

"If it's just a day or two, then it's no big deal," Hattich said. "If it lasts 90 days like some people are saying, then we have a problem."

"Thirty days is probably longer than we can stand," Norshipco's Roper said Thursday. "I'm not sure I can guarantee my work force can continue beyond tomorrow."

Norshipco does have some commercial jobs, but not nearly enough to sustain its work force, he said.

Moon Engineering Co. Inc. expects it could feel the pressure in two to four weeks, said James Thomas, the Portsmouth shipyard's executive vice president and general manager. "I really can't say when right now," Thomas said.

"We have a lot of government receivables out now," he said. "How soon (we're hurt) depends on whether they get paid."

Moon started a contract on the destroyer Peterson three weeks ago. The cruiser Ticonderoga arrived at the yard Thursday for repairs and maintenance.

"We've got about 250 to 300 employees here now and we're still working, but if push really came to shove, we're going to have to send people home," Thomas said.

Metro Machine Corp. has the resources to keep operating for now, said its president, Richard Goldbach. "I don't see it affecting us unless it lasts past a week or two," he said. "We'll worry about it then, but I think we'll have the resources even then to keep operating."

Other shipyards also could be unaffected by the shutdown. Newport News Shipbuilding doesn't expect any impact on its work force because of its financial condition, a spokeswoman said.

The giant Peninsula shipyard, which builds aircraft carriers for the Navy and employs nearly 19,000 people, is owned by a multi-billion dollar conglomerate that probably has the financial wherewithal to sustain the yard's operations.

Colonna's Shipyard Inc., a small Norfolk shipyard, expects to survive on its usual diet of commercial work, said Vice President Doug Forrest. "We don't have any Navy work in the yard now," he said.

#### THE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

Mr. EXON. Mr. President, I want to thank my friend from Alaska, my friend from Virginia, and my friend, Senator LOTT, for their remarks on the matter at hand. I understand as a senior member of the Armed Services Committee, and I join and thank Senator STEVENS, Senator WARNER, and others for bringing up this matter. It is a very critical matter and we cannot pass over it. So whatever help I can be to you in this regard, I will be.

I simply point out that Senator WARNER and I came here together, and we have served on the Armed Services Committee ever since then. I have been disappointed, as he has, that we still have not reported out of the Armed Services Committee the authorizing legislation, which customarily should precede the appropriations that are handled so very ably, and have been for so many years, by my colleague from Alaska. You bring up a very good point. I think that, as important as that is, we should realize and recognize that people in other areas are just as surely affected adversely. That is why we have to move.

Thank you very much, my friend from Alaska, for saying we should stay here for however long it takes; there should be no recess. I was delighted, in case my colleague did not know it, that within the hour, the House of Representatives overwhelmingly rejected a move by Speaker GINGRICH to adjourn the House of Representatives. How in the world anybody who understands Government—including the Speaker of the House of Representatives, who evidently you have been in contact with regarding the dire circumstances coming on to the Defense Department—why in the world he would want to adjourn the House of Representatives is beyond me. I was delighted to see that it was overwhelmingly rejected. I do not know whether there has ever been a case before where a motion to adjourn has been overridden on the floor. I do not ever remember that happening, at least on this side, while I have been here.

I think maybe that message was sent very loud and clear to the Speaker of the House of Representatives that this is no time for us to be adjourning or recessing. We have to stay here regardless of how early we come in or how late we work every night, to show that we are trying to work out the problems on this. I suspect and say, without knowing it for sure, that if the Members on the floor of the Senate right now would have their way, we could probably sit down and resolve this matter very, very quickly. But politics on both sides, unfortunately, are being played.

I simply say that I was so pleased that the House of Representatives did not take the recommendations of their Speaker and adjourn. I thought it was rather interesting as I watched that vote, that early in the first 5 minutes of that vote, I believe there were 87 or 88 Republicans who had voted with their leader, Speaker GINGRICH, to adjourn the House of Representatives. But before the vote was over, when the Republicans saw what was happening, that 87 or 88 shrunk down to, I believe, about 32 at the end, as even the Republicans recognized that their leader was way, way off base by trying to adjourn with the dire circumstances that face our country today, including the ones brought forth and explained in great detail by my friend from Virginia and my friend from Alaska. I will be of whatever help I can.

