

Let us talk frankly about what it would take to open up this Government. Four things could happen. First of all, the President could sign the appropriations bills that we sent him. He has signed a number of those bills. He has vetoed three and sent them back. The Interior appropriations bill we tried to override today, our second option if he does not sign those bills that would put people to work and put the Government to work, which is his prerogative under the Constitution, is that we can see if we have enough votes to muster a veto override. That takes two-thirds votes.

We voted on the Interior appropriations today. I think it was a reasonable bill. I did not like all parts of it. We had rejected that bill twice on environmental grounds, tried to make it a little better each time. The President vetoed it knowing, in the meantime, that this bill would have put 133,000 people to work; it would have opened up the national parks, the Smithsonian; it would have put the U.S. Geological Survey back to work. I have 1,000 workers in Reston that are furloughed at this time, so that they could do their work.

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

Mr. DAVIS. I am happy to yield to the gentleman from North Carolina.

Mr. HEFNER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I just want to make a point, a point that has been missed here. I have been around here for a long time, and this body has been here for a long time. It is the President's prerogative to veto bills. This should have been worked out for your sake, and I know how special this is to you because of all of your people that are here. A clean CR is not going to stop the negotiations on the budget.

□ 1545

I just do not understand why we make the balanced budget hold these people hostage of something that is going to happen 7 years down the road.

Mr. DAVIS. Reclaiming my time, let me just say to my friend, we have had 57 continuing resolutions since 1980 between the House and Senate. Most of those were with a Democratic Congress and a Republican President.

How many of those CR's were clean CR's? Many of them were not. The Bolland amendment which forbade aid to the Contras was put on a continuing resolution. We even put roads and the New Jersey Turnpike into the Federal Highway System on a continuing resolution. There is a loss of surplusage and riders in these. I am not defending, and I would like to see a clean CR. I was one of two Members on this side of the aisle who voted with you yesterday to bring up a clean CR. I am going to get to that in a minute.

But no one can sit here and say, "Gee, let's do a clean CR" when you all were on the other side and we had a Republican President you very often did not send a clean CR at the same time.

Mr. HEFNER. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DAVIS. Just for a second, because I want to make a few points.

Mr. HEFNER. We are talking about past history, and you folks were elected saying, "We're going to change things around here." But this is not changing things for the better. This is human misery. VA hospitals in North Carolina. These people are in dire circumstances.

Mr. DAVIS. Reclaiming my time, I do not disagree with the gentleman. I think what has happened here is a national disgrace. But to put it on one side or one party is, I think, a big mistake. I think that is part of our problem, is we end up too much time pointing fingers at each other and too little time working together and working these issues out.

Let me just get back to the Interior appropriations bill again. This bill I think had a number of good items. I think the President, part of him wanted to sign this. I know the Vice President urged him not to. We could still fix this bill. I think we have time to come back and fix this bill in a reasonable period of time and get these people back to work.

Some of the other appropriation bills that have been brought forward, I think, need a little more fixing and we need some time.

The President could have signed these bills, would have put people to work in fairness, Congress could have overridden the vetoes, the votes are not here to do that, so next comes to the continuing resolution.

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DAVIS. I would be happy to yield, but I want to make a few points, I only have 5 minutes, I say to my friend from California.

Ms. ESHOO. I thank the gentleman for yielding. The point that I want to raise, the gentleman understands the dilemma that we are in.

You just said that this is a national disgrace. Putting any fault or blame aside, can you work to find 20 votes in your caucus to open up the Government, Republican votes?

We have 198 on our side and I think that you, being as reasonable and moderate as you are, that there would be 19 others?

Mr. DAVIS. Let me say to my friend that may be able to happen in time. We will have a discharge petition. But 30 days have to run. The problem with this recess is that you do not get the legislative days run during that time. Eventually this will happen, I think, if we could get it to the floor, it or something close to it would pass.

Ms. ESHOO. But 20 votes would stop that recess, and we could open up the Government, and we could move on.

