Mr. Clinton, try one more time. We are going to get there, \$87 billion, that is all we are talking about. Just one more time and we will get there. Then we can bring all these people happiness in the holy season.

Let me tell you, Congress does not have any power to send the troops to Bosnia. We passed a resolution three times and sent it to Mr. Clinton not to send troops. He did it. Yes, he has the power. Congress does not. Of course, we have financial control. Somebody said it is Congress' fault. I will tell you. I would like to ask the people in my district in southern California who are listening to my presentation today, make your own judgment. Really, whose fault is this?

Mr. Speaker, thank you, God bless all, and God bless America.

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

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

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

tleman from Connecticut [Mr. SHAYS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

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

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

ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING THIS SESSION OF CONGRESS

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

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, this Congress has finally headed home, not just for the holidays, but for the rest of this session. We have already apparently taken our last vote. This may be one of the last, if not the last speech on this floor for this session of Congress, and when history records this session of Congress, they will record it as being the least productive and the most destructive session of Congress in U.S. history.

By the end of the fiscal year, we had passed the Paperwork Reduction Act and the Unfunded Mandates Act, and no appropriations bill. After wrangling for 9 full months, after being given the President's budget, only 1 of 13 appropriations bills had actually gotten to the President's desk, and that was the legislative branch. And thank God the President vetoed it.

The last thing we would have wanted as a Congress is to have our salaries and our organization funded and none of the rest of the Government. We were lucky that he vetoed the legislative branch. But that meant there were no appropriation bills and we were dependent upon a continuing resolution.

Now, what we have done is to go home for the holidays while Federal employees are locked out of their jobs and the American public is locked out of their Government.

Each of the most compelling cases that we have brought up have apparently been dealt with. We brought it to the floor that 3.3 million American veterans would not get their benefits, so there was a reaction and we got a bill to take care of them. I hope that it will go through. I have no confidence at this point. It has not been passed by the Senate, as far as I understand. Those checks will be delayed anyway.

We brought up the fact that 13 million welfare recipients have to have their checks processed by December 26. We are planning on being in recess, home with our families, but denying 13 million welfare recipients, most of whom have to have their check just to survive. The check has to pay for their rent. Without that check, they would not even have food to put on their

table. These are the neediest of American citizens. Except for the last action we just took, they would have been denied the assistance they need to live on. There is no question they did not have any money saved up, particularly right before Christmas.

Then we added on the District of Columbia. Imagine, we have gone now for October, November, and December, holding up the District of Columbia's money. Not just Federal money, and this is what I do not think people fully understand, but we held up all their local property tax money.

Imagine if you were the mayor or on the county council or a citizen of a locality, you had paid in your own property tax money, and then the Federal Government told you you cannot even spend it? You cannot even spend it to educate your own children, to pick up your own trash, to place your police on your own streets? But that is what we did to the District of Columbia. So that is why we added that to the bill we just passed, and hopefully will be enacted.

We did not take care of Medicaid. It is going to be \$11 billion that the States need that will not be sent out to the States for medical assistance for the most needy; 52 percent of it is for nursing home patients.

We did not deal with Israel. Israel gets \$3 billion at the beginning of the year. They have not gotten it, and, because they have not, we are told by bond credit rating agencies that Israel is losing its credit rating. That has not only repercussions in Israel, but international repercussions. I do not think that is going to get through. That is a very serious situation. But we will be home for the holidays.

Meanwhile, 500,000 Federal employees will currently be getting half a paycheck. On January 5 they will get zero. Hundreds of thousands of these employees have been working at their jobs and doing the work of all the other colleagues, 260,000 of whom have been locked out of their jobs and told it is illegal to even volunteer to perform work for the American Government.

This is outrageous. We all ought to be ashamed. I cannot believe we are going home for the holidays, letting it stand.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN UNFAIR

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

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, I come here today as a Member representing a district in Northern Virginia across the river with many Federal employees and Federal contractors. As my colleague in the neighboring Eighth District just noted, these are really the unintended victims of this shut down.