Now, on the overall and underlying matter that was addressed by Senator LOTT, objected to by the minority leader, I think this points up the problem that we have today. Let me, as best I can, try to explain what is being overlooked in this discussion. Within the last few minutes, I have heard, I believe, the phrase "balance the budget in 7 years" about 17 times. Well, Mr. President, notwithstanding the fact that there is some dispute as to how we get there, this Senator has wanted to balance the budget in 7 years, if not sooner, for a long, long time.

In fact, I was one of those that had voted for the constitutional amendment that would have been referred to the States to accomplish that end. So my credentials, certainly, with regard to national defense and certainly with regard to fiscal responsibility, I think, are pretty well established, and most people even on that side of the aisle would agree.

I simply say that, when you throw around this phrase, a 7-year balanced budget—I have been for that for a long, long time, as have many people on this side of the aisle. I would like to advise all so that we can straighten that out—all that are hearing my voice at this time—that as late as last night when we thought we were very near reaching a compromise, we had as a part of that agreement that we would balance the budget in 7 years. That was put up not by the President, but by Leon Panetta and myself and others who were in on the negotiations. So when we throw around the term "balance the budget in 7 years," not everybody, but most people are for that. The President's Chief of Staff was here offering to enter into an agreement for a continuing resolution to accomplish that end.

Now, the holdup comes with regard to how we reach that balanced budget in 7 years. Therein lies the grave concerns. What the Republicans are saying, I believe, without emphasizing it, is that they want to tie the President's hands to a 7-year balanced budget on their terms. I simply say, Mr. President, that I think that is wrong for lots of reasons, and I will not be part of that.

When you ask the question, "What is at stake here?"—and that question is asked by Senator LOTT—well, what is at stake here is a great deal. What is at stake here are basic principles of Government, and most of us on this side of the aisle do not agree with the way those on that side of the aisle are coming up with their numbers, setting their priorities. We think they are mixed up. I said earlier today on the floor of the Senate and, therefore, I will try again at this time to keep my rhetoric within due bounds, because I do not believe expanded rhetoric of simply abuse is particularly constructive.

However, among other things that have been overlooked about what is at stake here, I interpret it as being a basic violation of constitutional principles that is at stake here. The Constitution guarantees the right of the President to veto a bill passed by the Congress. The Constitution does not say that he has a right to veto only after consultation with Congress. The Constitution does not say that the President, in balancing the budget, has to do it in a fashion and in a manner that the majority of the House or Senate propose. The Constitution guarantees, as a very important part of that document—and the Framers of the Constitution, in attempting to have balance of the three equal branches of

Government to try to balance the judiciary, executive, and the legislative, gave the President that power.

What the Republicans are really doing, Mr. President, whether they realize it or not, is putting a gun to the head of the President of the United States, saying, "If you veto, which you have a right to do under the Constitution, we are going to take that away, or attempt to take it away by saying to you we are going to close down Government if you exercise your right, Mr. President."

We are going to violate the principles of the Constitution simply by putting that gun to your head and saying, "If you do that, we will close down Government because you, Mr. President, can't veto this bill or you will close down Government."

I think the President is standing up not only for himself but every other President that we are going to have in the years to come. If this President of the United States does not stand up and protect the prerogatives of the President of the United States, that are guaranteed in the Constitution, if he is going to set precedence here to some time in the future with some other Congress and some other President, they are going to hark back and say "Well, the Republicans back there in 1995 took away the prerogatives of the President."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time allotted to the Senator from Nebraska has expired.

Mr. EXON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent since there are no other speakers on this side of the aisle that I be allowed to continue for an additional 3 minutes.

Mr. CRAIG. I will allow for another 3 minutes and then I will object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. EXON. So, Mr. President, I simply say, what is at stake here is the fact that we cannot get together.

What is at stake is the President of the United States and others who were negotiating last night said, "OK, 7 years. We will work for a 7-year balanced budget but we are not going to accept what I think is being tried to be dictated to by the Speaker of the House of Representatives."

We are in a very serious situation. I looked at the clippings from the newspapers back home today. One headline says "GOP Puts Wrapping on Budget Package;" "Return to Sender Seen as Response."

Here is another: "Gingrich's Remarks Fuel Democrats' Budget Fight." Down below that a headline, "Park Service to Evict Campers."

Then, of course, "Veto Expected As House OK's Defense Funds." That is what has been addressed here.

