

Our people understand better than we do the real important thing here and the relevance of what we are doing. They want us to stand firm, stay the course, balance the budget.

IN 1 YEAR REPUBLICAN MAJORITY BRINGS CRISIS TO GOVERNMENT

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

Ms. FURSE. Mr. Speaker, I think that the people who are not able to pay their rent this month or maybe the ones who are not going to make their mortgage payments are going to remember this time. As my colleagues know, a lot of speakers have talked from this side about this balanced budget. Well, I think we have to separate the balanced budget from keeping the Government open. I want to talk a little bit though about this balanced budget.

When Ronald Reagan became President of this country, the deficit was \$74 billion. When President Bush left office, the deficit was \$300 billion. When Bill Clinton became President, it was \$300 billion, and today, thanks to the President's budget of 1993, the deficit is half, is \$161 billion, half what it was then. But it is very interesting because there was not one Republican vote for that budget, that budget which has reduced the deficit by half.

OK, now they say to us, especially the new Republicans—well, they have not been here very long so I understand they are not sure of all the things that are going on, but let me tell you. They say we are going to keep this Government closed unless we have a balanced budget. Well, their memories are very short because there was a balanced budget offered on this floor, a 7-year balanced budget, a 7-year balanced budget with CBO scoring. They did not vote for it. Why? Because it did not have that \$245 billion tax break for the wealthy.

So yesterday we asked if that budget could come back up, could we vote for a balanced budget, 7 years, no tax break for the wealthy. Well, the Republican leadership would not let us vote on it.

So it is not the balanced budget they care about. They want to keep this Government closed down because, like the former speaker, they do not seem to understand that individual Americans are hurting, people have to pay their rent, people have to make a mortgage payment.

Senator DOLE, who is the head of the other body, got together with the Democrats and the Republicans on the 21st, and that was just Tuesday. They passed a continuing resolution, get the Government back. We begged yesterday, please bring that continuing resolution up that the Senate has passed, let us get the Government back to work. But, no, we were not allowed to

vote on that, just as we were not allowed to vote on the real balanced budget.

Now I have heard people here say this is an inconvenience, the Government shutdown. They will not remember the Government shutdown. Well, let me tell you just what is happening to seniors in Oregon, and it is happening to seniors across the country.

Meals on Wheels. We have two Meals on Wheels places in Portland. They serve seniors every day. Well, they are going to be out of business by the end of next week. Too bad, seniors, no meals for you because the Republicans say they want to balance the budget but they will not vote on a balanced budget.

There is very important research going on right now on a disease that affects seniors: Alzheimer's. Alzheimer's research has been stopped in the National Institute of Health because they say we do not care if the Government is shut down.

Medicare contractors who pay the health care claims of our elderly; they are being asked to use their own funds to operate because the Government is shut down. What a disgrace.

Federal investigators who investigate fraud that affects all of us, but particularly seniors, they are not being paid, they are not being paid.

Now what I want to say to my colleagues is that for 40 years you have tried to be in the majority. All right; now you are in the majority. But you know what? You were not able to do the simple work that was required to get the appropriation bills to the President so the Government would keep working. In 1 year this Government had been brought to a crisis. It is time to stop that, it is time to go with the Senate version, have a continuing resolution, and later today someone will come forward and suggest we all go home for a vacation. Well, I am not going to go home for vacation until the Government is back on its feet, and none of us should.

It is a shame, it is a shame.

THE PRESIDENT DID NOT KEEP HIS WORD

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

Mr. BONO. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately I happen to have been sued very often in my life. I dislike all of that because it just seems to take everything out of your hands, and pretty soon a judge is telling you how you have to live, and why, and what, and where. And the greatest lesson I—one of the greatest lessons I ever got was when I was sued for indentured servitude, white slavery, and it got all throughout the press, and all the press read it, and it described me as a Svengali and that I controlled this person's life. Then it got to court, and it was thrown out because it was ridiculous. But that

stayed with me for many, many years, until eventually people found out the truth.

