

## 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.

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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.

We want the Federal workers to go back to work. We want our constituents served. Republicans and Democrats in this House want a balanced budget, and we can do it by ending the gridlock, by having the President meet us halfway. The budget he gave us previously was \$265 billion out of balance. Let us have a budget that truly balances, one that is going to be providing services to our people without bankrupting the Nation or the next generation.

#### BIPARTISANSHIP NEEDED TO RESOLVE IMPASSE

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take up the call of the gentleman from South Carolina. I think it is time for us to work in a bipartisan manner, and I have offered House Joint Resolution 155 that would open this Government by a continuing resolution, provide our employees that are furloughed an opportunity to come back to work and provide the services to the American people, and as well to pay the Government and to operate the Government at 90 percent funding.

I am very proud to say that I have been joined by Members GENE GREEN, AL WYNN, JAMES CLYBURN, BENNIE THOMPSON, PATSY MINK, EVA CLAYTON, TOM FOGLIETTA, LOUISE SLAUGHTER, EARL HILLIARD, CLEO FIELDS, DONALD PAYNE, XAVIER BECERRA, CORRINE BROWN, ROSA DELAURO, JIM MORAN, ALCEE HASTINGS, JOE KENNEDY, JOHN LEWIS, PATRICK KENNEDY, SANFORD BISHOP, LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD, TOM BARRETT, HAROLD VOLKMER, and PAT SCHROEDER. We are all concerned that we work in a bipartisan manner to do what the American people have sent us here to do, to have this Government operating and, yes, work to balance the budget with the priorities that will benefit all of us who are Americans. I hope my colleagues will allow this to come to the floor today.

#### CREDIBLE WHITE HOUSE PLAN NEEDED TO END SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, we have heard from the President that this shutdown in the Federal Government has been caused by freshman Republicans. I rise as a 5-term Republican who on many occasions has broken with my party to support the President on labor and environmental issues. But I will not break ranks with our party in this case, because the credibility of this administration in my mind is at question. I think the Philadelphia Inquirer, Mr. Speaker, summed it up best in their lead edi-

torial today entitled, "Your Turn, Bill." I will read the last paragraph, Mr. Speaker.

Congress should pass stopgap funding as soon as the President provides the missing ingredient of serious bargaining: a credible White House plan to balance the budget in 7 years.

To my liberal friends, I would say the Philadelphia Inquirer is not exactly a bastion of conservation politics. I would urge this President and my liberal friends to heed the advice of the Philadelphia Inquirer, and I will join with them in supporting a stopgap CR when this President lives up to the commitment of his words a few weeks ago.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD the editorial mentioned earlier.

#### YOUR TURN, BILL

"Enough is enough." That was the gist of Bob Dole's argument for passing a new, stopgap funding bill, even though there's no deal yet on a balanced budget. The partial shutdown is a wasteful exercise that could have ended yesterday if House Republicans hadn't rejected the idea.

Yet Newt Gingrich & Co. can rightly shout "enough is enough" at President Clinton. In the agreement that ended a shorter shutdown in November, the President promised a serious plan to balance the budget in seven years. The country is still waiting for his plan.

House Republicans have rejected short-term funding—and taken the heat for it—out of a legitimate concern that federal businesses-as-usual lessens pressure on Mr. Clinton to bargain seriously.

So the stalemate drags on.

The most aggrieved folks are nearly half a million "essential" workers in unfunded departments and agencies: They are being forced to work but won't be paid until Congress and the President agree on funding. Yesterday, a federal judge turned down the plea of two unions to bar the government from making their members work without pay.

No matter how this fiasco plays out, requiring people to work with out pay if fundamentally unfair. How would Republican lawmakers like to work without pay? They voted that idea down in the House, as Majority Whip Tom DeLay got all huffy about how he wasn't a federal employee, but "a constitutional officer." Well, la-dee-dah, Mr. DeLay.

Another 260,000 "nonessential" workers are missing paychecks, but at least they're getting time off—and have been promised back pay for doing nothing: Ridiculous?

There's a middle way out of this morass that's less stubborn than the House GOP, but doesn't let Mr. Clinton off the hook as Mr. Dole did.

Congress should pass stopgap funding as soon as the President provides the missing ingredient of serious bargaining: a credible White House plan to balance the budget in seven years.

#### LET YOUR PEOPLE GO

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

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise as a Member from the delegation of the great State of California. This is the

State that is proud to lead this Nation in environmental, educational, and economic policy.

Unfortunately, it is also the State that showed that a legislative branch of government can bring Government to a halt by not adopting a budget on time. California's partisan politics delay the State budget year after year. However, never was it this bad.

Congress is now in its fourth month. We have been here more days, taken more votes, and spent more hours on the floor and accomplished less than any other Congress in history. Congress was unable to make the October 1 fiscal deadline. It is internationally embarrassing.

Mr. Speaker, give us back our Nation. Let your people go. Vote for a clean CR and get Government back to work.

#### AS THE POLLS TURN

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

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, let our people go? The Speaker and this House have bent over backwards. We have passed two balanced budget plans, we have passed appropriation bills.

The President vetoed the first balanced budget plan in a generation. The President has vetoed the Interior bill. The President has vetoed bills that would get funding for veterans' affairs, for HUD, for the Environmental Protection Agency.

This truly is the do-nothing President. His people are telling him at the White House, "Do nothing, stand in the road, block progress, fight a balanced budget at all costs. That is what you need to do, Mr. President. Be firm, do nothing, and your poll points will go up."

Maybe they will. I really do not care whether his poll points go up or not. The fact of the matter is we have put on the table the first balanced budget in a generation, and if the President wants to continue standing in the way of that, fine. We are going to balance this budget with or without him.

#### REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO ADDRESS HOUSE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I be given 30 seconds to ask the gentleman a question.

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I object. THE SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The Chair would inform the gentleman that we are in 1-minute. If the gentleman would be so inclined, if he has not given a 1-minute, he may get in line.

#### ANOTHER VICTIM OF SHUTDOWN

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