

Frankly, I think we could use a good bit more of that around here, recognizing the worth of people on both sides, because I have found that colleagues on both sides of the aisle in this Chamber are some of the finest people I have ever known. Just because we have differences and we debate vigorously does not diminish the value nor the humanity of anyone on either side. Maybe that is a word that needs to go out from this Chamber more; that people who serve here are worthy, and they are good people.

In fact, I think my constituents sometimes are surprised when I tell them that I find, on both sides of the aisle, the people that I serve with are some of the finest people I have ever known, the people who are in the U.S. Senate.

THE LEADERSHIP OF SENATOR CHAFEE AND SENATOR BREAUX

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I would like for just a moment to single out two of my colleagues who, I think, are showing real leadership at a time of gridlock in Washington. I want to single out Senator CHAFEE, the Senator from Rhode Island, and Senator BREAUX, the Senator from Louisiana, who have led our bipartisan effort to put together a budget plan that would merge the differences, that would find common ground, that would break the gridlock, and that demonstrates that the two sides can work together here to achieve a result that is important for the country.

Mr. President, earlier today we were able to hold a news conference and indicate that last night we reached agreement between 19 Senators—10 Republicans and 9 Democrats—on the outlines of a plan to balance the budget on a unified basis over 7 years using CBO scoring, and that we were able to do it in a way that is fair and balanced.

Mr. President, I must say I have been very proud to participate in this effort because we did it without raised voices, we did it without hurling brick bats across the barricades, we did it by sitting together, by reasoning together, and by working together to achieve a result that is important to the country.

I think the leadership of Senator CHAFEE and Senator BREAUX should serve as an example to others who are negotiating on this budget matter because I think our group has blazed the trail showing others how we could achieve a result that will get the Government back to working and break the gridlock.

Mr. President, every day in this town there is a news conference that puts a spotlight on the differences between the two parties. This was the first news conference in many days in this city in which we were not talking about differences but we were talking about the ability of people of good will on both sides to get together, to reason together, and to achieve a breakthrough.

Mr. President, we just had an opportunity to make a presentation on that plan to the negotiators from both sides. I was pleased by the reaction.

I am just hopeful now that in the hours ahead cooler heads will prevail and that both sides will understand that to achieve an agreement neither side can get precisely what it wants but that we can have a principled compromise and one that advances the interests of this Nation.

Mr. President, I want to end as I began by saluting the leadership of Senator CHAFEE and Senator BREAUX. It takes courage to compromise.

Mr. President, as in the words of the "Liberty Song" by John Dickenson, "By uniting we stand, by dividing we fall."

This is an example of Senators working together to unite, of Senators reasoning together to unite, and I hope our colleagues will begin to focus on the need for uniting. That is what has made America strong—pulling together, working together, and uniting in order to achieve a result.

I thank the Chair. I yield the floor.

Several Senators addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada has the floor.

Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, will the Senator allow me 30 seconds on the subject of BOB DOLE?

Mr. REID. I am happy to yield without losing my right to the floor.

SENATOR BOB DOLE

Mr. MOYNIHAN. With great precision and with equal interest, Mr. President, it has been a quarter of a century since I first knew BOB DOLE and worked with him. He would find it interesting that we began working in an effort with a Republican President to establish a guaranteed income as a way of getting us out of our welfare problems. We are still in them. We will be in them much of the evening.

But in 25 years I have not known a man I have respected more. I have not worked with anyone with greater consequence. He is an ornament to this institution and to this Nation. We are proud of him.

I thank the Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

THE BALANCED BUDGET

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we have heard some talk on the floor today about we should have a balanced budget within 7 years. I would certainly acknowledge that. But I think the thing we should be concerned about today is getting Government back to work.

There have been statements made by the Republican leadership that those 250,000 Federal employees who are on furlough will be paid. Well, if they are going to be paid, it seems logical to me that the taxpayers would be getting a

much better deal if they were doing something for their pay, like maybe doing their job.

