

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COX of California. Mr. Speaker, as our colleagues know, we have done our job here. We did it last summer. We passed all our appropriations bills.

The truth is that the President has now vetoed appropriations bills that would keep our parks open, appropriations bills that would keep our prisons and the guards paid. We passed not only a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution, by a two-thirds vote here, which would have kicked in in 7 years, but failing the one vote necessary to get a two-thirds margin for a constitutional amendment in the Senate, we, the House and Senate together, passed the Balanced Budget Act to balance the budget in 7 years, and the President has vetoed that.

Then we passed a resolution that the President signed that said you, Mr. President, will come up with a balanced budget, scored by the CBO, in 7 years, and he has not done that.

There is a good reason that now we have this seeming impasse. It is that the President has not done his job. We will continue to do ours and we will balance the budget.

REPUBLICANS HOLDING GOVERNMENT HOSTAGE

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, when I was home in New Jersey the last week and in my district office, I received many calls on a regular basis from Government employees, some of whom were almost in tears because they have not been able to pay their rent, pay their mortgage, creditors are calling upon them, and there really was not a great deal we could do.

I naively expected when I came here today that because the Senate had moved a continuing resolution that would reopen the Government, and because the President supported it, that we would take that continuing resolution up today, but we did not.

The only thing I can say is that finally we know where the blame is. The blame is with the House Republican leadership and those Republicans that they represent here in the House who want to keep the Government shut down, who want to hold the American people, the Government workers and the taxpayers who are paying for services they should be getting, hostage to their own ideology about what the budget priorities should be.

I have said from the very beginning that is not the way to operate.

REPUBLICANS READY TO PASS A BALANCED BUDGET

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

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Speaker, to hear the rhetoric in this debate one would

think that most of the Government is shut down. That is not true. Most of the Government is up and running.

It is about one-fifth of the Government that is not open for business today. And most of that one-fifth could be open for business today if the President had simply signed 3 appropriations bills the House and the Senate, representing a majority of the American people, sent to him in time for him to put his signature on it and to put these people to work. The President chose not to sign those bills and so most of that one-fifth of the work force is out of work today. As to that remaining number, they are tied up in a filibuster on the Senate side led by Members of the President's own party.

So if you want to know why part of the Government is shut down today, it is because the President failed to sign the appropriation bills the House and Senate agreed upon, and because his own party has the final remaining appropriation bills tied up in the Senate in a filibuster. We are ready to go to work, pass a balanced budget bill for this country and get us on a course to fiscal sanity again.

FRESHMAN REPUBLICANS HOLD GOVERNMENT HOSTAGE

(Mr. TORRES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, that is true, that the Government is not totally shut down, but most of it is shut down and today Federal workers, joined by senior citizens and others, will take to the street to protest. They are going to picket the houses and the offices of the 73 freshman Republicans who are holding the Government hostage.

Yes, nearly 760,000 Federal employees are either furloughed or working without pay. This is having a calamitous effect across the country, and impacting not only our economy but individual Americans alike. We are told that 12 States have already advised the agency for Health and Human Services that 600,000 seniors in the next 2 weeks will probably not receive Meals on Wheels nor have adequate transportation. That is simply disgraceful.

Ladies and gentlemen, we ask those 73 Members and our Republican leadership to let this Government go back to work.

A SIMPLE SOLUTION TO BUDGET IMPASSE

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

Mr. BONO. Mr. Speaker, this place cracks me up sometimes. I sometimes feel like I walk through a mirror and I am going to meet the Mad Hatter. We hear bleeding heart after bleeding heart. We hear all these stories.

It is this simple. The President said he would sign a contract to balance the

budget in 7 years, scored by CBO. We said fine. If you do that, there is no problem, we will keep going, and Government will be open.

Now the President has not done that, so all the rest of this rhetoric is rhetoric. As soon as the President decides to keep his word, that is what has got to be understood, Mr. Speaker, is that he has to keep his word, and his word was that he would sign a balanced budget scored by CBO. I hope he keeps his word soon.

PRESIDENT HAS PROBLEM WITH BALANCED BUDGET

(Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I too, as my colleague from Illinois, offer condolences to the Fazio family and to the Johnson family.

Mr. Speaker, on November 20 there was a continuing resolution that was signed that said that Congress and the President shall balance the budget by the year 2002, using Congressional Budget Office numbers and using honest numbers. That resolution expired December 15 at midnight. At that time, the President had not offered a balanced budget, scored by CBO, that would balance in 7 years.

Mr. Speaker, that has been the problem. We have had appropriations that have been vetoed. We do not have a President that submitted a budget that would balance over the next 7 years, and that is the problem. What is the problem with submitting something that will balance? Is it that the President does not want to be accountable, the President does not want to discipline himself?

We said, "Mr. President, you don't have to agree with our numbers. You can disagree with our numbers. Just give us your priority, your numbers, and we will negotiate a settlement."

TIME TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY IN BUDGET BATTLE

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

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, the leader of the other body is right, enough is enough. For 19 days much of the Federal Government has been closed through the failure and intransigence of the new House leadership.

Federal workers and their families are the most obvious victims of this hostage mentality. They are not the only ones suffering. At Rhode Island's VA medical center employees are already working with either half or no pay, and now the veterans' benefits are threatened because the VA continuing resolution expires today.

