

really why I want to take the 5 minutes. I just want to emphasize that I, too, support a balanced budget in 7 years, but I do not want to give the tax cut and cut Medicare and all those other things at same time.

We can have a balanced budget. There is no question in my mind that if the majority party would decide to go with the coalition budget, we could pass it and I think the President would sign it and we would have it done, but that is not what they want.

The other thing, what I really came here to talk about is I keep hearing in this well, and I heard it in December and I have heard it ever since December 15, telling us that the President has not come forth with his budget; that he agreed in the November 20 continuing resolution to bring a balanced budget. That is not what it says.

Mr. Speaker, I am sorry the gentleman from South Carolina and others who have made that statement, that they either cannot read, and that is a sorry affair for somebody to be in the Congress that cannot read, or, if they can read, they do not understand what they read.

I would like to read to the Members of Congress, for those who have not read that resolution, what it actually says.

Section 203: Commitment to a 7-Year Balanced Budget. The President and the Congress shall enact legislation in the first session of the 104th Congress to achieve a balanced budget not later than the fiscal year 2002, as estimated by the Congressional Budget Office; and, the President and the Congress agree that the balanced budget must protect future generations, ensure Medicare solvency, reform welfare, and provide adequate funding for Medicaid, education, agriculture, national defense, veterans and the environment. Further, the balanced budget shall adopt tax policies to help working families and stimulate future economic growth.

This does not say anything about the President submitting a balanced budget to anybody, but yet they keep insisting the reason they shut down the Government is because the President has not submitted a balanced budget to them. They submitted their balanced budget and they say the President has not submitted his.

Mr. Speaker, the President never agreed to do that. There is not one statement in there about the President submitting a balanced budget. What is really interesting to me is the conditions that they now put on a CR, continuing resolution. Back on October 1, we had a CR, a continuing resolution, that ran into November. It did not have any conditions.

The President stands today, and we on this side stand, ready to sign and vote for a continuing resolution to keep this Government going. We proved that yesterday. We wanted to take up the resolution of Senator DOLE, the majority leader from the Senate, that would have kept this Government working, but we could not get 20 Members from the other side to go

along with us. We got 2, and that is all from the majority party.

The Gingrich Republicans refused to let us even take that up. They said, "No. We are going to keep the Government shut down until we get our way." Pure blackmail. That is all it is.

Mr. Speaker, this has never happened before in the history of this country. We have never had a shutdown to this magnitude and to this length of time. And how much longer will it go? Well, we are going to have to ask Speaker GINGRICH, because he is the only one that can tell us. All the rest of the Republicans are going to follow him just like a pied piper. If he decides that we do a continuing resolution, we will do it. If he decides we do not, we will not. So, we will have to ask Speaker GINGRICH whether this is going to last another month, a week, 2 weeks or whatever.

Mr. Speaker, I say all we need is a continuing resolution, a clean one, and we can get everybody back to work. We can still negotiate on a balanced budget.

REQUEST FOR SPECIAL ORDER

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 5 minutes in place of the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. FUNDERBURK].

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

CONSEQUENCES OF GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Maryland [Mrs. MORELLA] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker and Members of this body, it was yesterday that I took part in a bipartisan press conference that dealt with a group called the Federal Employee Emergency Assistance. It was there that we discussed the fact that the people who are receiving the assistance by and large are people who are receiving income in the range of \$20,000 to \$27,000 a year, who are single heads of household; most of them are women.

Can my colleagues imagine these people who are not receiving a paycheck who have to pay rent or a mortgage or utility bills? Well, I and my colleagues who were there have pledged support to this fund, but this fund should not be so overloaded, as it is now, with the calls that are coming in, the emergency calls, if we did not have this shutdown.

This is day 20. I have spoken often about it. My colleagues have spoken often about it. Every day the circumstances become more dire in terms of the consequences. We have problems now with the Centers for Disease Control not being able to perform its functions and NIH not being able to per-

form their functions. Blood banks are running out of the supply of blood. Meals on Wheels is facing the consequences of a shutdown.

