

water supplies, something that proved deadly, threatened the city of Milwaukee, have been badly delayed, have been badly delayed. First of all, let me tell you about cryptosporidium. It is caused by deer feces. It was caused by deer feces, as I believe.

Let me tell my colleagues about water contamination. Under Federal law and Federal regulation, we looked into this. We investigated it; 54 contaminants are required by law by statute for EPA to investigate. That is what they told us they were doing. They were doing the inflexible thing that Congress mandates that we are trying to change so that we could look at water contamination so that we could spend less and get more instead of the opposite.

Then Medicare contractors who serve our elderly are not being paid. I will tell my colleagues what that debate is about. I come from Florida. We have a billion dollar's worth of contractor fraud in Florida in Medicare and a billion dollar's worth in Medicaid. That is \$2 billion. How many elderly could we serve in this Nation if we would eliminate the fraud, waste, and abuse? So that is what this is about, spending more and getting less.

LEAST PRODUCTIVE, MOST DESTRUCTIVE CONGRESS

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

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday we ended the first session of the Republican revolutionary Congress. We heard from a lot of folks that are typical of revolutionaries, full of self-righteous zeal, people who firmly believe that the end justifies the means, people who are almost wholly intolerant of other people's point of view. But let us look inside that first session of the last Congress to see what it actually accomplished.

When we do, we have to come to the conclusion that yesterday marked the last day of the least productive, most destructive session of Congress in our Nation's history. Despite all of the promises, all of the rhetoric, we have virtually nothing to show for it.

I will not go into all the quotes from the various commentators and news sources and experts from both Republican and conservative think tanks alike. They all concur. Loads of rhetoric, loads of promises, virtually no performance. I do not have a fancy chart. I have just a little Xerox copy that tracks the bills from previous sessions of Congress. It used to be that we enacted about 450 bills a year. The last time the Republicans controlled Congress, it dropped to 250 bills. Then it goes along until this last session of the Congress we ended yesterday, and it drops off the cliff.

It looks like the 1929 stock market crash. There is only one bill really in that whole Contract With America

that has actually been fully enacted called the Congressional Accountability Act. Do you know what? That bill was passed by the previous Democratic Congress. It was held up by the Republicans in the Senate. So we passed it again. This time it got through the Senate and signed by the President. There have been two other bills, the Unfunded Mandate Act and Paperwork Reduction, both of which the President wanted.

So that is what we have to show for it.

One of those promises that was made in the Contract With America, if the Republican leadership had kept it, we never would be in this position. It would not be the most destructive Congress in our Nation's history. If the Congress had made good on their promise in the Contract With America to pass a line-item veto, the President today would have been able to delete all those extraneous ideological, inappropriate, nongermane provisions in the appropriation bills that have been sent to him. He could clean up the mess, clean up those appropriation bills, enact them and we would be finished with this. Every one of them could have been enacted.

Of course, they would not have been enacted in time. After 10 months of wrangling, almost exclusively between the Republicans in the Senate and the Republicans in the House, we were marginalized. They could not agree among themselves. By the end of the last fiscal year and the beginning of this fiscal year, when those appropriation bills had to be enacted, one had been sent to the President. Do you know which one it was? It was the legislative branch appropriations bill to fund the Congress itself. Thank God President Clinton vetoed it. Imagine if we were the only ones who were funded; none of the rest of the Government but we have taken care of ourselves.

That line-item veto, which was promised in the context of so much rhetoric, is tied up in a conference between the Republicans in the Senate and the Republicans in the House. Let us move it out of conference. Send it to the President. The President could take it. Clean up the appropriation bills. We could open up the Government and get back down to the business of governing. That is what we ought to do. Instead, we are stuck with a new session of Congress that again will be the least productive, most destructive session of Congress in our Nation's history.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, I think all of us come to the well today, I hope with some reason, to discuss the Government shutdown. Yes, it is devastating and, yes, there are people who should be paid. I support paying them.

Yes, we must care about those single parents and single mothers and single gentlemen who are working and have families and married couples who live on marginal incomes. That is very important to small businesses and every one who is being hurt by this.

