

to secure home mortgage loans, passports, financial aid and other important Government services.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for the President to go beyond just an admission he was wrong. It is time for the President to stop the political rhetoric and accept common sense reform.

Mr. Speaker, there is an old saying that goes like this: "A wise man will change his mind, but a fool never does." In the current debate, it remains to be seen who will or will not change their mind.

The President and the 103d Congress passed a budget bill that raised taxes on working Americans in an effort to lower the deficit and balance the budget. It did not work. That can be seen in the fact that today we are spending \$500 million-a-day more than we take in in taxes and revenues. Yet the President has refused to change his mind and consider a new course, a course that will provide a balanced budget by the year 2002.

The President and the 103d Congress initiated the COPS Program. The President's program promised to lower crime rates and make our streets safer by providing Federal funds to State and local governments to hire 100,000 more police officers. Two years later, less than a third of the new police officers promised by the President are on our Nation's streets, and when the Federal funds run out, the State and local governments will have to foot the bill for these new officers. The President's plan is costly. It is another unfunded Federal mandate forced on the backs of States and local governments. This, too, is clearly a failed policy, and again the President has refused to change his mind and consider a new course.

Republicans in the Congress passed an appropriations bill for the Department of Justice. That bill provided some \$2 billion in trust fund money for State and local law enforcement block grants. Those funds would have been used to employ additional law enforcement officers; those funds would have provided additional compensation, equipment, or other necessary materials related to basic law enforcement services. Those funds would have enhanced security measures in and around our schools, and those funds would have established multijurisdictional task forces, particularly in rural areas that work with Federal officials for crime prevention and control.

Mr. Speaker, in short, that bill would have done what the President's bill failed to do. The bill would have returned money and decisionmaking to local police departments. The bill would have allowed them to make decisions on how to reduce crime in their communities, but again the President has refused to change his mind over a failed policy. He vetoed that bill.

There is another old saying that you can fool some of the people some of the time but you cannot fool all of the people all of the time.

The American people are not fooled by the press conferences and political rhetoric being put forth by the President. Every day that this impasse continues, the public becomes more angry at the President and the Congress.

In December, the public was leaning towards placing blame at the feet of Congress. Now, however, the American people are dividing the blame between the President and the Congress.

Mr. Speaker, often political leaders will govern by poll numbers. The President peaked and missed his highwater mark in the polls by 3 days. With the President's failure to agree on a balanced budget concept that we as a Congress could have voted on this past Wednesday, it is now apparent to the public that the President is not sincere about balancing the budget.

This is not a situation where the President is winning or losing some political game. There are no points to be scored here. From now on, everybody loses.

Mr. Speaker, I say again, it is time for the President to stop the political rhetoric and accept commonsense reform.

THE EFFECTS OF FURLOUGHING GOVERNMENT WORKERS

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

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, when my Republican colleagues took over the majority of this Chamber, they declared that they were going to run Congress like a business. Now, let us just think about that for a second. If we had a business where the CEO of that business and the board of directors had a disagreement and then what they decided to do was to furlough the workers and pay them, all right, think about that.

There is no business in this country where there would be a disagreement between the CEO and the board of directors and they would furlough the workers and then pay them. And if you think about this for a second, if it was a publicly traded company and they decided to do that, what would happen in the market the next day? The value of that company would be destroyed.

Well, that is where we are right now. That is what has happened, and what has happened is totally indefensible.

I spent almost 3 hours on the floor yesterday evening, really involved in a dialog and debate with my Republican colleagues, and after 3 hours I still did not get an articulate answer, because there really is not. I mean, it is as crazy as it seems to people out there in America. It is as whacked out as it seems. There is no explanation. They can try to come up with an explanation. There is no explanation, except for irresponsibility, for what is going on. And we are starting to see real people and real just outrage at some of the things.

