

the day; and I will return to the floor to inform the body, as things develop, of any additional information that might affect the manner in which they conduct their affairs today.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ARMEY. I would be happy to yield to the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. BONIOR. I would ask the majority leader what time he anticipates that we would resume business today.

Mr. ARMEY. I can only say to the gentleman that it is my anticipation that that could be at 5 or 6 o'clock tonight. Certainly I should expect that by that time I would have enough information to, if we do not call the Members back in for such business, at least advise Members further on what the schedule would be for the rest of the day and the rest of the week.

Mr. BONIOR. If the gentleman would continue to yield, it is my understanding also that the Senate has decided that they will not be in today, tomorrow, and the rest of the weekend. If that in fact is the case, at least that body not doing any business, what legislation could we put forward that would relieve the impasse that we are in?

It seems to me that the fastest and the best way to do that would be to take up the resolution by the majority leader of the Senate, Senator DOLE, and pass that and get this Government back to work.

Mr. ARMEY. I thank the gentleman for his suggestion. Let me just say there are a very broad range of things that will be under discussion, and we will be able to make a report later in the day.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Would the gentleman yield?

Mr. ARMEY. I would be happy to yield.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I thank my colleague from Texas for yielding, and certainly I appreciate and support the minority whip on his comments.

I would like to indicate that I filed yesterday House Joint Resolution 155 that is a clean continuing resolution with several original cosponsors that would open the Government until January 19. I would like to know if the majority leader would allow a unanimous-consent request for that to be brought up on the House floor so that we could discuss that and debate that opening of the Government until January 19.

Mr. ARMEY. I thank the gentleman for her inquiry. I can only say that at this time I am not prepared to entertain such a request.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Well, I thank the gentleman if he would consider it. I think that we have certainly an opportunity for bipartisan direction on this and support on this. I thank the gentleman.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will first entertain 1-minutes, if

any Member wishes to give a 1-minute; and then we will move to special orders without prejudice to resumption of business.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. FOGLIETTA. Mr. Speaker, I was detained in my district in Philadelphia yesterday afternoon. I would have voted "present" on the quorum call. I would have voted "no" on the motion to table the motion on the Chair's ruling, rollcall No. 2; and I would have voted "no" to override the President's correct decision to veto the Defense authorization bill, rollcall No. 3.

NEGOTIATING FOR A BALANCED BUDGET

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

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, we are here today because we want to open the Federal Government. Our side is not looking to hurt Federal employees. I just want people to recognize that we are in a very, very difficult time of trying to balance the Federal budget. I think the other side needs also to recognize that we are making some progress.

President Clinton the other day decided that he would support a reduction in the capital gains tax, something that the other side has called "a tax cut for the rich." The President now agrees, and I think it is incumbent, with the President's assurance that he will support a capital gains tax, that we give a little, that we work to negotiate, that we seek to reopen the Government.

The bottom line is a 7-year balanced budget, CBO, OMB, make sure they are real numbers, honest numbers that the American public can agree to, and we can resolve the stalemate here in Washington. But the American public, both Democrats and Republicans, universally agree that a balanced budget can and should be done in 7 years.

CONGRESS SHOULD NOT BE EXEMPT FROM HARDSHIPS

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

Mr. BROWDER. Mr. Speaker, I do not believe that the President and Members of Congress should be exempt from the same hardships that others endure. If we are unable to pay Federal employees, then we should not be able to pay ourselves during a shutdown. Like some other Members of this House, I have introduced legislation to prevent the President and Members of Congress from collecting paychecks during Government shutdowns, and I invite my colleagues to join me as a cosponsor of H.R. 2671.

It is not right that Federal employees should be made to suffer this outrage alone. Maybe a pay freeze would make the President and Congress take the situation more seriously. Cosponsor H.R. 2671.

PRESIDENT SHOULD SIGN APPROPRIATIONS BILLS

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

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, you have just seen the House uphold the President's veto, and may I say that the minority side again has shut down the parks, the refugees, the monuments. It is the President who has not acted appropriately.

This is a body of two Houses and conferences, and we reached the right decision. We sent the bill to the President. He alone has shut down the parks. He alone has shut down the monuments. He alone is causing the pain, and it is time for the American public to say, Mr. President, sign the bills that Congress sends to you.

For those of you on the minority side, you are no longer in the majority, you are in the minority. So let us tell the truth. Let us have the President sign these bills. We will send them to him.

Mr. President, let us put the people back to work. It is your fault; it will continue to be your fault. Let us think about this country instead of the election in 1996.

PASS A CONTINUING RESOLUTION TO OPEN GOVERNMENT

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

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, it is now 3 months and a few days since the fiscal year closed and since the Congress had a responsibility to enact a new national budget and to adopt some 13 appropriations bills. None of that has been done.

My Republican colleagues are anxious to tell us how the President can get the country back to work. Well, it is very simple. We can get the Government going again by the simple expediency of continuing the negotiations and by seeing to it that a continuing resolution in the proper form has been passed.

Our Republican colleagues have told us what they are going to do. The Speaker himself said this: I do not care what the price is, I do not care if we have no executive offices and no bonds for 30 days. Not this time. He said he would shut the Government down and he has done so. Federal employees, citizens, everyone else is hurting because of this consequence.