Mr. DAVIS. Well, that would do it, but it does not solve some of the other problems. A continuing resolution is not a resolution. There are still a lot of issues at play in the continuing resolu-

tion that frankly ought to be worked out.

Ms. ESHOO. Of course there are. They have to be negotiated.

Mr. DAVIS. Let me just make a couple of final points.

It also does not get us to a balanced budget which is something else that I think needs to be done that we feel very strongly.

The fourth thing that could happen is the President could put a balanced budget on the table and we would get a continuing resolution like that. I think that onus is on the President. Both sides are at play here. I think we could all do a better job.

PASSAGE OF CONTINUING RESOLUTION URGED

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

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I do not think that there are really any Members of this House of Representatives today that can feel very proud about having shut down the Government and causing all the pain and suffering, the many thousands of workers whose families were not able to have a Christmas or a New Year's celebration, and as they sit at home today, have no idea what the Congress is about to do with respect to their jobs. They want to go back to work. For those individuals who are working and who have been designated as essential workers, they are not being paid because their agencies have not been funded and their funds have already run out. The suffering among the workers is tremendous. I was home for a brief few days during our Christmas recess and heard from many workers.

The tragedy is that this is all absolutely unnecessary. The majority party wanted to make a point in November, and the point was that they were determined that the 7-year balanced budget was their priority and they were going to hang on to it no matter what. Even if it was necessary to close down the Government, they were determined to force the President to negotiate.

Those negotiations have taken place. They have not yet yielded the results that the majority party wants, but in point of fact these meetings have occurred. There is absolutely no reason to tie together the annual appropriations, which the Constitution says is the absolute requirement of this Congress to do, to tie it together to a 7-year plan. The 7-year plan is an entirely different, separate concept which the Republicans are saying is important because we have to have a plan in order to enable us to know what to do in the next fiscal year and the fiscal year after that and so forth until the year 2002.

But the reason that portions of the Government are shut down now is not because of the failure to have an agreement on the 7-year balanced budget. It

is because of the failure of the majority party to act in accordance with law in reporting out the appropriation bills for all of the Government operations.

As a matter of fact, on October 1, which is the statutory deadline for the appropriation bills to be done, the majority had not accomplished even a single one except for the Congress. So then immediately they passed a continuing resolution, a clean resolution in which they permitted the Government to go about its business and to take care of all of the programs in effect, and that had a cutoff date of November 14.

At midnight, then, the Government was shut down because there was no further agreement to continue the functions of those agencies that had not yet had appropriation bills, which were 13. Thirteen of the appropriation bills had not cleared even by midnight of November 13.

So we had a short shutdown of 5 or 6 days during that period, when again there was a continuing resolution, this time with a club over the President's head, saying, "We are only going to agree to this continuing resolution until December 15, and we want you to agree that you will come and support the concept of a balanced budget in the year 2002," which he has done. There are negotiations going on.

This business of using terrorist tactics and holding innocent people hostage, because someone decided that their ideas about the future of this country are so important and so paramount that the suffering of the people across the country is irrelevant, to me that is an unconscionable way to perform your public responsibilities as given to us under the Constitution.

It is so simple for us to consider a continuing resolution. It has been done in the Senate. Their own Senate leader has put together a continuing resolution. Why not just pass that continuing resolution, let our workers for these remaining nine Departments go back to work and service the communities that are so desperately in need?

My community depends upon the tourist business, we depend upon the parks, we depend upon many other facilities that are operated by the Federal Government. It is tragic that these entities that are really public services are closed down and innocent people, not connected to anyone here, not connected to the Federal Government, are being caused all this harm and suffering. It is time to allow the Government to go back to work.

BALANCED BUDGET WILL RETURN FISCAL SANITY TO WASHINGTON

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

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I think it is particularly important not to lose track of the overall focus of what we have got to do with the Government in

Washington, DC. That is, we have got to bring fiscal sanity back to this city. Right now this government is adding to the debt at a rate of \$30 million an hour. Thirty million an hour goes out more than comes in. The answer is not in additional taxes.