I just got a fax from a constituent, Gregory Inch, from Hollywood, FL, and I will read part of it or just summarize part of the letter. He is a double amputee, a veteran. Let me read a little:

In February of 1994, I was involved in an accident that resulted in amputation of both my legs above the knee. It took me and my family some time to get through the initial shock. One year later, after a lot of soul-searching, I got in touch with an organization that enabled me to attend college, the department of vocational rehabilitation. This organization helped me get back on my feet. I started Broward Community College with hopes of receiving a preengineering degree so I could transfer to Florida International University and receive my BA. On January 3, 1996, I went through the normal channels in order to continue my education, only to be informed that the Government shutdown caused the funding of the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation to stop, a shock to me and my family that almost equaled my disabling accident. Especially shocked was my wife, who has been working two jobs to pay necessary household bills while still in college. I am a registered Republican, age 27, married, a veteran, one child, who is having second thoughts on the way the government is handling the responsibility to society at large.

I could not say it better than he did.

Let me also mention another thing, a fax I got in today from my district also. I have two ports in my district. The Consumer Product Safety Commission employees who are at those ports to basically do inspections are not there, so when crayons are coming in from China into Port Everglades in Broward County or Port Miami in Miami are not inspected, the lead content is coming in without inspection. We are going to read about the disasters that occur at a future time.

I got a call today from the warden of a Federal correctional institution in my district, and the workers, the prison guards at that facility, are working, about 300 guards at that prison. They are working but not getting paid, and you can imagine the morale situation in a prison, a correctional institution where the guards are not getting paid, but in fact the prisoners are because the prison work program is getting paid. It is an unstable equilibrium.

Twenty thousand visas are given to come to the United States a day in our foreign embassies. They have not been given out for the last 20 days; 400,000 visas.

Now, I am glad that my colleague from Florida is standing because it affects his district as much as it affects mine. We have the good fortune of living in south Florida, where people from around the country and around the world visit. Every one of those people who is not getting a visa is dollars lost to our communities. The actual out-of-pocket payment that we are losing is over \$40 million a day of taxpayers' money of out-of-pocket costs for taxpayers of this country. Over the 20-day period, close to a billion dollars has been lost by taxpayers in this country.

In the previous shutdown, about \$750 million of outright waste, garbage, a multiplier effect of 4 or 5 times that effect has cost our economy. It really is

time for us to act like adults. Adults can disagree on issues and yet they can still have discussions.

I hope my Republican colleagues join what everyone in this country out there in America wants us to do, which is to pass a CR and get the Government moving again.

REOPENING THE GOVERNMENT

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

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I, too, want to get this Government back working. You know, we have a lot of debate and a lot of rhetoric up here about a balanced budget. Yes, that, indeed, is one of my most important goals as a Member of the 104th Congress, to get a balanced budget, but I do not take any pride in doing it when we are talking about workers who work for this Government, who come to work to serve our veterans, who come to work to serve every average American in this country, and some Members of Congress act as if their jobs do not matter, as if they should not be paid, and we will keep this thing shut down until we get the President to blink.

Ladies and gentlemen, we know the President has had a chance to produce a budget for us that shows deficits from 1996 of \$196 to \$209 billion in the year 2005. That is Congressional Budget Office numbers that suggest we will never get to under the prior 10-year budget plan for deficit reduction during the Clinton presidency or anyone who follows.

The bottom line is: Why are we holding employees hostage of Government? There are people that have mortgage payments to pay, there are people that have to feed their families. So I think it is appropriate that, as we are standing on this floor tonight, Members of the Republican Conference are coming up with a strategy hopefully to reopen and put those people back to work.

I have a veterans' hospital in my location, and that veterans' hospital has people that have served this Nation in times of peace and in times of war that are desperately needing medical attention. Those very fine people that work at that facility deserve pay.

But the overriding, most important issue that remains with this Member of Congress is that the President does genuinely come forward with a proposal to balance the budget. We can disagree on spending. I am for getting rid of the B-2 bomber. I am for doing some things differently in this Congress and not spending money on pork and waste. I will put more money to Medicare to help our senior citizens.

But we have got to develop a strategy that balances the budget, and we cannot talk in fiction and we have got to deal with reality.

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Let me just read a couple of letters I have got from people around the country.

James Lister, from Simpsonville, SC, writes:

DEAR MR. FOLEY, It is amazing what a few courageous men and women with a dedicated leader can accomplish. There are literally millions and millions of Americans who are standing with you and what you are doing to cut the size of government and bring the spending down.

