

been deemed essential as a result of the shutdown of the Justice Department and have been prohibited from using their accumulate leave time.

While it is true that there are procedures in place for these dedicated Federal servants to apply for extra time to use this excess leave because of extraordinary circumstances, why should these individuals be compelled to make extra effort to keep the benefits they have earned and are being prohibited from using?

I firmly believe that in any future legislation to restore benefits to Federal employees affected by the shutdown, that an automatic extension for the use of this excess leave time should be included. We should not make these Justice Department workers or any similarly affected Federal employees fight to keep what they have earned, and what the budget impasse prevents them from using.

CONGRESS TO BLAME FOR FEDERAL SHUTDOWN

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

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, if we do nothing else, it is our constitutional duty as Members of the U.S. Congress to pass the appropriation bills. Yet it is January 4, and we have only passed 7 of the 13 appropriation bills that are necessary to fund the Federal Government. No one is to blame except Congress; to exact, the extreme Republican Members of the House.

It is hard to me to believe that Republicans want to recess until January 23. If you ask my opinion, they have been in recess since the beginning of the 104th Congress, because in the Constitution we must pass the appropriation bills, and not in the Republicans' contract.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I yield to the distinguished gentlewoman from Connecticut [Ms. DELAURO].

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I will be very, very brief, because I do not want to interrupt the gentlewoman's remarks. But our Republican colleague, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. FOX], who was here earlier, talked about a November 19 agreement, a continuing resolution that was in fact signed by the President and by the Speaker of the House. There were two parties to the agreement.

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And the issue was to talk about a balanced budget in 7 years; but, also, part of that agreement was to reinforce the priorities and values of this Nation that include Medicare, Medicaid, education, the environment, and tax reform for working middle-class families.

I dare say that the President has kept his part of the bargain. It is our Republican colleagues and Republican leadership in this House who have

failed to move on any reduction in their cuts to Medicare and Medicaid, education, or the environment, or to remove their tax break package, which is \$245 billion, to the wealthiest Americans.

When we talk about that agreement, we need to talk about both sides who signed and discussed that agreement. And I thank my colleague for yielding to me.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the gentlewoman one question. Will you clear up for the American people the question as far as the balanced budget? They keep talking about the balanced budget. Yes; we want to balance the budget, but it is a question of priorities, shared sacrifices. What are some of the other factors?

Ms. DELAURO. Well, the issue is, and my colleague is right, there is not a Member of this House who does not want to see the Congress, House and the Senate, and the President put our fiscal house in order. Everyone wants to move in that direction. The question is, as you pointed out so well, the priorities in dealing with this budget, how one gets to a balanced budget.

Now, if we want to talk about \$245 billion in a tax break for the wealthiest Americans, provide them with that, and at the same time we want to cut \$270 billion in Medicare, we want to cut \$163 billion in Medicaid, we want to cut education programs, and the environment, and increase taxes for working middle-class families, then our priorities are wrong in terms of balancing that budget. Take that tax break package off of the table and then let us talk about balancing the budget.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. If the gentlewoman would stay with me, I would ask her, does she think this sounds a little like voodoo economics again?

Ms. DELAURO. It is really a shell game and politics at its worst in this body. The linking of the shutdown of the Government to the balanced budget, as I said, is the worst of politics because we cannot continue the budget negotiations or talk about what the American public wants to talk about in terms of Medicare and Medicaid.

We do not have to keep this Government shut down. This is holding the American public hostage and workers hostage, and it is wrong, and I believe that the public is beginning to understand what is going on. The American public said to the President of the United States, veto this budget that cuts Medicare, Medicaid, and pays for a tax break for the wealthy. Sixty percent encouraged the President to veto this budget.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Well, I have heard three times today that you can fool some of the people some of the time. The American people need to let the Republicans know that they are not being fooled by this talk about balancing the budget while we do reverse Robin Hood, where we are robbing from the working people and poor people to give a tax break to people who do not

need it, do not want it, and do not deserve it.