I simply say, Mr. President, that if we could have the continuing resolution that we have been pleading for, on a short-term basis, that has been continually rejected by the Republicans, primarily led, I suspect, by Speaker

GINGRICH, we could have that continuing resolution, all of us know that all of these concerns that have just been addressed by the Senator from Alaska and others would fade. They just would not be there.

Why can we not be reasonable? Two other items and headlines: "Office of Aging Plans Furloughs, Service Cuts," and "21 Guard Drills Are Canceled As Budget Standoff Continues."

Let me read briefly from the "Office of Aging Plans":

The Eastern Nebraska Office on Aging intends to furlough 74 of its 90 employees because of the federal budget dispute.

Bob Whitmore, a spokesman for the Omaha-based agency, said the furloughs would take effect at 5 p.m. Wednesday. . .

All this would not be necessary and we would not go through the silly charade if we could have, as we have had several times in the past, a short-term continuing resolution to December 5 or December 15.

All this could be set aside if it were not for the fact that the Republicans were trying to put that gun to the President's head to take away the constitutional right guaranteed to the President by saying "You are going to do it our way or none, or we will close down Government."

I hope we have an understanding between cooler heads in the future.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia has 1 minute and 21 seconds remaining.

Mr. WARNER. I do hope that I could pick up on your final comments, I say to my good friend—that is, cool heads. I hope the Senator would rephrase some of his rhetoric about the gun to the head.

I kind of think that this matter needs a little cooling off in terms of rhetoric, Mr. President. I know that the meetings which I have attended today, it has been calmness, coolness, and very conscientious efforts on behalf of those in attendance to try to bring this to resolve.

I know the distinguished majority leader, Mr. DOLE, is going to be working through the early evening. I hope to work with him on this matter.

One last comment. The distinguished colleague, a member of the Armed Services Committee, mentioned the authorization bill. I say that Chairman THURMOND has been working through late last night and again this morning with the ranking member, Mr. NUNN, and other members of the committee.

I am pleased to say I think we are making some progress on that bill to bring it to a conclusion and soon, hopefully, present it to the Senate, the conference report.

I yield the floor.

#### BALANCE THE BUDGET

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, America is watching what we do here today, or more importantly, what we fail to do. I think they are watching with a much

more critical eye than we are willing to give them credit for.

I say that because it was well over 20 years ago when another Senator from Virginia put legislation through this body, passed by law, to balance the Federal budget within a very short period of time. That was law. That was Federal law, Mr. President.

This Congress went by it so fast that it was not even the blur of a stop sign. Four times following that over the last two decades this Congress has passed laws, I tell you, to balance the Federal budget. Yet, of course, that never happened.

We are now nearly \$5 trillion in debt. We have a \$200 billion deficit. This President came forward last night and said, "Let's set a goal. Let's once again have a goal to achieve a federally balanced budget." Somehow that was worthy.

I know what the American people are saying at this moment. "Oh, no, you don't, Mr. President. We don't trust you nor do we trust the Congress. You no longer have any credibility in the area of spending because you have shown you cannot control your appetites."

That is why only by 1 vote out of 535 votes this year, 435 votes, did we miss sending out an amendment to the Constitution of this country to assure the citizens' right to decide on whether they want a balanced budget or not.

I know what folks in my State are saying right now. While they recognize the inconvenience of what we do at the moment, and while there are Federal employees in my State who are furloughed by phone calls pouring in to all of my State offices and my office here, on a 12-1 ratio, they are saying, "Don't blink. Don't blink. It is not a goal. It is no longer a concept. It is no longer an ideal."

They are saying, "Make it a reality, Mr. President. Balance the Federal budget and do it now. Put together what you promised us in last year's election that you would do." Are we once again going to be the traditional politician of Washington and tell the citizens one thing and then bow to the pressure to do something else? I say no, absolutely no. It is time we send a message to the American people that we mean exactly what we told them.

Mr. President, we have people out of work on the Federal payroll today because of you. You are the one who vetoed the bills. You are the one who is now saying you will veto the DOD appropriations bill.

Senator STEVENS from Alaska was in here very distressed, as he should be, that we have now done our work and tonight a bill that will put hundreds of thousands of men and women, both civilian and in uniform, back to work—this President says "No, I will veto it." Why? Because "It does not meet my goal."

Mr. President, check in the Constitution. Read the Constitution. Who budgets for our Government? We do. You