We know also that there has been some discussion about having a continuing resolution bit by bit to put a few more agencies back in operation. I would submit to this House that if we have a bit-by-bit continuing resolution, that we are going to have a lot of organizations, people, American citizens, falling through the cracks, because there are enormous consequences and ripple effects of this shutdown.

Home buyers, home buyers who are looking for the VA or FHA loans would be affected by it. Federal contractors would be affected by it. I brought just a few of the many, many letters I have received from Federal contractors. That means jobs and continuation of employment.

HIV-AIDS, a stop work order for a company in Montgomery County, MD. Another company that is dependent on tourism in publications has had to lay off people. Another company that deals with the EPA. Another one that deals with the EPA through Superfund. Can my colleagues imagine the toxic waste sites that will not be cleaned because of this?

Aerospace, information and environment, NASA, these are all contractors that even if we pay our Federal employees, and I have been involved very much in making sure they will be paid, these Federal contractors will not be paying these people who are furloughed and some may even lose health benefits over a period of time.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would say we have got to work together. A clean continuing resolution is what we want until we reach the resolution of this budget in terms of the deliberation. I say to the President, get that 7-year budget scored by CBO in front of the negotiators. I say to the negotiators, stay there, stay there until it is done. I say to my colleagues, I hope the President and I hope my colleagues will consider withholding their salaries when Federal employees are not being paid. I say to my colleagues, there should be no recess for this House until we get the Government back in full operation.

CONGRESS SHOULD DO A REALITY CHECK AND REOPEN THE GOVERNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Colorado [Mrs. SCHROEDER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, I have come to the floor, as many others have, to point out here it is, Thursday afternoon. It is the 20th day of the shutdown and the Congress has no business, and that is because we are not allowed to bring up the main business that everyone in America wonders why we are not dealing with and the sad fact the Government is shut down.

The Government is shut down and we are being denied the right to come to

this floor, have a debate on that, and put the bills up so everybody can see how we vote. We have had over 12 votes on whether or not to keep this Government open. Yesterday we had one, and it was to try and bring up the resolution that came from the other body, the resolution that came unanimously from the other body, the resolution that said enough is enough is enough is enough in a bipartisan unanimous fashion and said reopen the Government, and we were denied the right to bring that up.

Now, all day long I heard people give excuses. I heard that someone should come down with their keys, and they said, "I do not have the key to open the Government on my key chain." Yeah, every one of us do. It is not a key; it is a voting card. We all have got a voting card. That is the key to opening the Government up.

There have been 12 votes. If you look at how people vote, you will find that of the majority in this body, the GINGRICH Republicans have voted no-no-no every single time, and now because they are afraid we might win we are not allowed to bring anything up.

Mr. Speaker, let me just point out there are a few more historic data that we should have out there. It is also almost 100 days into this fiscal year, 100 days, and we have not finished the budget. Can you believe it? We are almost a third of the way through it and we have not tapped it.

Second, it is the first anniversary of Speaker GINGRICH taking the gavel. I remember a year ago sitting here when he was talking about we were going to have open rules, we are going to debate these things, and so forth. Well, 1 year later we cannot even bring up the bills that we think are fair.

Mr. Speaker, we think we should be able to bring up the Senate resolution opening the Government. We think we should not be receiving our pay when there are Federal employees out there not receiving their pay. Here we are with our held harmless policy, and we said we were going to abide by the laws everyone else did.

What about all the contract employees you are hearing about? Well, it is OK. We will get charity for the Federal employees. We will get them interest-free loans. We know there are 10,000 contractors with employees alone dealing with EPA and Superfund sites that have been shut down. Now, those 10,000 contractors all happen to have employees, and we have no way to guarantee that they get to come back to work or they get their pay or what happens to them.

Mr. Speaker, that is just one teeny weeny little facet. So to say we will try and get charity for the Federal employees still does not have anything to do with the magnitude that is out there. We know 240 small businesses a day are denied the money that they need from the Small Business Administration for bridge loans for creating new jobs, for expansion, for whatever. What happens to that fallout?

