

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 we have to do. They did it in the other House. Both Republicans and Democrats did it in the

other House. But the House Republicans here will not allow it to come to the floor.

That would open the Government immediately. This is what has always been done in the past when there has been a dispute between the President and the Congress. Both Houses pass a continuing resolution to keep the Government open while negotiations are going on. It has always been done.

We have had a series of Republican Presidents and Democratic Congresses. This has never been done for so long a period of time, because a continuing resolution was passed. This is part of a calculated strategy to try to bring the President to his knees and to bring the country to its knees so that they can push through their radical, extreme agenda.

What is this radical, extreme agenda? It is slashing Medicaid, slashing Medicare, harming the environment, slashing education, all to give a tax break for the rich. That to me is a disgrace. A tax break for the rich, but let us hurt the senior citizens of this country. Let us hurt the children of this country. Let us hurt our environment, and let us add taxes on working families to give a tax break to the rich.

That is the extreme Republican agenda. A colleague before said there is a saying, "You can fool some of the people some of the time, but you cannot fool all the people all the time." Well, in the last election, some of the people were fooled some of the time, but when they voted for Republicans they did not know they were voting for this extreme agenda.

The Contract for America did not say hurt senior citizens by cutting their Medicare and cutting their Medicaid and hurting our kids by cutting education and killing the environment. It did not say that. But the hand has been played, and the extreme agenda is here.

Make no mistake about it, we could reopen the Government tomorrow and the American people would not suffer, if the Republicans in this House who are in the majority would vote to reopen the Government, would vote for a continuing resolution.

Now, the reason we need this continuing resolution is because they did not do their job to begin with. They did not pass the budget bills and send them to the President on time. That is why the Government has been shut down. They say well, you know, the President vetoed some of these bills. It is his prerogative as the Chief Executive to veto the bills. This is the way the Constitution says things are supposed to happen. This has always happened in this country. The President vetoes, we come back and try to override the veto or we pass another bill.

But this is part of a calculated plan to push forward an extreme agenda, and it will not work. One has nothing to do with the other. The balanced budget has nothing to do with this Government shutdown. It is two separate issues which the Republicans are linking.

So make no mistake about it, this is not about a balanced budget. This is about shutting the Government down.

I say to my Republican colleagues, please join us in voting for a clean continuing resolution to open the Government once again while negotiations are going on. The only people who are suffering are the American people, and they ought not to suffer anymore.

PRESIDENT RESPONSIBLE FOR GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to address my colleagues tonight on some important issues. First, I would want to take a moment if I could in looking at the perspective of where we are today.

Mr. Speaker, we have to remember on November 20 the President of the United States signed into law legislation which said that he, along with Congress, would in fact balance the budget. Unfortunately, as part of that law, he said that he would in fact do this by the end of the year. Of course, now we are into the new year; the budget has not been balanced.

The President of the United States said during his campaign three major things: I want to change welfare as we know it; I want to balance the budget; and I want tax reform for the middle class.

This House, in a bipartisan fashion, has passed such legislation. It is the President, not the Congress, that has forced the furlough of workers. In fact, the President has in fact not signed into law appropriation bills, 13 of which he received from the House; and when the balanced budget came up, it passed by 351 to 40. The President's budget, which did not balance and in fact was \$265 billion out of budget, in fact that was defeated by a bipartisan 425 to 0.

So I say to the President, we certainly want to have a balanced budget and also to have the workers go back, and we will work with you to make that accomplished in a bipartisan fashion, as this Congress has worked all year.

TRIBUTE TO CLARE LINDGREN WOFFORD, A GREAT AMERICAN

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I want to take a moment for a special person in my district, Clare Lindgren Wofford, who was the wife of our former U.S. Senator, Harris Wofford, from Pennsylvania. Her untimely death occurred today.

She was a great American, a loving wife to former Senator Harris Wofford, dedicated to her husband and family. She was a leader in college education, not only in Pennsylvania but across the country; an outstanding intellect, a noted author. Clare Lindgren Wofford was assistant to the president for de-

velopment at the American College in Bryn Mawr, PA; Director for the Centennial Campaign at Bryn Mawr College. She worked with her husband in partnership for education, to make sure our country was stronger and higher education was supported.

She was also Director of the Katherine Gibbs School in Philadelphia, and Director of International Seminars at the University of Pennsylvania, working in seminars for business executives, where programs involved the Japanese economy, the Chinese economy, and American business. Moreover, she was reaching out to students in internship programs and business.

Clare Lindgren Wofford was as well a former director of the Washington Council of the African-American Institute and previously a political analyst with the U.S. Department of State, and a national champion in original oratory and debate.

She is someone who has also been vice president of the Philadelphia Area Committee for UNICEF, on the board of directors on the World Affairs Council in Philadelphia, and a member of the board of trustees of Temple University in Philadelphia.

Today, we in Pennsylvania and in my district mourn Clare Lindgren Wofford as someone who is a leader in higher education and, along with the American College, the Bryn Mawr College and the residents of our district and in Pennsylvania generally, we mourn the loss of a great friend.

The most fitting tribute, Mr. Speaker, I think to the life of Clare Lindgren Wofford would be to continue to support higher education and the programs she supported, and that would be a fitting living memorial for what contributions she has made to the country.

DEDICATED FEDERAL WORKERS BEING TREATED UNFAIRLY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. BARCIA] is recognized for 3 minutes.

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, the people who are being treated most unfairly in this ridiculous shutdown of Federal agencies are the dedicated workers who are showing up for work day after day without any idea of when they are getting paid.

And to make matters even worse, some of these workers stand to lose well-earned benefits because of the shutdown.

I know that people who work for the Justice Department, including members of the U.S. Marshall's office and the FBI, are at risk of losing earned vacation time. Like other Federal employees, they face a use-it-or-lose-it situation when their accumulated leave exceeds 240 hours per year.

Under current procedures, these employees will lose their excess hours if they are not used by the end of the current pay period. But these people have