

Means on Wheels obligations were honored, ensure that benefits were extended to those who were deserving of them, and it could be accomplished this afternoon.

But you know what the compelling truth here is today? That a radical element in this House that is out of touch with realities across this Nation, they have decided that they are going to hold Federal employees and our senior citizens hostage to their point of view, and that is precisely what they are doing today.

If Senator DOLE can bring the U.S. Senate Democrats and Republicans along, surely we ought to have an opportunity in this institution to simply vote on a measure to reopen this Government. That should be done today, and I guarantee if that simple measure was brought to the floor, it would pass easily.

THE UTAH CENTENNIAL—100 YEARS OF STATEHOOD

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

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, on January 4, 1896 President Grover Cleveland stated:

Now, therefore, I, Grover Cleveland, President of the United States of America, in accordance with the act of Congress aforesaid, and by authority thereof, announce the result of said election to be as so certified, and do hereby declare and proclaim that the terms and conditions prescribed by the Congress of the United States to entitle the State of Utah to admission into the Union, have been duly complied with, and that the creation of said State and its admission into the Union on an equal footing with the original States is now accomplished.

The centennial is a time to remember our roots which allows us to pass our heritage on to others. For nearly 50 years, Utah teetered on the brink of statehood. Our predecessors understood the value of industry and hard work. Early settlers planted crops, built roads, schools, mercantiles, and by 1869, hailed the linkup of the transcontinental railroad. Utahns have always recognized the need to be prudent with their resources, cherished education, and esteemed family and the community.

It is a celebration not just for Utah but one for the world. Invited leaders from 59 nations will attend the celebration to honor the immigrants from their countries who helped make Utah what it is today.

This is a moment we've all been waiting for. It is a time for pondering and expressing our gratitude for the wonders of the State and a time to ponder the past and plan for the future.

Gov. Mike Leavitt stated, and I agree, that "with the caliber of citizens in this State today, the legacy of quality that our predecessors worked so hard to establish will undoubtedly be carried on for future generations."

I, as well as many others, reflect upon our Utah history, and recognize that the struggles

and sacrifices of our early settlers to achieve statehood have made Utah one of the most prosperous States in the country. I am proud to represent the great State of Utah.

Mr. Speaker, I hope Members join with me in celebrating Utah's 100-year birthday.

HOUSE OF LUNATICS

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

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, back last month I made a speech on this floor about this being the biggest show on Earth, that Ringling Brothers-Barnum & Bailey did not hold a candle to this place.

Well, it is not even a good show any more. It is a house of lunatics right now. You can look around. Mr. Speaker, there is not hardly anybody here. Yet we have got Federal employees not working, we have got agencies shut down, and this House is doing absolutely nothing. There is not anybody here.

You talk about a place that no one should actually want to be connected to. And every day that I serve here under this new leadership, under these radical Republicans, I just think, you know, this is not a House of Representatives; this is a place like a zoo, and they do not even know how to run it. They do not know how to run a House.

I would say lunacy has really taken over. And then they blame the President for what we are not doing here.

REPUBLICANS CONCERNED WITH BALANCING BUDGET

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I did not intend to give a 1-minute speech, but I thought I would reply to the gentleman before me, because I think he knows and I know that his party shut down the House of Representatives, shut down Congress, shut down the Government nine times. You were involved in the last 10 or 12 years in almost every kind of parliamentary move, chicanery, in dealing with the White House at that time, owned and operated or run by Republicans, the Republican Presidents there. And your party was involved in doing much more than we have even started to do, which is to try to balance the budget.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to say to the folks on that side of the aisle that I hear time and time again that the Republicans are doing all this for tax cuts for the rich. Let me give them a quick review of the Los Angeles Times story from yesterday, where it says "Clinton set to accept capital gains tax."

If you are going to run around here saying we have tax cuts for the rich, you better talk to your own President.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The Chair will now recognize Members for the special order speeches without prejudice to the possible resumption of legislative business.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. DIAZ-BALART] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. DIAZ-BALART addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

SHUTDOWN HURTING AMERICAN PRIDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from West Virginia [Mr. WISE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, I wake up in the mornings and sometimes wonder what world I am in, because I realize I am going to go to work, and actually I have the privilege of still going to work, many Federal employees do not, that I am going to work, but I am going to go to work under these conditions: That I am working in a country that has been shut down partially for 20 days; where the Centers for Disease Control is not able to respond effectively; where the Environmental Protection Agency is not able to respond to safe drinking water complaints; where children are soon going to be ushered out of Head Start programs.

That is bad enough. I then realize there are thousands of workers capable of fulfilling those functions who are not going to fulfill those functions, but apparently are going to be paid for doing it. The issue is not whether or not they are going to be paid; the issue, of course, is why are they not working? They should be working.

So, Mr. Speaker, is this some Third World country we are talking about? No, this is the United States of America. You remember the America of "Send in the Marines," "Wherever you go, you shall be safe"? Remember the America, where you hold up the silver dollar and the eagle is always strong, and the flag flies free and proud? That is our America.

Why is this America being treated now to this kind of situation? All of us ought to be gravely concerned about this. I hear a lot about how it is necessary to shut this Government down partially to get a balanced budget. While this Government is being shut down in that perhaps laudatory goal, at the same time a lot of other budgets are being significantly unbalanced.

Yes, the Federal employee, such as the person being evicted in my district today.

But it goes beyond that. It goes to the small businesses that will not be getting their Small Business Administration loan guarantees. It goes to the vendors; it goes to Federal services; it goes to the business person who is trying to get abroad to sell products for his or her company, which brings dollars and jobs back to this country.