Mr. Speaker, I could go on and on and on, but I think the thing that makes me the craziest is listening to this piety about we have to do this because of a balanced budget and because the President is not using the right numbers and he will not come down with the right numbers for the year 2002. Reality check, people. We have not even done the budget for this year. We should be talking about the year 2002?

Next reality check. In the year 2002, this President, even if he is reelected, will not be President in 2002. This President cannot bind future Presidents.

Mr. Speaker, let me give you another reality check. Most of us are not going to be in this body in the year 2002, especially if we keep acting like this bunch of clowns that it looks like to the average person. Even if we were, we cannot bind future Congresses.

So, Mr. Speaker, here we are not doing our work this year and blaming it on the fact we do not like the kind of budget the President is committing to 7 years from now when he will not even be here and saying our numbers are not as good as his numbers are not as good as the numbers they have.

Mr. Speaker, we also hear about how much better and how much more they care about the balanced budget. I am a Member who voted for the Democratic budget on this floor, and I want to tell my colleagues on the other side, your scoring office, the Congressional Budget Office, will tell you that the budget that I voted for has a much lower deficit than the ones the majority party is pushing. The Congressional Budget Office says that in the year 1997, ours is \$30 billion below in deficit, and I could go on with the rest of the numbers. But let us get the facts and do the reality. Let us get the Government open, and let us stop playing games.

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SOME OF THE FACTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. MICA] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I want to take some time to deal this afternoon with something that often is lost in this debate. That is some of the facts.

Yesterday the President of the United States in a press conference went before the American people and made a series of statements about what this shutdown, and he blamed it on the Republicans, would do. I thought this afternoon it would be interesting to deal with some of the facts and our perspective and what this debate is all about. A lot of the debate is about spending more, as they have done in the past, and getting less in return.

Let us look at what the President said. He said this week the Meals on Wheels Program for seniors will run out of money. I talked to my seniors in

my district. Some of the senior citizens are in the Meals on Wheels Program. I talked to them. They said: Mr. MICA, we would be willing to miss a meal or meals if it meant our contribution, making our contribution toward balancing our Federal budget. I almost cried when I heard them say that.

Then I talked to the program administrator. The program administrator said: Mr. MICA, we know you have to balance the budget, but let me tell you, when you balance that budget, include in it, as you have done, a proposal that would give us flexibility because we get money and we cannot spend money because of stupid Federal regulations. So do that.

That is what this debate is about. We have allowed that. That is what this holdup is about because we know that the President will not make these program changes. That is one of the program changes.

Then let us talk about Head Start. I have always been an advocate of Head Start. I love Head Start. Who would not want to give a deserving child a head start? Then I looked at the programs in my district, and I almost threw up. Let me tell my colleagues what we do with Head Start. Let me tell you, Mr. Speaker, and also my colleagues what we do with Head Start.

I have 18 teachers in one program in a community Head Start; not 1 teacher is certified, not one is certified. But we have 11 administrative force for 450 children. This is sick. This is sick, 11 administrators. I thought we would change this. No, you cannot change it because it is required by Federal law and regulations. So our children who need this assistance, what are they getting? They are getting second-class education. That is what this is about, spending more and getting less. I am sick of it.

All right, let me tell you, you could send the kids in my district, you could send them to the best private schools, preschools we have got, and spend less and give the parents a \$1,000 check and still come out better. I have not counted the money that they are spending on the administration for Washington and Atlanta and then you impose on our State and locals to administer these programs. I get upset when I hear this.

Then the President has the gall to go before us and say: Environmental Protection Agency, shut down toxic waste. Can you think of a bigger toxic waste program than EPA? The whole program is EPA. I sat on the subcommittee that investigated EPA for 2 years; 85 percent of the money goes for attorney's fees and studies. Even the GAO produced a report, I will show it to anyone that wants to see it. It says toxic waste site cleanups are done on the basis of a political decision, not on the basis of public health and safety and concern for our children.

So, then he goes on and says, let's do this, that EPA's efforts to prevent cryptosporidium from contaminating