My advice is, let us not slink out of town like a bunch of skulkers; let us pass a continuing resolution and get about the business of the country.

MEALS ON WHEELS LIVES

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

Mr. HANCOCK. Mr. Speaker, I have a real problem. Just the other day the President comes on national television, and the first item he mentioned as part of the shutdown was Meals on Wheels. My wife devotes 1 full day a week plus other free time to Meals on Wheels in the private sector. I picked up the telephone today and I called every place I could think of in southwest Missouri, my district, and every meal is being delivered. Meals on Wheels has not been shut down.

Now, maybe there is a Government function that they call Meals on Wheels that is Government funded that is shut down. But the private-sector Meals on Wheels is delivering meals all over the United States, which is a real good example that the private sector can do a better job than the Government.

Meals on Wheels are being delivered, and I resent the President of the United States stating that my wife's volunteer work is not happening.

POLITICS IS THE ART OF COMPROMISE

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

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, the fact is that while Meals on Wheels are being delivered now, they will not if we do not pass the Dole continuing spending bill.

Mr. Speaker, politics is the art of compromise. Politics should not be the tactics of terrorism. Terrorism is when you take innocent hostages, punish them to achieve an objective that you cannot otherwise achieve through legal and democratic processes.

Federal employees, public civil servants, are being taken hostage, are being punished through no fault of their own, only because they choose to serve the American public and the American civil service. They are being punished, some having to work without pay, others being locked out of their jobs, being told it is illegal even to volunteer.

Now, three-quarters of a million Federal employees will not be able to pay for their rent, will not be able to even provide food for their families. It is wrong. Shame on this body.

□ 1345

WHAT THE BUDGET DEBATE IS ABOUT

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

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I will be willing to admit that it is unfortunate that Federal employees are being fur-

loughed in this great debate. But they are not the only hostages. They are not the only innocent ones.

There are several hundred million people in this country who are held hostage by this whole process. The most innocent are our children and grandchildren, who are inheriting from this body a \$5 trillion debt that will cost them in their lifetime, if they are born this year, \$187,000 just to pay interest on the debt.

This is a great debate. It is not a sandbox fight. It is about the direction of the Government. The dollar amounts are insignificant. What the President cannot tolerate is turning back to individuals the right to make decisions about their own lives. The nanny state will wither away and the left will lose control over the lives of people. That is what this debate is about and I am on the side of the innocent children and grandchildren.

ACCEPTING RESPONSIBILITY IN BUDGET BATTLE

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

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, both Democrats and Republicans on the Senate side were responsible in enacting a clean CR to put the Government back to work again. We have now been in a Government shutdown for some 20 days which is costing this Government at least \$20 million each day. Twenty days of that, we just need to multiply that.

But, more importantly, it is costing the taxpayer their services that they deserve. Our country deserves better. Yet there are those on the other side, under the rubric of being responsible to their grandchildren and to the children, the innocent, and denying children of today opportunities.

How responsible is it for us to say that we should deny the opportunity and the responsibility for people to productively give back to their country what they will be paid? How responsible is it for us to pay people who are not actually working? It certainly is not responsible, nor is it civil, to deny the responsibility of us as Members of this Congress.

MEETING THE CHALLENGE

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

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, a relationship, to work and survive, has got to be honest and we have got to deal with each other in good faith. For a government to govern well, we have to be honest and we have to deal with each other in good faith.

The President has vetoed every measure we have sent to him that would balance the budget. He has a constitutional right to do that. If he believes that our budget devastates the elderly,

he has a moral obligation to fight us. I will never, never say bad things about somebody that follows their beliefs because that is what they should do. There comes a time, though, that one has an obligation to do more than just say no.

Mr. President, if you do not like our view of a balanced budget, give us your view. We cannot negotiate against ourselves anymore. You have a legal and a moral obligation to fight us when you think we are wrong. You have a legal and moral obligation to fulfill your commitment you made 40 days ago to put a budget on the table that balances. Please fulfill your obligation.

LEGISLATION PROHIBITING OVERSEAS TRAVEL BY MEMBERS DURING GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, last week I noticed a newspaper account that said that notwithstanding the fact that there are over 700,000 Federal employees who are not being paid, there are still 50 Members of Congress, nearly 50 Members of Congress, who were scheduled to go on foreign trips during this shutdown.

Mr. Speaker, that is a slap in the face to the hard working Federal employees who want to be working and who should be paid. This is not the time for Members of Congress to be traveling overseas. And today the Speaker has scheduled a piece of legislation that allows us to be in recess for up to 3 weeks. That is wrong, too.

I have introduced legislation that would prohibit Members of Congress from traveling overseas during times of Government furloughs. It is wrong, and the Members of Congress should stay here and we should not recess ourselves. We should stay here, get these people back to work. They want to work. They should be working. It is simply wrong to do what this Government has done.

CALLING ON PRESIDENT TO STEP FORWARD IN BUDGET DEBATE

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

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I come to the House floor today to remind my colleagues that on November 20 the President of the United States did promise this House by law that he in fact would work with us, the House and Senate, for a balanced budget.

As the previous speaker from South Carolina has said, it is a fact we have no budget from the President. Six appropriation bills have gone to the President without signature. The facts are very clear. His not signing the appropriation bills has caused the furlough of Federal workers.