I would suggest that just sheer logic tells me that, if the Republican leadership said that the furloughed employees are going to be paid their wages for not working, that we should go the next step and allow them to work so that the taxpayers are getting their money's worth. This way they are getting a real bad deal. The taxpayers are told that the parks are going to be closed. There are various Federal agencies where 250,000 people work and are not going to be operable but the people are going to be paid anyway. If I were a taxpayer, I would say that does not sound like a real good deal for me.

So I say for the third time here in the last few minutes, if the Republican leadership has said they will pay the furloughed workers, it seems to me logical that we should get them all back to work.

Mr. DORGAN. Will the Senator yield on that point?

Mr. REID. I am happy to yield for a question.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I would like to ask the Senator a question about that because I feel much as he does—that somehow, sometime today, or immediately, if possible, we ought to have the Federal workers come back to work and end the shutdown and still continue to negotiate on a balanced budget agreement.

It does not make any sense to see a circumstance where Federal workers—some 300,000—will not be allowed to come to work but will still be paid for work they did not do. And the bill is going to be paid by the American taxpayer.

I ask the Senator from Nevada, is not this a period several days before Christmas where it is for most a magic time, a time of family, reflection, lights, music, worship, and now we have a circumstance where we have 1 million checks that have been written sitting in a warehouse here in Washington, DC, that are supposed to go out to the veterans and are supposed to be in their mailboxes on January 1 for veterans and survivors? Unless a continuing resolution is passed immediately, that is not going to happen. We have 4 million children whose AFDC payments for their daily needs relates to the question of whether the continuing resolution will be passed so the money and the resources will be available for them.

You can imagine what will happen if on January 2 or 3 a veteran's survivor expecting a check needing to pay the rent or to buy food or to provide for their children's needs discovers the check is not there because of this shutdown. That is why I hope somehow this evening all of this gets unlocked and we can pass a CR. Does the Senator from Nevada see any reason that it provides any leverage for anyone to continue to have a Government shutdown in which people are sent home,

some 300,000, but yet we pay them for work they did not do? Is there anybody that gets penalized other than the American taxpayer with this kind of strategy?

Mr. REID. I would say to my friend from North Dakota, they are being penalized, the taxpayers that is, to the tune of \$40 million a day. That is my understanding of the wages that are going to be paid for not doing the work. So you multiply just a little bit the time they have already been out of work—this is counted on Saturdays and Sundays. They get paid no matter what day it is—2 days, 80, 120, 160. It gets up pretty quickly.

That is where we are now. And the American taxpayer gets nothing in the way of services. We have here in Washington now one of the finest art exhibits to have been here in decades, the greatest still lifes probably ever painted, but it is only going to be here a short time and people have come from all over the United States to see that. They cannot see it. But yet those people who should be working are not working but are being paid, and the taxpayer gets a real bad deal on that.

Mr. BUMPERS. Will the Senator yield for an observation?

Mr. REID. I would be happy to yield to my friend without losing my right to the floor.

Mr. BUMPERS. It has been mentioned once or twice, but I do not think the full impact of the shutdown of the Government has really been accurately described. If you were one of the 260,000 people sitting home and being paid for nothing, first of all, that is demeaning, to ordinary people. They would much rather be working, despite the fact they are sitting home and being paid to sit home. But the dimension that I am going to mention is here is the most joyous season of the year, Christmas, that everybody looks forward to and among the 260,000 workers at home, I promise you, a lot of them live from paycheck to paycheck, and a lot of them were depending on spending money for gifts for their children for Christmas. And you know, sometimes I think the Congress ought to be charged with child abuse because a lot of children are not going to have the Christmas they otherwise would have.

I am not saying this is going to be massive, but obviously a lot of people are affected by the fact that they do not have a paycheck and therefore cannot spend any money unless they have a credit card that has a little bit left on the limit. But it is one of the most unfathomable things—I have been here 21 years. This is the most irresponsible, unfathomable, irrational things I have ever seen in my 21 years here. What on Earth are we doing?

Mr. REID. I would say to my friend from Arkansas, I repeat, especially when the Republican leadership has said these 250,000 or 260,000 people are going to be paid anyway. So would not the next step be to say, OK, you are going to get paid; go to work?

