

City, FL. She is the only breadwinner in her family because her husband is disabled. She had a child to feed and clothe. She has bills to pay just like you and me.

But for the last 20 days she has worked without pay because she is an essential Federal employee, and, get this, because of title 38, she is barred from working in a nursing home or some other facility in her off hours so that she could receive some compensation.

I have gotten many, many calls from Federal employees in my district. Many work in the area of VA medical centers. They are working without pay, without any sort of financial security. Like all of us, they do have those bills to pay, children to feed and mortgages to pay, and we sit here continuing with our partisan bickering for the 20th day in a row.

This is not what we were sent here to do. Our job is to ensure the responsible functioning of Government, and I cannot think of anything more irresponsible than to let these workers continue to work without pay for 1 more day.

Mr. Speaker, veterans in my district depend on these health care workers, and they in turn depend on us. They elected us to represent them.

Who really believes we are doing what we were sent here to do? A great nation does not act this way. We can place blame on the extremists and the liberals, but I am sick of it, and my constituents are sick of it.

We may have our philosophical differences up here. But there is no reason why our Nation's Federal workers and Americans who depend on this Government should be used as political pawns. We can continue to debate our political differences, but how dare we threaten the livelihood of those health care workers who care for men and women who, through their life service, provide us with the very security and freedom we now enjoy?

Today, the fourth continuing resolution ended, and there is currently no legislation providing funding for the VA. We must return Government to work and the people it serves.

Things have gotten so bad that Bread of the Mighty Food Bank in Gainesville is now offering food assistance to furloughed employees of the veterans' medical center in Gainesville so they do not go hungry.

It is a shame, and it is a shame brought on by this House.

Then there is the young mother from High Springs. She was receiving disability but is now attending the University of Florida under vocational rehabilitation funding. Because of the shutdown of the Government, she is unable to pay her tuition. This was to be her final semester. She was looking forward to entering the work force and becoming a productive citizen. Now she will have to attend an extra semester, delaying her ability to get a job and provide for her family.

If this is not bad enough, she has a young son who is disabled, who is also being affected. Now, because of the shutdown and lack of assistance she was receiving her son will lose the attention he was receiving from a qualified professional at home.

To those who do not believe there is a disastrous ripple effect from the shutdown, let me assure you that there is. The qualified caregiver that was helping this young woman's son is also a mother herself. She is not getting paid either. This mother also has to feed her family.

When is this going to end? I am now asking, please, from this leadership, let us present a clean CR. Let us not go a single more day advancing financial and emotional hardship on our work force. Let us face it, many have lost faith in Congress over the past 20 days. It is time, and moreover it is our responsibility to set aside our differences just for 15 minutes. That is the time it would take to vote for a clean CR and agree to put our Federal workers back to work.

SUMMARY OF 4-DAY TRIP IN GERMANY

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

Mr. DORNAN. Mr. Speaker, I have not yet asked permission to reduce my 1-hour special order later tonight to 5 minutes, so I will do that at this moment and take that 1-hour special order tomorrow night.

Mr. Speaker, I have just returned yesterday afternoon in time to make the attempted overriding of Mr. Clinton's pathetic vetoing of a great defense authorization bill yesterday. I came back from 4 days in Germany. If it were not for these votes yesterday, today and tomorrow, I would have pressed on to Tuzla to keep my promise that I had hoped to be with the troops Christmas, and when voting prevented that, I said I would be with them at least at their departure points over New Year's, and I was. I would like to give a full hour report on that, but I will do a 5-minute summary tonight.

First of all, on all the acrimony here in the Congress, and as someone who is expecting any day the glory of a 10th grandchild, I understand the pain of insecurity of all the Federal workers who would rather productively be on the job than wondering, even though I suspect they know in the end they will get their pay, but wondering if something can go wrong and they would not be fully recompensed for this unwanted furlough or vacation.

But, Mr. Speaker, there is suffering taking place by American citizens, some very young ones, that goes far beyond the angst and the uncertainty and the suffering of our Federal workers here, and that is those on the Federal payroll in the United States military in Germany and Hungary and in Bosnia.

