

nine Federal agencies serving millions of Americans shut their doors. The shutdown occurred after a short-term funding resolution expired and Republicans failed to pass a fair and equitable funding bill for the various agencies.

The cost to the taxpayers of this budget failure increases every day that the impasse continues. As the Government shutdown enters its 20th day and the cost of that shutdown to the American taxpayer is \$50 million each business day, citizens from southwest Georgia are also experiencing this shutdown in other ways.

My constituents are fed up with a shutdown that stops money for the Older Americans Senior Citizens Center, a facility that has provided needed services such as meals and transportation. Meals on Wheels for many senior citizens in Macon, GA; a shutdown that stopped 40 students and teachers from Whigam Elementary School in Whigam, GA from touring the White House, the FBI, the Smithsonian Institute, and from laying a wreath at the tomb of the unknown soldier at Arlington National Cemetery after a 2-year fund-raising effort on their part; a shutdown that stops access to passports for members of the African Methodist Episcopal Church who want to travel to South Africa to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of their church in that country, a Mercer University student from Cordele, GA, who earned a fellowship to study this semester in England; and for a Kendrick High School student in Columbus who could not go to Japan on a nonrefundable ticket that she worked a year to purchase, all because she could not get a passport because of the shutdown; a shutdown that stops many Federal workers from paying house payments, utility bills, car notes, and from buying food and medication for family members.

Mr. Speaker, this is immoral and unconscionable. Enough is enough. It is time for Republicans to offer a funding bill, a fair and equitable funding bill that will reopen the Government and still continue the budget negotiations. Americans have been away from their jobs long enough and without services long enough.

Mr. Speaker, the House should take up and pass H.R. 1643 to end the shutdown of the Government, to return Federal workers to work and restore needed services to American citizens. Then we should pass a fair and equitable balanced budget, 7 years, using CBO numbers, without a tax cut until the budget is balanced.

CONGRESS NEEDS TO FINISH ITS WORK

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

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I have the opportunity to travel back to my dis-

trict every day. I live close enough to home to be able to do that, and I have the chance to talk to my constituents every day and learn firsthand of the hardships that are being caused because of our failure to do our work and get our budget passed on time.

I have had a chance to talk to the people at our veterans hospital, in which supplies are dangerously low, affecting the quality of health care for our veterans; where money for transportation for rehabilitation services is not available to take care of our veterans' needs.

I received a telephone call from a constituent in Howard County, MD who has a FHA-insured mortgage and wants to participate in the mortgage assignment program but cannot find anyone at HUD to make that review because of the furloughs in that agency.

I have talked to a small business owner who trains SSA employees, whose classrooms are closed because of our inability to fund appropriations for that agency. The small business owner is in danger of laying off many of his employees and closing his operation.

This morning I had coffee with a law enforcement officer who is working without pay, whose life is on the line every day, who made some arrests yesterday. I talked to that law enforcement officer for some time. He explained to me the morale issues within his agency.

How do you explain some people working without pay, some people not working without pay, and Federal taxpayers paying their taxes and not receiving Government services? You cannot explain that to our constituents. It is unfair, it is wrong. It is unfair to Federal workers, it is unfair to Federal taxpayers.

And now we hear that the Committee on Rules has recommended a rule that will allow the Speaker to give recess authority so that we will go home with our Federal workers still on furlough, without getting our work done. That is wrong and should not be allowed.

Mr. Speaker, I have taken this time this evening to inform my colleagues of a resolution that I am filing. This resolution will prohibit us going into a recess or adjournment during any period of a lapsed appropriation for the Federal Government. We should not leave here until we have gotten our work done. It would be unconscionable for us to leave with the appropriations not available to keep Federal offices open.

I hope my colleagues will join me and cosponsor this resolution to make it clear that we will stay here until we get our work done.

Our first order should be to pass a continuing resolution. We should have done that 20 days ago. We should do that first, open up the Government offices, allow Federal taxpayers to get their services for the taxes that they have paid. That should be our first order.