Mr. BUMPERS. It is an interesting thing about how we are cutting everybody under the shining Sun in the interest of a balanced budget but willing in the interest of some kind of unfathomable, absolutely incomprehensible to me ideology that says you cannot keep the Government going and talk about balancing the budget at the same time. It is a nondebate about whether we are going to balance the budget or not. That is a no-brainer. Everybody agrees on that point.

What we are arguing about mostly is the tax cut. If the Republicans would forgo all or just a significant portion of the tax cut, this is a done deal. Everybody knows that we have to cut Medicare. Everybody knows that we are going to have to slow the escalation of Medicaid costs. But I am not for slowing the environment and I am not for slowing education, an observation that has been made on this floor time and time again and just seems so patently clear and obvious, and yet I pick up the paper and it never points it out except "Congress Bugged Again," "Congress Can't Gets Its Act Together," blah, blah, blah. And all you have to do is sit down and say let us crank the Government up, pass a continuing resolution. After all, a continuing resolution funds these agencies at a dramatic discount from what they have been getting.

Mr. REID. Twenty-five percent.

Mr. BUMPERS. I thank the Senator for yielding. We can sit here I guess and engage in this colloquy all evening. I thank the Senator very much for allowing me to interject this.

Mr. REID. As always, I appreciate the statement of my friend from Arkansas.

Mr. President, I see the majority leader in the Chamber. I have yielded to everybody else and certainly I am happy to yield to him.

I am told, Mr. President, that the leaders want to have a unanimous-consent request entered. I am happy to yield to them without my losing the right to the floor.

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

The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Nevada, Senator REID.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREE-
MENT—CONFERENCE REPORT ON
H.R. 4 AND VETO MESSAGE ON
H.R. 1058

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following Senator REID's remarks, the veto message be laid aside, and the Senate turn to the conference report to accompany H.R. 4, the welfare bill, that it be considered under the following time restraints: 3 hours to be equally divided in the usual form.

Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that at 10:15 a.m., on Friday, there be 30 minutes for closing remarks on securities, to be equally divided in the usual form, and that at

10:45 a.m., there be 30 minutes for closing remarks on welfare, to be equally divided in the usual form.

Finally, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 11:15 a.m., the Senate proceed to vote on the question shall H.R. 1058 pass, the objections of the President to the contrary notwithstanding, to be followed immediately by a vote on adoption of the Welfare conference report.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there any objection?

Mr. KENNEDY addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. KENNEDY. Reserving the right to object. If the result of this unanimous-consent request is made, we will vote on the two matters that are referred to, but we will not have an opportunity, given what the House of Representatives has just done—and that is, effectively they are recessing tomorrow without a continuing resolution, which will mean that millions of children will be unattended to, millions of the disabled will be unattended to. Effectively, do I understand the majority leader is making a request for those votes tomorrow on those two without giving any indication as to what the majority's intention is going to be, particularly without a continuing resolution, the impact that it is going to have on children and the disabled in this country?

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I say to the Senator from Massachusetts, there is a meeting with the President tomorrow morning with the leadership in the Senate and the House. It is my hope that after the meeting is concluded we may be in a position to do something under the CR. I can only speak for myself. I am prepared to do that now, but the House has not sent us one.

I think there will be an effort by the Democratic leader to call up and amend the bill that is now pending, which I would be constrained to object to. But there are others that will be affected in addition to veterans. I think there are four or five groups. It seems to me, if nothing else is successful, we ought to amend the one that the House sent over dealing with veterans and put all the other groups on so they will not be deprived of any benefits or delay in their checks, if everything else fails, as far as the CR is concerned.

Mr. KENNEDY. I will just take another moment.

Mr. President, I appreciate the willingness and the commitment of the majority leader to do that. As the Senator knows, the House has passed now their resolution just a few moments ago which effectively puts them in recess for 3 days, with the possibility of extending 3 more days, the possibility of extending 3 more days, with a 12-hour call-back, and without any continuing resolution, which will be in effect as of 2:30 tomorrow afternoon.

We are being asked to consent to this agreement, where the final votes of which will be some time in the midday;