Let me give you just a short sampling of what I am going to talk about tomorrow. We talked about the land mines on this floor for about a month, but particularly with some intensity the week before Christmas. John Martin Begosh, kind of an unusual, I think it is an Irish name, not exactly what you would say when you would step on a land mine, but Begosh, young John Martin, named after his dad's kid brother, who was killed in Vietnam, suffered a life changing injury.

The military tried to put their best reports on this, but by the third day when I was over there, they finally admitted severe bone loss, part of his foot gone, and his surgeon said he will be disabled for the rest of his life, and in the coming days we will know how badly disabled.

Now, we all pray that he is the exception. As I said on the House floor a couple of weeks ago, I expect very few casualties. I did not join my colleagues on both sides of the aisle predicting a nightmare. I know the efficiency of our military and how all three sides over there, Bosnian Serbs, Bosnian Moslems, and Bosnian Croats, are going to respect the power of our military.

We have something called a target acquisition radar, that when one of those evil mortars or artillery pieces that have been killing civilians fires at us, if and when they dare to, we will know the precise location of the artillery piece or the mortar before the round has barely reached what they are shooting at, and there will be unleashed upon them such accurate 155 millimeter artillery fire, we will not need air support, they will all be dead, and it will be a warning to the others you do not fool with the U.S. military.

That does not mean that the cold and land mines are not beyond every description, including my own, in this House over the last 2 months. At the railheads in Hungary, we have men and women who have been sleeping in railroad cars in filth and rats in the warehouses at these spots, and in cold that is rivaling the severest winter since what the gentleman from Florida [Mr. GIBBONS] saw with the 101st Airborne in the winter of 1944-45.

It is particularly tough on the women. For those of us in this Chamber and the other body that said that women could take any kind of combat, I brought home for tomorrow night comments from women from Stars and Stripes that say it is OK for the men to go relieve themselves in the field, but where are the toilet facilities for we women? It is a little bit different for us.

Down at Tuzla, these freezing nights and these tent facilities and sleeping in and around the vehicles was beyond their worst expectations. But can they cut it? You bet.

I had never in all of my adult life, 6 years active duty, 22 in the reserves, and 18 years, 19 years now, going out to see our troops as a U.S. Congressman, I had never seen more dedicated, gung

ho, professional enlisted men and women and NCO's and an officer corps ready to do the job.

However, do they feel some hurt that the Commander in Chief is using them politically? That we do not see on the television news or in the newspaper reports. You bet they do. To a man they feel they are being used, and I will talk about that tomorrow.

WHAT IT IS LIKE TO BE IN WASHINGTON

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

Mr. MINGE. Mr. Speaker, when I go home, especially over the last Christmas break, people ask me, well, how do you like being in Congress? Is it an honor? Is it fun? Are you going to receptions? What is it like to be in Washington?

Often I respond by telling them a story about my Uncle Oly and Aunt Lena. I, like many in Minnesota, am of Norwegian ancestry. And Oly and Lena one morning were in the house and Oly got up, excused himself, went out to the outhouse, and did his business. As he pulled up his bib overalls, a couple quarters dropped out and went down the hole. Oly was disgusted. He took off his watch and he threw that down, and he took out his wallet and threw that down as well.

He went back in the house and Lena said well, "Oly, what is wrong with you? You are in such a foul mood and you don't smell so good either. What you been doing?" And finally it came out. Oly explained to her that he had lost the quarters and thrown his watch and wallet, and she said, "Oly, why did you do that? Why can you go down there?" He said, "Well, you didn't think I was going to go down after just 50 cents, did you?"

Well, there may be some humor in what Uncle Oly did, but there is little humor in what we are about here in Washington. We have all been regaled with stories about the shutdown, its impact on innocent Federal employees, about individuals that need passports to attend funerals, its impact on servicemen, national parks, veterans who are seeking guarantees for loans, businesses that are seeking guarantees from the Small Business Administration, and a vast array of others in America.