So my point is that you sit here and try to find out what all of this means and what all this dialog is about, and people tell you different stories about different situations, and they say, well, if the Republicans would just sign a CR, they would not inflict pain. Well, you know that depends on if the glass is half empty or half full.

If the President had kept his word—now understand this, which I think is far more important: Our President should keep his word. He said, "I agree to a balanced budget, scored by CBO, within 7 years, by a certain date." When that date came and went, he did not perform, and we gave him a CR, taking his word, and he violated his word. So now they are saying, well, give us another CR.

So, you know, if you get burned once, then you are a little reluctant to keep playing the same game over and over. So when you say there is pain inflicted, look at the President and ask him why he said he would do something, and we all agreed, and everybody was happy, and then refused to do it.

So you know this notion that there is just one party to blame, and that is why I go to this other story about myself, is that I did not do anything wrong, but the perception was that; and we have not done anything wrong, but they are trying to give you that perception that we do not care.

I am very sensitive to seniors, I am very sensitive to people who do not get a paycheck. I spent many months not getting a paycheck.

But that is not the point. The point is I came here, and I said to my constituents and you Americans, "You know, we must balance the budget. You don't have an imbalanced budget at home, and we have got to balance it for you." I promised to do that. So all year I have been working to balance the budget.

Now we are here, we are at this critical confrontation, Mr. Speaker, and this is why we have fought so hard over this issue, and here we are with a confrontation.

Now, does it make any sense to say, OK, here we are with this issue, now let us back all the way off and do everything back on the President's terms? Not to me it does not. Because he does not keep his word I have a very hard time trusting what he will say in the future, and so I think now we have to, of course, stand tough, but certainly we are not insensitive to this, and if there is an insensitivity, look at the person that did not keep his word.

I just want to say to you, things are not always as they appear, and rhetoric is rhetoric. Always try to find out the facts, and the facts are the President did not keep his word.

IT IS WRONG TO USE FEDERAL EMPLOYEES AS PAWNS IN THE GAME OF THE BUDGET DEBATE

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

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Hawaii [Mr. ABERCROMBIE].

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

Mr. Speaker, the reason that I wanted to have that minute was to give the gentleman an opportunity to discuss, just for at least a moment, his proposition that the President has not kept his word. I appreciate the civility of his comments and understand he has been an ex-mayor, he has had some legislative experience; but it is hard for me to comprehend why would he punish innocent people if somebody else does not keep their word? We are legislators. Why do we not get together then, and come up with a proposition, and we could present it to the President? I fail to understand the rationale, and I do not think the American people accept the proposition that because the President is perceived by the gentleman from California and his colleagues as not having kept his word, they are going to punish the American people.

Punishing the American people will not solve it. We are legislators. We need to solve it right here in this Chamber.

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Speaker, the time has come in this Chamber for action. Senator DOLE summed it up absolutely correct when he said in the other Chamber, "Enough is enough," as he guided a continuing resolution through the other Chamber that opened up the Federal Government.

We need to do the same thing in this Chamber.

I have thousands of Federal employees in my district, in the Social Security Administration, in the Veterans' Administration, at Federal prisons, at Minersville, Lewisburg, and Allenwood who are either on a furlough, or who are being forced to work extra hours, an extra shift, and not being paid. It is not right to use Federal employees as pawns in this game in this whole budget debate.

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So I say to my colleagues, let us pass a continuing resolution and let us continue this debate on balancing the budget.

I say to my colleagues on the other side, I want to work with you. I want to work with you in balancing the budget in 7 years using CBO numbers, and we can do that. The framework for doing that is already in place. We need to continue the dialog and have a give-and-take process.

If you look at the coalition budget that was offered in this House, it balanced the budget in 7 years and had no tax cuts. I say to you that is a framework. We can work with that and we

can balance the budget. You look at the budget that passed this House and we had \$245 billion in tax breaks in that. To me, that is personally unacceptable; it is too large. But I am willing to go halfway and meet my friend on the other side in moving toward balancing the budget.