After we have done that, we should negotiate in good faith, be willing to

compromise for a budget that, yes, is balanced in 7 years but also protects the priorities that are important to the people of this Nation.

In doing that, I think we do have the framework to reach a bipartisan agreement on a budget. Look at the coalition budget that now is getting much praise. Many of us have been speaking for a long time in favor of that approach and have been looking for help for our colleagues in this House and the Senate. That particular budget provides the opportunity for us to balance the budget within 7 years and hold true to the priorities that are important to the American people.

But we will never get that opportunity unless we restore decent order in our community. That requires us on a bipartisan basis tonight to pass a continuing resolution so that Federal workers can work and that our taxpayers can get the services that they have paid for.

I hope that we can find that bipartisan cooperation in this House so that we can do the people's work, open Government back up and then move forward with the budget of this country.

DEMOCRATS TO CONTINUE TO FIGHT TO SUPPORT MIDDLE CLASS

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

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I join the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. CARDIN] in his legislation because I feel strongly we must stay here until we get the job completed. Part of that assignment is to get the Federal workers back to work because this partial shutdown surely does not make any sense at all.

As a Member of Congress, I have had the opportunity to vote in support of a balanced budget amendment and I am proud of it, and we passed it in the House of Representatives. It failed by one vote in the U.S. Senate.

Since I have been a Member of Congress, I have also had the opportunity to support and vote for a line-item veto, and why the Republicans and the Republican leadership would hold it up now simply because we have a Democratic President, and the same Republicans year after year when we had a Republican President in office wanted a line-item veto, and now when we have the opportunity, that window of opportunity to have a line-item veto, we do not have it because the Republicans have held it up.

We have not gotten much credit in the last few years for cutting the budget deficits in half, but we have accomplished that objective by working together. We have downsized the military. The cold war is over. That is a major achievement for the U.S. Congress and something we all ought to be proud of. We have downsized the Federal Government. We needed to do it.

The Federal Government, all governments, need to operate more efficiently.

But I have noticed over the years, particularly the last several years, when the criticisms have come, particularly about government, I do not hear the Republicans pointing their finger at big business and some of the actions they have taken, particularly on mergers and acquisitions and laying off hundreds of thousands of people. I do not hear them saying too much about that. But when it comes to government, about the inefficiencies of government, I sure hear a lot of criticism about government, but not about big business.

Maybe the time has come to get our priorities in order. Maybe the time has come when we ought not to have so much bickering and we should have less partisanship and less acrimony in our dealings with one another. Maybe we ought to have a little more respect for one another on the floor.

I know we have got a lot of new Members. We have got 73 new Republicans since January of 1995, and I know a lot of them think we have not accomplished anything, that everything we have done in the past is wrong. Well, maybe they ought to read our history books, all the way back to June and July of 1776 when at the Continental Congress in Philadelphia our Founding Fathers had to work out their differences in order to sign a document we know of as the Declaration of Independence.

Yes, we have got a lot of friction between the parties and yes, we have a lot of friction within the parties, and we are sure seeking a lot of that now, particularly between the House and the Senate. The Senate Republicans want to put the Federal workers back to work, but not the House Republicans. They want to continue this impasse. They want to continue this gridlock.

We Democrats do want to protect Medicare. Yes, we Democrats want to protect Medicaid and education and the environment. We do not want a tax on our working people. We want to do more for our students, knowing that they need an education in order for us to have a strong middle class for the future. That is why we have been so successful in America, is because we have had a strong middle class, and I assure you the Democrats are going to continue to fight for the middle class because they are the backbone of America.

I am part of a bipartisan group that is meeting now, and we have been meeting almost every day to somehow break this gridlock and this impasse that we presently have. We are talking about policy and substance. We are willing to sacrifice our political and partisan talk for real results.

I urge all my colleagues to work together in the next few days to deliver this important gift to the American people. Let us put the Federal workers back to work, let us balance the budget

within 7 years using CBO numbers. We can accomplish all those goals and objectives. But we surely should not have used Federal workers as whipping boys. It serves no useful purpose.