It is truly a tragic situation. And the best I can say to folks at home is it is a highly frustrating experience to serve in Congress these days. I have been here exactly 3 years, and I have had to say it has been frustrating each of these 3 years.

In the first 2 years, many of us chafed under rules that prohibited what we perceived to be a majority in Congress from considering legislation that we felt was important for the American people. Now, under the leadership of a new Speaker and a different

political party, we continue to cave under the same techniques of managing the business of the House of Representatives.

I would say to my brethren on the other side of the aisle, I certainly shared with you the dismay and frustration when good proposals were held up. Certainly you must understand that the same is happening today, and that altogether too often the rules of the House are being used to keep important initiatives from consideration by the Members of the U.S. House of Representatives. This is certainly happening at this time as I speak.

This leadership is preventing what I would consider to be the majority of the Members of this body from considering a continuing resolution to put Federal employees back to work. Similarly, I expect that the discipline of each political party in this institution is preventing the majority of the Members of the House of Representatives from honestly considering a 7-year deficit reduction plan that actually would work to balance the budget and would have broad support throughout our Nation. It is tragic when the majority so manipulates the rules. I do not care if the majority is Republican or the majority is Democrat, the tragedy is the same.

I think it is important that all of us work together on a bipartisan basis to try to make this institution as effective as possible. Forget about the next election. Forget about who gets credit. Instead, focus on how do we balance the budget, what is right for America, what do the American people expect of us?

I think that if we focus on these considerations, the frustration that I and many others have felt can be overcome. But unless we do that, we, like Oly, are simply going to go back home with a foul odor, that will be immediately noticed by our friends and family and residents of our district. We certainly can handle our responsibilities in a better fashion.

REASONS FOR LACK OF PROGRESS ON BUDGET

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

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to take this 5-minute special order to discuss the budget and my concerns with the lack of progress and really the lack of response from the administration.

We have heard continuously from some of those Members on the minority side that this really has been caused by a group of so-called radical freshmen Republican Members. Well, I rise as a five-term Republican who over the 10 years I have been in Congress have supported and worked with my colleagues on the other side on labor issues, even opposing NAFTA when my party and this President supported

NAFTA; working with Members of the other side on issues like family and medical leave; issues involving reform of Davis-Bacon that is acceptable to the labor unions and the working people of this country; and working on environmental issues and environmental legislation, opposing the riders that were attempted to be inserted in the bill. So I am not someone who rises as someone who has always been against the President. To the contrary, I have been supportive of some of the issues that this administration has supported.

But, Mr. Speaker, that is not what this debate is about. This debate really is about this President finally being called to task to live up to commitments that he has made publicly. He has gotten away with saying one thing and doing something else on numerous occasions that I cannot cite here today. But in this instance, Members on our side, even those of us who have worked with the President on key issues, are saying "We want to see this President simply come forward and do what he said he would do, and that is to provide for us a detailed seven-year plan to balance the budget."

Now, why has he not done that? It is because he is reading the political tea leaves and polls. He knows if he comes out with a 7-year plan in detail, he is either going to offend senior citizens or offend those business groups where he told them he would support a capital gains tax cut, or he is going to offend those veterans who he has told he will not have any changes in the way we fund veterans programs, or he is going to offend those defense workers by having to say we need additional cuts in defense, even though he was out in California last week and even made the case, and I cannot believe this, as the Republican who opposed the B-2 bomber, this. He even went so far as to say "Yes, we may need more than 20 B-2 bombers." Talk about ultimate irony, for this President to make that statement.

You see, if this President comes out with a detailed 7-year plan that lays out specifics like we have, he is going to take some heat, and this President does not like to take heat.

Mr. Speaker, the time for this rhetoric and demagoguery has ended. As I said earlier today, the Philadelphia Enquirer, no bastion of conservative politics in this country, said it best today in one of their lead editorials. The headline is, "Your turn, Bill. Clinton must offer the serious budget he promised."

I will insert this editorial in the RECORD, Mr. Speaker, but let me read the final paragraph of the editorial.

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.

Even the Philadelphia Enquirer has now read through the demagoguery of this President.