The media is pouring on its worst. We know it is because you are effective.

For our sake, don't stop talking, don't cave in and don't let up the pressure on for a real balanced budget.

Our warmest wishes for you and your family for a joyous Christmas and a prosperous New Year!

Margaret Hurt, from California, writes:

The freshman class are the best thing that has come to D.C. in a long time.

With you guys and Newt and Rush Limbaugh I feel that the good old U.S.A. is getting a real break.

Hang in there. With your enthusiasm and diligence coupled with an openness to the truth, we are going to be all right!

I watched you tonight in C-SPAN, Dec. 19, and just love all of you. Keep in touch with the "people"! We love it!

Tell Newt we love him, and pass the card around, please.

Donald Boelter; from Burbank, CA, writes:

DEAR CONGRESSMAN FOLEY: It was very encouraging to watch on C-SPAN the group of Freshmen express their views on how best to bring government back to the people.

To once again give the people the right to decide how their money is spent, how their lives will be regulated and the return of responsibility into their lives.

As a young 71 year old, I saw in the gathered faces the same eagerness and resolve to face the problems that confront America today as in the resolve of American troops during the days of Bastogne.

Your's is no less a battle. Ever greater than that of 51 years ago and consequences to our beloved Nation immense.

On this Christmas eve I give thanks for all of the Freshman class and their efforts to bring back common sense to our Government.

God Bless You and Yours.

Rick Schendel, from Michigan writes:

MR. MARK FOLEY, I am a voter from Macomb county in southeast Michigan and I writing to thank you for keeping up the fight for fiscal responsibility. Unfortunately my Representative is Minority Whip and the chances of him being in favor of a balanced budget are nil. This letter might not mean much but I thought you should know that there are a lot of people out here that agree with your ideas. No one wants to hurt the elderly or throw people out on the streets, but a seven year plan to balance the budget should be relatively easy and painless to achieve. We are counting on you and your colleagues to take charge of this fight. Get us a good, fair plan with teeth in it so three or four years from now we aren't faced with another budget crisis. Again, I would like to thank you for your efforts on behalf of our generation and future generations. Keep up the good work.

Those are letters from around the country. Let me read to you one thing,

"Ten Cannots," originally attributed to Lincoln but which were done by Rev. William Boetcker, a Presbyterian minister.

You cannot bring about prosperity by discouraging thrift.

You cannot help small men by tearing down big men.

You cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong.

You cannot lift the wage earner by pulling down the wage payer.

You cannot help the poor man by destroying the rich.

You cannot keep out of trouble by spending more than your income.

You cannot further the brotherhood of man by inciting class hatred.

You cannot establish security on borrowed money.

You cannot build character and courage by taking away men's initiative and independence.

You cannot help men permanently by doing for them what they could and should do for themselves.

EXTREMISTS ARE DRIVING THE AGENDA IN THE HOUSE

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I have a chart over here dated December 29, 1995, "Pay to the Order of Federal Employee." A Federal employee in my district who works at the Bronx Veterans Administration Medical Center in my district received a paycheck for \$1.51 for her 40 hours of work. \$1.51. All the deductions were taken out, but her full salary was not there because of the Government shutdown.

Let me tell you what \$1.51 can buy you in New York City, in Bronx, New York, where I live. It can buy you a subway token. That costs \$1.50. That can get you to work, and then you have a whole penny left over to spend as you see fit. This is the result of the House Republican Government shutdown. It is signed "U.S. House of Representatives Extremists," because that is what is happening. Extremists are driving the agenda. And it is for "Don't spend it all in one place."

What is happening in our country today, Mr. Speaker, is a disgrace and a sham. Make no mistake about it. The Republicans have shut the Government down. The House Republicans have shut the Government down. The House Republican leadership has shut the Government down by not permitting a vote on this floor to open the Government.

We tried yesterday. We could not get it on the floor, and we were ruled out of order. So if we are so concerned about the veterans and we are so concerned about the seniors and we are so concerned about the American public that is not getting its benefits, we have the ability to open the Government by passing a clean continuing resolution. That is what are have to do. They did it in the other House. Both Republicans and Democrats did it in the