Ms. DELAURO. The gentlewoman from Florida is absolutely right. I applaud the work she has done on the floor of this House in order to try to bring out precisely what is going on here. Sometimes it is difficult to get the word out and to really have people understand what kind of a shell game is being played on them.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman.

PRESIDENT CLINTON HAS SHRUNK GOVERNMENT AND REDUCED THE DEFICIT

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, Members of the House, we are in a bad situation. We are in a situation that the majority leader of the U.S. Senate, a Republican, I am a Democrat, said I do not see any sense in what we have been doing. That is the Republican leader who said I do not see any sense in what we have been doing.

We are in a bad state. I am a supporter of the constitutional amendment to balance the budget. I was a supporter of the 7-year CBO-scored real balanced budget known as the coalition budget. I believe that we ought to have a balanced budget by the year 2002.

Why are we here? I came to Congress in 1981, and that is when it started, frankly. Under Ronald Reagan. Ronald Reagan had a Democratic House and a Republican Senate for three-quarters of his term, 6 years out of the 8, and during that period of time he quadrupled the national debt. Why do I say he did it? Well, we both did it, the Congress did it and the President did it.

In point of fact, Ronald Reagan asked for more spending than the Congress gave him. Hear that. Ronald Reagan asked for more spending than the Congress gave him. And, in fact, when he submitted his budgets, he built in large deficits. He projected them. George Bush did the same thing. So, collectively, we ran up a debt of over \$4 trillion, now about \$4.8 trillion.

Now, that is a serious matter, which is why I am for an amendment and why I want to see us balance the budget. But contrary to those who would say it is a crisis requiring the most drastic unsensible steps, this country has been in debt far above what we are in debt now, just after the Second World War, as it relates to our gross domestic product. That is the money we have to pay the debt.

This President, President Bill Clinton, took office and knew we had a problem. He put a bill on this floor in 1993, a tough bill, and for the first time since 1948, that economic program resulted in reducing the deficit each year in the 3 years that President Clinton has been President, unlike Ronald Reagan and unlike George Bush. The

deficit has fallen during each of those years, from \$290 billion, when he took over, to \$255 billion, then to \$203 billion, and now to \$164 billion.

What is my point? My point is, we have not gotten there yet, but, boy, are we going in the right direction. That deficit is going down. So this is not a crisis where we see that we are out of control and we have not addressed the problem. Do we need to do more? Yes, we do and I am supporting that we do more.

The fact of the matter is some said we had to get Government under control and shrink its size. President Bill Clinton proposed that we do just that. In 3 years we have reduced the Federal level of employment by 185,000 people, smaller than under either President Reagan or President Bush.

We are going in the right direction. But in 1994, we had some revolutionaries win an election. What do revolutionaries want to do? They want to overthrow governments. In fact, Speaker GINGRICH said in June he was going to close down, shut down the Government, and that, in fact, is what he has done.

BOB DOLE said I do not see any sense in what we have been doing. Amen. BOB DOLE was right. So he passed a CR over to us, unanimously. Not partisan bickering or rancoring. They knew closing down the Government to accomplish a balanced budget did not make any sense. Why? Because they are not related. In fact, shutting down the Government exacerbates, makes worse, the debt.

LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL RISKING THEIR LIVES WITHOUT BEING PAID

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

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, it is very rare that I get on the floor to address an issue, but tonight I felt that it was important for me to do such a thing for two reasons.

I found out this afternoon that along the Mexican border, the Arizona border, that we have Border Patrol agents and other law enforcement personnel who are out there enforcing the laws of this country and they are doing it and will do it without pay.

There is a case in which it is a couple, man and wife, with children, who are employees of the Border Patrol out there on the desert, protecting this country from criminal activities, apprehending people who went across the border illegally, and yet this couple finds themselves today and tomorrow that they may not have the money to pay their mortgage or to pay their bills.

At the veterans hospital in Phoenix, AZ, we have employees going to food banks in order that they can feed their children and their families. I agree, and very rarely do I agree with BOB DOLE, but enough is enough.