We literally are going to have hundreds of thousand of people not receiving their paychecks on time. Even those out there who have been working, who have been declared essential

over the past week, will not receive their paychecks on time come the first of the year, unless some action is forthcoming from this body.

We are having literally thousands of employees of Federal contractors at this point being furloughed, or in other cases the companies are having to eat their time because they are not getting paid in a timely manner from the Federal Government for doing work that they have won contractually. They are performing services for the Federal Government, but at this point their paychecks will not be forthcoming either.

The ripple effect that has had out in my district is in the retail stores, it is among the merchants, and it is hurting the economy locally. This can be spread across the country in other districts around the country. Not just with Federal employees, but people looking forward to getting their mortgages at the end of the year and cannot get Federal approval for it, veterans benefits which because of our dillydallying here over the last couple of weeks, some of those benefit checks for the first time I believe since the Second World War will not come out on time. And this is going to be multiplied and multiplied.

Then I was more dismayed to hear the next talks between our leadership, the congressional leadership and the White House, will not take place until next Friday, I believe at this point. With no prospect of anything happening next week, I have got to tell you, I am most discouraged at this point.

But let me just share some thoughts and observations. I was one of three Members on this side of the aisle today who voted for the motion to recommit which would have in fact offered a clean continuing resolution, that would have said during the Christmas holiday season, workers who have been doing their jobs will continue to get paid, other Federal workers who we have assured will eventually get paid will be paid in a timely manner, and contractors could continue to work and support their families.

There are other ways to bring pressure on the appropriate levels of government and branches of government to bring this about. A continuing resolution could be passed at a lower spending scale than even currently has been suggested, which would force the administration to make choices over who was the most essential, where the money was going to be spent, but it does not shut down government entirely and allows different parts and sections and functions of government to then be prioritized. That helps keep the pressure on the administration and congressional leadership to move forward and reach an agreement.

I have got to tell you, I am frustrated at this end of Pennsylvania Avenue, too, with the actions of the White House. The President said during the 1992 campaign that he favored a balanced budget. He appeared right up

here in this House in 1993, in the State of the Union, and said he was for the Congressional Budget Office certifying the numbers. To date, he has sent four budgets up here. The last one voted on in this body did not receive 1 vote, defeated 412 to nothing, and none of them balanced as scored by the Congressional Budget Office. None of them comes actually close to balancing in the year 2002.

He signed an agreement last month saying he would work with us to try to balance the Federal budget by the year 2002, scored by CBO, and have that agreement by the end of the year. It is clear that is not going to happen now.

But, in the meantime, he has not even submitted his own plan, the document that would balance over a 7-year period, scored by the Congressional Budget Office. I think he has an obligation to the American people to say "I don't like the priorities that have come from Congress, that have been given to me. Here are my priorities. Here is how I would balance the budget."

□ 1600

Then, we can at least look and compare and trade back and forth, which is, I think, the essence of democracy. I do not think either side to this can say it is going to be my way or no way. We have 435 Members in this body. We are all going to have to compromise and come together to reach a majority vote and send something down to Pennsylvania Avenue. We have done that on a couple of occasions this year pertaining to the budget. We are going to now have to compromise once again with the White House.

It is important for our children's future and for this country's future that we balance the Federal budget; and, frankly, there is no end in sight at this point and it is very discouraging to me, as one Member of this body.

I will tell my colleagues that I like local government, where I served for 15 years prior to coming to this body, because we would have differences, we had strong philosophies, but we would come together; and at the end of the day recognized it was in the public interest to work out our differences, to work out our disagreements and come to some resolution of them. At this point, it is a dark day in this body and a dark day on both sides of Pennsylvania Avenue because we have not been able to come together.

So I took the opportunity today to join with only a couple other Members from this side of the aisle to vote for a motion to recommit that would have, in fact, allowed us to come up with a clean continuing resolution, put the workers back to work, pay the current workers not being paid for the work they are performing, and get a cooling off period for all of us.

How is it fair for Members of Congress to be paid to go home for a week and back in their districts with the Government shut down? It just makes it easier for us to do that in this body