That is all true. I hope that we will, within this week, come to some resolution. But what bothers me is that the rhetoric here is so shrill, so biting, so negative about this Congress. This House of Representatives has in fact done more of what the people sent us to do than any Congress before it. I do not care how much those who attack the reform movement by calling it revolutionaries or whatever may say. We have done what the American people sent us here to do.

The issue they would like on this side of the aisle clouds the issue. The issue is, when are we going to put America back on a sound financial basis? When are we going to balance the budget? When are we going to have meaningful welfare reform? When are we going to return power to the States and to the individuals? The debate is about basic policy, not about numbers, the debate between this Congress and its leaders and a President who does not want any of those things. So the problem is not just with the Congress; the White House has to take its share of the blame.

Let us review a minute what happened after the last shutdown. We gave the President 30 days. He traveled around the world. He never came to the table until the 15th, when we had another shutdown. So he absolutely blew 30 days when he could have worked with the leadership in this Congress to come to some agreement. Will that happen again if we start the Government up? I certainly hope not. I hope the President has learned a lesson that the American people want the basic issues, they want a balanced budget. They want welfare reform. He promised it. They want to return power to the States. The calls in my district, while they do not support hurting people who are working and not paying them, are strongly for the basic issues here. Balance the budget, welfare reform, do the things that we said we were going to do. People across the country want that. If my colleagues on the other side of the aisle think they can run a campaign next November and win on doing nothing and on blocking the reforms, I think they are sadly, sadly mistaken.

What we want is a President who will negotiate and work with the leadership to come to an agreement. I just want to refer to an article in the paper today. It just says very briefly in the Washington Post that, if the President and leaders of the Republican Congress agree on a plan to balance the budget, the benefits could mean roughly \$1,000 a year for every American family. At today's interest rates, the trillion-dollar government debt that would be avoided by a balanced budget would save the taxpayers over the next 7

years \$60 billion. It is worth it. It is our children's future. It is the future of this country. I hope the American people will listen to reason. I know that they believe in what we are trying to do.

□ 1515

THIS IS ABOUT REAL PEOPLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. METCALF). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from North Carolina [Mrs. CLAYTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, I agree with the last speaker, this is a great debate, this is a debate about who is important, who is not. It is a debate, I think, about the future, it is about the future we will allow all Americans to share in, hopefully. But I want to share with my colleagues a letter I received today from a mother of a 10-year-old girl. This letter is about a young girl that lives in Wilmington, my congressional district, with her mother and father. Her mother and father are musicians who have served as ambassadors for the U.S. Information Agency. On December 20 this little girl, 10 years old, traveled to Germany to visit her ailing stepmother, a stepmother who has cancer and is in treatment taking chemotherapy, but this is not where the story ends; it is really where it begins.

Let me read her mother's letter. It is self-explanatory. She writes: I hope you can help. We have a 10-year-old stranded in Germany who is supposed to return home by January 8 and whose passport expired January 2. This mother continued: She is flying Delta from Frankfurt to Atlanta, and the Delta Airline international desk has told me that they will not let her board. This concerned mother goes on: The Hamburg consulate has told her father that they cannot issue a new passport due to the shutdown. Then she asks, could you please ask them to make an exception? She is an unaccompanied minor. Mr. Speaker, I enter this letter into the RECORD:

To Eva Clayton:

I have not been able to reach you by phone. I hope you can help. We have a 10 year old stranded in Germany who's supposed to return home Jan. 8th, but whose passport expired Jan. 2nd. She's flying Delta from Frankfurt to Atlanta. Delta Airlines International Desk has told me they will not let her board. The Hamburg Consulate has told her father that they cannot issue a new passport due to the shut-down. Could you please ask them to make an exception since she is an unaccompanied minor? We appreciate your help! Thanks

Mr. Speaker, imagine a 10-year-old girl alone, away from her parents, away from school, in a foreign land, and she is told by her government she is not able to go home and she is not able to come to the United States to go back to school. Why? Because its government is closed.