As the previous speaker told us, the plan to hold the Government hostage, I think, is now reversing itself and it is causing the Republican majority, who has the obligation to govern, to now scramble and pass a CR that will pay for minimum services of the Federal Government.

And the rallying cry is going to be that we cannot trust the President of the United States, President Clinton. The Republicans are going to say that he is not negotiating in good faith. He vetoed a budget that was given to him, that was passed by this House and the Senate, and he said why he vetoed it. He did not want to give a big tax break on the backs of children, students, elderly, et cetera. And for the past 40 hours, he has been and his aides have been in serious negotiation with the leadership of the Senate and the House. He will continue to do that.

What has happened is that the Republicans have held Government employees, the U.S. Government, as hostage in trying to get the President to agree to a balanced budget that he has vetoed, and told them why, and he is negotiating in good faith. But because the American people, in loud cries, are saying enough is enough, they are agreeing with the majority leader in the Senate that enough is enough; that tonight, and probably tomorrow morning, there will be resolutions before this House that will try to bring Federal employees in certain areas back to work.

What we should do is pass a clean continuing resolution, bring back the Government employees in order that all Americans get the services they deserve and the President and the leadership of the House and the Senate can continue to negotiate on what should be a proper balanced budget.

Enough is enough. We have people risking their lives enforcing the laws of this country, and yet they are not getting their proper pay and they are endangering their family, not being able to provide for mortgage payments, for food, et cetera. This is being caused by a Republican majority who told us that their main principle, or one of their main principles is upholding family values.

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Let us protect these families, and send them back to work.

COMPROMISE AND DISCUSSION WILL LEAD TO BALANCED BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield to my colleague, the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. HOYER].

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding. As I was

saying before my time expired, Cynthia Snyder is a Republican. But that is not her major activity. She is a member of the board of directors of United We Stand. United We Stand, of course, is the organization that Ross Perot founded. He raised the budget issue to central concern of this country. I think he performed a service in doing so.

Cynthia Snyder is a concerned citizen in my district. Yes, she is a Republican, and she is with United We Stand. But let me read one paragraph of the letter she sent to the gentleman from Louisiana [Mr. LIVINGSTON], not to me, but she sent me a copy of it.

She said,

Why can't Congress get on with their statutory and constitutional mandates to fund the government, instead of holding government employees and the public hostage to their own 7-year budget proposals? Most of us know we must curtail spending and many of us worked hard to elect deficit hawks, but does adding millions per day to the deficit by keeping the government shut down help in any way do that?

She concludes, as I said, by saying,

Besides, I am a Republican, and you are hurting Republican chances of election to high offices by your amateurish behavior.

BOB DOLE, the majority leader, leading candidate for President of the United States in the Republican Party, said that what we are doing does not make sense. He said as previous speakers said, "Enough is enough."

I represent 56,000 Federal employees. They are not responsible for incurring the deficit, and they do not have the power to sit in this body to reduce the deficit. What they try to do is carry out the responsibilities given to them by the executive and legislative branches of Government.

Mr. Speaker, we have held them hostage. We have put families at risk. We have shut down portions of Government, stamped our feet and said, "Mr. President, if you do not do it our way, we will do it no way." Mr. Speaker, that has never before happened in history. Not since 1789 to 1994 has any group with the power to do so, but with the responsibility not to, shut down the Government for 20 days.

Have we had shutdowns before? Yes, but not until 1981, 1982, and then it was for hours, then a half a day, then 1 day over the Columbus Day holiday, the 3-day weekend. But what happened? President Reagan was President and President Bush was President during one or more of those shutdowns. There was a Democratic Congress. When the President would not agree with what we wanted, the Democratic Congress accommodated the President, because that is the constitutional system. If we cannot override a veto, we either need to compromise or not take the action. That is what our Framers contemplated. That is the appropriate way to operate a democracy.

Speaker GINGRICH said earlier this year, "I will cooperate, but I will not