

demonstrates his unwillingness to engage in quiet diplomacy. Humane principles and a commitment to democratic ideals compel us to respond forcefully to the Abachan regime. While the Clinton administration has called on the United Nations to consider an embargo on sales of military equipment to Nigeria, Congress should consider taking the lead in identifying and enacting strong measures that hurt the Abachan regime.

Mr. President, I would like to conclude with reiterating my outrage at General Abacha and his regime's complete disregard for basic human rights and international legal standards. I believe that relations between our two countries cannot be normalized until the appalling abuse of human rights, especially toward the Ogoni people and their leaders, comes to an end.

Mr. PELL. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

THE CONTINUING RESOLUTION

Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN. Mr. President, thank you.

Mr. President, I would like to speak briefly. And I want to be brief because I know the pages are anxious, and so is the Presiding Officer. But I would like to speak for a moment on the continuing resolution, the debate that was just concluded, and make a few brief comments about it. And then I will file a more expansive statement at a later time.

Mr. President, this is the third day of the Government shutdown, and, quite frankly, this is a disgraceful way to conduct the people's business.

The Government is shut down because, in my opinion, macho posturing, pique, and those things are being substituted—attitudes and old grudges are being substituted—for substantive debate and serious-minded search for compromise.

And we are here also because this Congress has not done its work. Over 6 weeks into this fiscal year, and only four appropriations bills are now law. Most of the bills are stalled here in Congress, not because of disputes over funding levels and philosophical debates, and the like, but frankly because of the efforts by the majority party to attach unrelated riders that are designed, in some instances, to erode women's right for choice, or to deregulate pollution, or to cut away workers' collective bargaining rights.

So we have to resort to a continuing resolution. This continuing resolution that we just passed funds the Govern-

ment for roughly 5 weeks. It also calls on Congress and the President to balance the budget in 7 years.

Frankly, that provision does not belong in the bill. That issue should be left to negotiations between the President and the Congress on the permanent budget, not on this temporary, partial budget.

That was, however, why I supported the amendment offered by the minority leader. And, frankly, that is why I supported the amendment offered by the majority leader. But, quite frankly, it was the wrong place. Quite frankly, also, Mr. President, there is nothing particularly magic in 7 years. What is important is the objective. What is important is meeting our obligation to leave our children something more than a legacy of debt. And what is important is balancing the budget in a way that helps both individual Americans and our country generally.

Mr. President, I believe we can balance the budget while not undermining health care for the elderly or for the poor, without pushing millions of children into poverty, and without denying access to a college education to additional millions of young Americans.

I think it is possible to balance the budget over 7 years in a way that will make the future brighter for our children and that will help create prosperity for all of us. I hope the parties will seek and find common ground with that in mind.

We have to reduce Federal deficits, but there are other objectives that cannot be forgotten. We cannot just on the one hand transfer costs from the Federal balance sheet to the balance sheets and the budgets of American families. We cannot cut back on essential investments in areas like education on which our competitiveness and, therefore, our economic strength, security, and wealth ultimately depend. We cannot make cuts that close more doors to more Americans who are already anxious about their futures, and who are very hard pressed because, while the cost of achieving the American dream is rising, their incomes are not.

Mr. President, this continuing resolution is not a balanced budget plan. It simply buys Congress and the President a little more time to produce a plan. It is all too clear that we need that time because the budget priorities reflected in the reconciliation bill that we will act on tomorrow are clearly mistaken, in my opinion.

That reconciliation bill contains a foolish \$245 billion tax cut. And I think one of my colleagues responded by saying to talk about a tax cut at a time that you are talking about reducing the deficit and balancing the budget is

like announcing that you are going on a diet and asking someone to pass the dessert.

Even though the President has cut the deficits in half over the last 3 years, given the scope and the extent of our deficit problem, this is not the time for a tax cut. I add, Mr. President, parenthetically with regard to the specific parts of the tax cut—and I serve on the Finance Committee—there is nothing objectionable—well, there is little objectionable—about the tax cut with the specific ingredients in it. But, quite frankly, the tax cut is very much like a chicken in every pot, the oldest political ploy in town, to give a little bit of substance to the constituents. It could not come at a worse time. The timing and context is wrong. I believe it does not belong as part of reconciliation when we are talking about balancing the budget and cutting protections that are vitally dear, if not vital to Americans.

Mr. President, the reconciliation bill that we are going to take up tomorrow unnecessarily jeopardizes the elderly, the poor, the children, and students by asking them for a hugely disproportionate share of budget savings that the bill requires over the next years 7 years while at the same time protecting tax expenditures, and many other business subsidies and loopholes from the clever.

I believe we need a new plan, one that meets the needs of ordinary, hard-working Americans, and one that embraces opportunities for Americans in the future rather than diminishing them. What we need to do, therefore, in my opinion, is to end this temporary budget crisis, and to put the Government back to work.

What we need to do is to defeat the reconciliation bill tomorrow, and vote against it, because we have to, given the technicalities of it, act on it before we can get to the compromise. Kill the reconciliation bill tomorrow, and go back to work on a more balanced, more fair, and more workable budget plan that does not treat millions of Americans as expendable people.

Most of all, we need to act to meet our obligations to the American people by crafting a budget based on their needs, and that is based on the American priorities of all of our community, a budget built on the proposition that people's futures—and not just abstract accounting numbers—is what is really at stake here.

We have a chance to define ourselves as one community, to recognize that we are all in this together, and to fix our budget problems by sharing the sacrifice and addressing our collective needs as Americans.

Mr. President, this Congress can decide to be like so many corporate CEO's, laying off millions of Americans, discarding them, and ignoring the contributions that they have made in the past, and that they can make in the future. Or, we can recognize the truth—that our only permanent asset lies in the talents and the abilities of our people—and we can construct a

budget that helps Americans utilize their talents, and create wealth for all of us today, as well as for tomorrow.

Mr. President, in that case, I believe the choice is obvious. I hope we will commit to coming together to find a common ground, and to recognize that we are indeed all in this together, and we need to have a budget that reflects that.

Thank you. I yield the floor.

RECESS UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now stand in recess until 10 a.m., Friday, November 17, 1995.

Thereupon, the Senate at 10:09 p.m. recessed until tomorrow, Friday, November 17, 1995, at 10 a.m.