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And so those are the budgets that are being unbalanced. Thousands, perhaps millions across this country every day. And when do we hear about those?

I hear a lot about how because many of us voted to sustain the President's veto, in effect not approving the Interior appropriations bill a little while ago, or Commerce, State, Justice yesterday, that somehow that shut the Government down.

It is interesting, because 9 of the appropriation bills that run this government, 9 of the 13, were not to the President's desk by October 1, which is the beginning of the financial year. Some of them did not get there for months, but even then, does a veto, a Presidential veto mean somehow the Government is shut down?

I have had the privilege of serving in this Congress now through President Reagan and President Bush, as well as President Clinton. Basically, in all that time under the House leadership, and it was a Democratic leadership except for, of course, the present one, in no time during that period did this Government ever shut down because the House leadership said to President Reagan, with whom there was great differences, or said to President Bush, we are going to shut this entire Government down because you have vetoed an appropriations bill. We keep the Government moving in an orderly fashion.

Never, never have I seen this kind of situation. In fact, I challenge anyone to find a 20-day shutdown. Congratulations. I consider it the legislative Heisman Trophy for bringing a government to its knees.

Now, what is the impact that goes beyond the Federal budget? Let us talk for a second. Forty million dollars a day of payroll to workers who are not being able to do their jobs. That is the first loss to the taxpayers. The last 4-day shutdown in November cost this Government, cost the taxpayer, \$700 million for 4 days in payroll as well as lost revenues.

It means that half the Head Start children in this country soon will not be able to attend that program. Who pays for that? What is the loss to those children?

It means the Centers for Disease Control cannot respond to flu outbreaks. It means, for instance, that in the State Department, where just during the last shutdown an anguished father contacted me about his children in Russia

who needed visas to get their adopted children out. There is no one there to service them all across the globe.

They are talking now in Vietnam about dunning our representative there \$1,600 for electricity or water. We are buying utilities on credit cards in some of our embassies.

Meals on Wheels. Very important in rural West Virginia, but across the country as well. The only contact many senior citizens have with the outside world endangered.

SBA is now unable to make \$40 million a day in loan guarantees. How many small businesses are there? About 260 a day, actually, that need that money to either meet their line of credit, to start that new product, or to hire a couple of extra people.

Export licenses from the Department of Commerce are backed up. Billions of dollars of lost opportunities. Those are American jobs, jobs exporting abroad, not able to do it.

Got a problem with your water? Concerned about it? Do not call the EPA, you will only get voice mail. The EPA. We are not able to respond to basic environmental concerns? The fact is negotiators need to negotiate and Federal Government workers need to work.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. HORN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. HORN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

SUPPORT A CLEAN CONTINUING RESOLUTION TO OPEN THE GOVERNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I may be comforted that I have heard more voices coming to this well and really asking in a very sincere and honest manner can we not all get along; and, in fact, answer the American people in an affirmative answer by saying we can and we will open this Government, and we will allow our citizens to go back to work not so much because they are Federal employees, but because they are public servants who are doing the business of the public, providing essential and necessary responsibilities that this Government is entrusted to do.

With that, I am comforted by the more than 40 of my colleagues that have joined me in supporting a clean continuing resolution that would open this Government for at least 2 weeks, to January 19, fund the existing operations at at least 90 percent, so that we would not have the crisis that we are facing.

In Houston we have only four Environmental Protection Agency employees. They cannot do their job. So com-

munities like Pleasantville and Kennedy Heights, that would need the services of the Environmental Protection Agency dealing with Superfund cleanup responsibilities, they cannot get toxic waste areas cleaned up. The Superfund monies have been depleted as of last Tuesday.

This clean continuing resolution would allow us to continue to debate these very emotional issues dealing with the budget; whether we should have a \$245 billion tax cut; whether or not we should shut down 57 schools in Texas by prohibiting them from having direct student loans for their students. And when I say shut down, shut down the opportunity of those students to go to college.

I might add, too, that the list is growing of supporters who want this resolution to come to the floor, and it is different from the one of the other body, because the other body's resolution was until January 11. And I applaud Senator DOLE, but now we have come to the end of this week and we still have not gotten a budget compromise. So FRANK PALLONE, ROBERT MENENDEZ, CHET EDWARDS, BOB WISE, CHUCK SCHUMER, HENRY B. GONZALEZ, MIKE McNULTY, IKE SKELTON, GENE TAYLOR, JERRY NADLER, KAREN THURMAN, BOBBY SCOTT, EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, BILL HEFNER, LYNN RIVERS, MIKE WARD, and WILLIAM JEFFERSON are now adding their names to this effort of bipartisanship.

As we speak today, we are losing \$50 million a day, ladies and gentlemen, my colleagues, by this shutdown. All total we have lost \$550 million. We are in the middle of a peacekeeping responsibility in Bosnia. Our young men and women need us. We need our resources. We need to use our tax dollars effectively.

What have we seen in the headlines besides the budget? We see corporations laying off 40,000 people. We need to be in the business of providing and creating jobs. Our small businesses in the 18th Congressional District, who would receive small business loans, which, in fact, in my view, are the backbone of America, cannot, in fact, get those loans to keep their employees hired.

And, likewise, those small businesses who are involved in Government contracts, they are unable to meet their obligations because they are not getting paid. Businesses that rely on contracts for services with the Small Business Administration are at a risk during this shutdown. In fact, several businesses who are awaiting payment from the Small Business Administration are closing their doors. That may not be 40,000 employees, ladies and gentlemen, it may amount to hundreds of thousands. And the reason is because this country is filled with independent entrepreneurs who I am so very proud of who are trying to work.

So I would ask the leadership, the Republican leadership, join me with this continuing resolution. It is offered