On an average day the State Department processed some 23,000 applica-

tions for passports. On this day and each of the days this Government has been shut down no application for passports are being processed. On an average day the State Department issued some 20,000 visas to visitors who spent an average of \$3,000 for a total of \$60 million, but for this little girl who is 10 years old this is no average day.

They are not just numbers; they are people. When we talk about the common good for the multitude, we must remember those multitudes are made up of individual people who make up this great America.

I intend to do all in my power to help this little girl get home, but I cannot do it alone. We need reasonable people on both sides to understand what we are doing to this Government is foolishness and this needs to stop. But a simple act by this House following the responsible bipartisan act of the Senate where both Republicans and Democrats unanimously say that this Government should be open while we have this great debate. We should do that. All we need now is 20 reasonable Republicans to join with the Democrats on this side to follow the example that the Senate has done. Both Republicans and Democrats have come together to say the Government should go on while we have this great debate.

Do not hold this little girl in hostage. What will we tell her when we come home? What lessons are we teaching her as we do this? What lessons are we exemplifying to the rest of the world, that we cannot have a serious debate unless we hold people who are innocent as leverage, as hostage?

This is no way for responsible people to govern their Nation. Yes, we are not being responsible, Mr. Speaker, because indeed we are making real people suffer, real people, not just some imaginative number of the future, but real people are suffering; senior citizens are suffering, and the prospect of their Meals on Wheels not being there to feed people who desperately need those. We certainly are making people suffer who are eligible for Social Security who cannot even process their application. Why? There is no one there to take the application.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, if that is not bad enough, in this bitter cold season we do not have heat. The heat program that we had made available for what we call the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program is no longer available. No one has that opportunity. In the bitter cold we will say no to those people. Why? Because we want to make them sacrificial lambs.

Mr. Speaker, on this 20th day we hope again we could find 20 reasonable Republicans to join and follow the exemplary bipartisan responsible act of the Senate and put this Government back to work while we have this great debate.

BALANCING THE BUDGET IN 7 YEARS IS NEITHER RADICAL OR EXTREME

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I have two things to say about the budget debate: First, the overwhelming majority of the American people do not believe it is radical or extreme, in any way, to require the Federal Government to balance its budget in 7 years; and second, if this was a Republican President in office, the national media would be pointing out every day and in fact harping on the fact that the President has still not submitted a balanced budget plan some 6 or 7 weeks after he promised to do so.

Apparently he is keeping the Government shut down because he sees partisan political advantage in doing so.

Now on the something else, also related to the budget, and that is the spending of billions and billions of our tax dollars in Rwanda, Haiti, Somalia, and now Bosnia.

Anyone who opposed all this waste has been insulted with the description of isolationist, even if that description was totally inaccurate and even if they wanted trade and friendly relations with all nations. It is just not politically correct or fashionable today to be an isolationist.

That is why I read with such great interest a syndicated column this past Tuesday by Charley Reese, which I include for the RECORD.

Mr. Reese does not live inside the beltway, and he frequently writes with such great commonsense that he is about as plain spoken and politically incorrect as you can get these days.

Time will not permit me to read all of his column, but I would like to read most of it. These are words you do not often hear in Washington, at least in polite company.

The column previously referred to is as follows:

[From The Sentinel, Jan. 2, 1996]

(By Charley Reese)

Those of us who oppose squandering American flesh and treasure in foreign places where we have no national interests are called isolationists by the internationalists.

That's OK. It is intended as an insult, as when Alan Ladd called Jack Palance a "low-down lying Yankee dog" in *Shane*. We Americans understand that because the internationalists are too embarrassed (or afraid of prosecution) to tell the truth, they have no choice but to resort to name-calling and wind-bagging to rationalize these misadventures.

Wind-bagging is when you toss out a lot of undefinable words and phrases such as "saving America's soul," "maintaining American leadership," "preserving stability," or "moral obligation."

It would be embarrassing indeed if the internationalists were forced to explain why they have a moral obligation to intervene in a foreign civil war while they feel no moral obligation at all to tell the American people the truth, rebuild their infrastructure or balance their budget.