I just heard the previous speaker say we are holding the children of this country hostage, or innocent people hostage. Hostage? We are holding this entire country hostage and the next generation hostage to a deficit that has got to become controlled. There is not a family in America that runs their budget like this budget has been run for 40 years.

Sure, we have had 20 days of discomfort up here. But this country has had 40 years of discomfort. You cannot continue to use this congressional voting card, which is the most unused credit card in the history of this country, you cannot continue to accumulate deficit after deficit after deficit.

There are going to be some adjustments. There are changes that need to be made. Anytime we take business as usual in Washington, DC. and change it and make it more sane and make it more common sense, it is going to cause a disruption. Do not let that disruption divert attention away from a balanced budget. Our country needs one.

I think it is fair to address some of the hardships that some Federal employees are facing as a result of their pay being delayed. They are all going to be paid. Let there be no question about that. They will be paid. The question is the delay. And are there hardships? Certainly there are going to be some hardships.

Let me tell the Members what we did in Colorado. On New Year's Day, a local banker by the name of Bob Young, Robert Young with Alpine Banks called me at my home, and we talked and fine-tuned a program. His bank, the day after New Year's Day, announced that all Federal employees could go to the Alpine banking system in Colorado and draw interest-free an amount equal to the net amount of their last paycheck, so they will not miss any payments. Alpine Banks is committed to do this during this period of shutdown. Since then we have gotten banks in Pueblo, CO, the Minnequa Bank, and a bank in Durango, CO, the Burns Bank, and we have been in contact with many other banks to also join this program.

We want to work with those people. We want to help them with these hardships. But the minute we put this Government back to business as usual, we take the pressure off the Speaker of the House, we take the pressure off the President of the Senate and we take the pressure off the President of the United States to negotiate an agreement.

The only reason these people are negotiating right now is because of the pressure that society is putting on them, partially because the Govern-

ment is closed down, but more importantly because this Government continues to spend without control.

Finally, let me say this. I have heard a lot of speakers on the other side of the aisle criticizing our attempt for a balanced budget. I hope some of the Members speak as strongly about Hazel O'Leary's disappearance of several hundred thousand dollars. They have an opportunity to come to some of these committee hearings and ask Hazel O'Leary:

How come you spent \$500,000 to charter a private jet to go overseas? How come you have an advance team of 31 people? How come you have a film crew follow you all around the world?

There is a lot of waste in this budget. Use your time today that you are devoting to attacking the Republican Party, take that time and take a look at the waste that we have got in our budget. We can work on this as a team.

I am optimistic we can get an agreement. But let me say, the most crucial thing we can do in this generation is to hand the next generation a balanced budget. I urge each and every one of you to join us as a team and give America the biggest present they could have, and that is a balanced budget for the next generation.

IN MEMORY OF ANNE NOEL FAZIO

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

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise on a more somber note than the debate that has been going on here today. I rise under special orders on this day, January 4, which would have been the birthday of my younger sister Nancy, had it not been for the tragic death of Nancy when she was killed visiting me when I was a Peace Corps volunteer. But I rise not so much to remember her. I did that when I was sworn into office in this Chamber just a few years ago. But I rise to talk about death, because it has come to one of our colleague's family.

□ 1600

Today I ask this country to share my empathy with our truly distinguished colleague, VIC FAZIO. He lost his youngest daughter, Anne Noel.

Everyone knows how hard VIC works in this institution. He is one of the hardest working Members that we have and certainly one of the most devoted Members to the institution of the House of Representatives. VIC is totally dedicated. But most important, or more important than his leadership, is his family.

Today, in Sacramento, as we sit here in Washington, a memorial service is being conducted for his and Joey's daughter. She was a star. She fought off leukemia with a successful bone marrow transplant. She graduated from McClatchey High School. She earned a degree from the University of