Moreover, by the end of the week Rhode Island will have no funds left to administer its unemployment compensation insurance program, which

could mean that no more unemployment compensation would be paid in Rhode Island.

Senior citizens could also expect to be hit hard by this Republican brinksmanship. Indeed, nationally 600,000 seniors will not get Meals on Wheels if Republicans do not bring a continuing resolution to the floor by Friday.

Environmental cleanup has stopped at Superfund sites, small business loans go unprocessed, American business people cannot go overseas without passport renewals, our national parks remain closed, and the list unfortunately continues. Mr. Speaker, it is time for some Members of this House to act like they want to take responsibility.

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GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I think each one of us have furloughed Federal workers in our districts. I have 1,038 in my district. However, 940 of them would be working had the President not vetoed legislation that would have funded their departments.

On November 20, as was said earlier, the President signed a continuing resolution that said he would come up with a balanced budget by the end of this year, by the end of the first Session of the 104th Congress, which was December 31, but he failed to do so. I have to admit I am very frustrated. I think we here in Congress are very frustrated. What does it take for the President to keep his word? Would one more CR do it? Should we just go out on the limb and extend another 10 days and open up this Government?

It seems like every time we come up with a continuing resolution, the President backs away from the negotiating table. The only way that we can keep him at the negotiations table is to continue on our current course. However uncomfortable it may be, however painful it may be, we are going to have to do it. It is the only option that we have left. The President said that he would balance the budget. We said we would do it. We are going to keep to our word. Mr. President, please keep to yours.

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

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

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I had the opportunity to meet with some of my Federal workers from the Social Security Administration and see firsthand the hardships that we have caused because of our failure to get our work done. They are not interested in excuses.

Enough is enough, as the leader of the other body said when legislation was passed to put our Federal workers back to work. It is now time for us to do the same. For 3 weeks, hundreds of thousands of American families have been held hostage to budget strategy. Some are at work without pay. Some are home not working without pay. Through all of this, millions of Americans have been denied services from their Government.

The American people do not understand this and neither do I. We have all agreed that we are going to pay for Federal workers, yet we are denying people basic services which are going to cost our taxpayers more money. It does not make sense. Enough is enough. Let us get our job done.

GETTING THE JOB DONE

(Mr. SCARBOROUGH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, we have got our job done. We as a Congress have passed the first balanced budget in over a generation. A man had not walked on the Moon the last time this institution had the discipline to balance the budget. We have done that now.

If we want to know about how big our national debt is, consider this in this holiday season. If we made a million dollars every day from the day Jesus Christ was born until today, we still would not have enough money to pay off our Federal debt. The time to balance the budget is now. Let us forget the demagoguery. Let us forget the half-truths. Let us instead be driven by these words that were written in the 1800's: Ask not what your age wants but what it needs, not what it will reward but what without which it cannot be saved; and that go and do.

That is what we are going to do. We are going to balance this budget.

HONEST NUMBERS

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

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, for the first shutdown we spent \$700 million. In this shutdown we are spending \$40 million a day. We have now been shut down for 19 days. So that comes out to about \$1.5 billion the taxpayers have paid for this little clown act. I think that is exactly what it is. We ought to call it what it is.

When we say what is the real point, they say it is about honest numbers by the President 7 years from now. Even if the President gets reelected, he will not be President 7 years from now. This President and this Congress cannot possibly preordain what future Congresses and future presidents are going to do 7 years from now. We cannot even get decent weather forecasts for tomorrow. What are they talking

about? Honest numbers, 7 years from now. I mean, what kind of arrogance is that that one side has honest numbers for 7 years and we do not. Meanwhile, we keep paying. Enough is enough.

BALANCING THE BUDGET

(Mr. SHAYS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, we spend a billion dollars a day just on interest on the national debt. We are elected by adults to represent the children and future generations. We have the opportunity of a lifetime to balance our Federal budget and to get our financial house in order.

Since the Vietnam war the national debt has gone up from \$300 billion to \$4,900 billion, \$4.9 trillion. This is not about Federal employees. This is not about the disruption of some Federal services. It is about finally, once and for all, and for the good of our children and future generations, balance the Federal budget in 7 years using honest numbers.

Taxes are on the table. Spending is on the table. Even defense is on the table. The budget must be balanced and it must happen at least within 7 years.

STOP SHUTTING THE GOVERNMENT DOWN

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I may have a bruised eye but it is nothing compared to the bruises the American people and our Federal workers are taking from this Republican Congress.

I rise today on behalf of the employees and patients of the Bronx Veterans Affairs Medical Center and the hundreds of thousands of Federal employees who are stuck in the middle of this budget debate. Here is a copy of a check for \$1.51, which is what one worker at the Bronx VA Hospital Center received when she opened her paycheck in my district last Friday, \$1.51, Mr. Speaker. In New York City that can get you this: One transit token to get home from work, and one penny extra to spend in any way you see fit. And if you live in Co-op City as I do, it will not even get you home, because Co-op City is a two-fare zone.

The staff of the Bronx VA Hospital has begun soliciting food donations to distribute to the staff because the workers cannot afford to buy food. It is an outrage that those who can care for our veterans have to go hat in hand to beg for food. I call upon you Republican colleagues to stop shutting the Government down. Think of people who live from paycheck to paycheck.

REGARDING THE BALANCED BUDGET

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