We have a job to accomplish. I know what I am going to do. I am not going to accept a January paycheck until other Federal workers are back to work, and I encourage others to practice the same policy. Maybe if we do not accept our paycheck, maybe we will get more accomplished quicker, faster now.

□ 1800

THE BLANCHFILL FAMILY OF
CHULA VISTA, CA: ANOTHER
GINGRICH HOSTAGE

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

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues, I want to tell you very briefly the story of yet another Gingrich hostage. Mr. GINGRICH and company are not only shutting down the Government and shutting out Federal employees, they are causing real hardship for real American families, like the Blanchfills of Chula Vista in my district in southern California.

Michael Blanchfill served his country for 20 years as a Navy medic. Several years ago, as he was about to be deployed for Desert Storm, he was diagnosed with Huntington's chorea, a fatal disease.

Michael's wife, Loretta, has been forced to quit her job as a restaurant manager to care for her stricken husband. The Blanchfill's daughters, April and Rachel, also help care for their father, who can barely walk or talk. April has been inspired by her father's illness to study medical technology at Edutec Professional College, but now her studies are threatened because of the lack of funding due to the current shutdown.

The Veterans' Administration Hospital in San Diego should provide therapy for Michael, but now no doctor is available to treat him nor will the VA supply him with a wheelchair during this shutdown, nor will the daycare for Michael be provided. And, of course, no home care will be available to permit Loretta to return to work.

So Michael Blanchfill, a Navy veteran who served his country, desperately needs his country's help. As a medic, he was never taken a prisoner, but now he is a hostage, a Gingrich hostage to extremist demands.

Mr. Speaker and Mr. GINGRICH, let us focus on the real needs of real families like the Blanchfills. Let us pass the necessary resolutions now.

LET US REOPEN THE
GOVERNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from North Dakota [Mr. POMEROY] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, while I always appreciate the opportunity to participate in House debate, the format for this afternoon's participation comes not in the context of legislative activity geared at actually addressing the crisis that faces this Government today with the ongoing shutdown, day 20. No, regrettably, the only occasion for my ability to participate in debate this afternoon comes in the form of special orders, open format time for speeches, because no legislative business is presently occurring on the floor of the House.

How can this possibly be that no legislative business is occurring while the Government is shut down, and none other than the Senate majority leader, BOB DOLE, has led an effort and passed it unanimously through the Senate to reopen the Government? Senator DOLE said some very interesting things as that effort succeeded in the Senate. I am going to point to this chart, "Enough is enough. I do not see any sense in what we have been doing. I would hope that we would have quick action in the House. People have been gone from their jobs long enough."

In this morning's Washington Post, his quotes contain further elaboration, and again this is the Republican leader in the Senate talking about the shutdown, "It is not as through Clinton is wincing every day because the Government is shut down. It is not having any impact. If we had a point to make, we made it."

He goes on to say, again, Senator DOLE goes on to say, "I know it is sort of macho and all that stuff regarding the shutdown and the standoff and the crisis, but there are human beings out there who are suffering. There are not many rich people working for the Federal Government. They have mortgages to pay, they have vacation plans, they have all kinds of plans. They have illnesses."

Well, Senator DOLE is precisely correct, and this has raised holy hell with Federal workers all over the country.

But I do not want to just leave the impression that this is about the problems this irresponsible shutdown has caused Federal employees, because it has gone much, much further than that. The House Republican leaders, who have caused this shutdown, have told furloughed workers, "do not worry, you will be paid." Now, we know they have a cash flow crisis right now in the meantime, but they have been assured they will be paid for the days they are not working presently.

Now, there are a lot of other people who are not working today as a result of the shutdown who will not be paid. Every employee of a private contractor who is out of business because of this shutdown will expect no retroactive paycheck. We all know stories. I will tell you about being in Bismarck just a couple of days ago, Bismarck, ND, and there in the coffee shop was a person