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

Mr. HOLDEN. I yield to the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I certainly appreciate the gentleman's attitude, and I would be open to work with you guys on that. I think a lot of people on our side of the aisle would. I also want to say that I am one of those who think that we should get the folks back working.

Let me say this: Would the President accept that coalition budget? Because one of our reluctances is that if we pass that, will the President stand behind it?

Mr. HOLDEN. I do not know if the President will accept that budget, but I can tell you that I will accept it, and there are numerous Members on our side of the aisle who have already voted for it and many more who will vote for it when it comes up again.

When you look at the differences in the budget, the budget that passed the House that the gentleman voted for had a \$245 billion tax break in it. If you would reduce that, say, down to \$110 or \$100 billion, still giving a tax break to working families, and put that \$100 or \$110 billion in savings into the Medicare system where we would only be having, say, \$150 or \$170 billion in the slowing of growth of the Medicare Program, that is something that is acceptable to me.

I look at my district where I have 95,000 Medicare recipients and thousands more waiting to go into the Medicare Program; and I look at the hospitals in my district, and right now they are only receiving \$1 for every \$1 of services they are providing for Medicare patients. Under the proposed budget that the gentleman voted for, that would go down to 88 cents.

Mr. KINGSTON. If the gentleman will yield, I want you to know that I believe that there is a lot of room for discussion on that. I do not pretend to represent all Republicans on this, but I know that there are many who would like to work with you on it. Again, the concern is, could we do it as a veto-proof measure if the President will not go along with a bipartisan budget. Would you have any feel for that?

Mr. HOLDEN. Well, I would say to the gentleman, if we can put a budget on this floor that I believe in, I would vote for it and I would vote to override a veto if it was.

I cannot speak for the entire Democratic membership, but I believe that this process that is going on now where people are saying, it is going to be my way or no way at all, is not healthy for the gentleman or me or the American people. We need to get this process

going, and there are points of contention that I believe can be ironed out.

Medicaid is one of the contentions that I have, the Medicaid system. I am not exactly thrilled with block-granting Medicaid, and the reason for that is Pennsylvania has the second highest senior citizen population in the country, next to Florida. Under the proposed budget that passed the House, Pennsylvania would lose \$9 billion over 7 years in the Medicaid Program.

Forty-five percent of all Medicaid expenditures in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania are for the senior citizens and nursing homes. So to lose \$9 billion, half of that which goes to seniors and nursing homes would put a terrible burden on the Commonwealth.

I am not saying that would vote for a program that block-granted Medicaid, but we would have to make sure it was fair and that the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in my case, would be treated fairly. I am sure the gentleman would feel the same about Georgia.

If I could just sum up and thank the gentleman for the dialog and say that I believe that we can pass a balanced budget, but there are those who will not give in on the tax cut that might have to be left behind, and there are those who do not really have the priority of balancing the budget that may need to be left behind, but we can drive a budget down the middle, and that is what the American people want us to do.

KEEP WORKING TO END THE SHUTDOWN

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, today the West Marin Chamber of Commerce in Marin County, CA released a report showing that the communities around and near the Point Reyes National Seashore, which is in my district, have lost upward of \$5 million in lost tourist revenues, to date, as a result of the Gingrich government shutdown. That is right. Due to the Gingrich shutdown, business in West Marin is down 45 percent from last year. As one of my constituents said just recently, last year was not a particularly good year.

But it is not just the businesses in West Marin who are hurting, Mr. Speaker. Americans all over the country are being denied crucial services, services that include passports, home mortgages, child support, and small business loans. That is because of the new majority's shutdown. But that is not all either, Mr. Speaker.

If the shutdown continues, if it continues much longer, 600,000 elderly Americans, many of them invalids, may not be able to participate in the popular and successful Meals on Wheels Program.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear: We are already paying the price for the new majority's radical agenda. If you think