

Education and Social Services appropriations bill, a huge share of the Federal Government.

All of those programs at this point are in limbo because we still have not had resolutions worked out between the House and the Senate. So it seems to me that there is a high degree of congressional culpability for the fact that this Government is not operating under regular appropriations bills; and it also seems to me that it comes with considerable ill grace to blame the President for the fact that he has not even been able to consider whether to veto bills, because three of them have not gotten to him yet.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. Speaker, continuing to reserve my right to object, I think it is clear that one of the reasons this temporary spending bill is being brought to the floor is to avoid any debate over no budget, no pay, to make sure that this House does not go on record on the proposition as to whether or not Members of Congress will continue to take recesses and vacations, will continue to receive paychecks while this group of Republicans decides that 280,000 Federal employees will be furloughed and hundreds of thousands of innocent people will be penalized by the strategy. That is part of the strategy behind this temporary spending bill.

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

Mr. DURBIN. I yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. WALSH. I would just remind my colleague that the reason that those employees are not at work is because the President vetoed those appropriations bills—

Mr. DURBIN. Reclaiming my time, the gentleman—

Mr. WALSH. And we just had an opportunity to override that veto, and we did not get it done.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. Speaker, regular order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is correct. The gentleman from Illinois controls the time under his reservation.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, regular order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia demands the regular order. Is there objection?

Mr. DURBIN. Can I continue my reservation?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia has demanded the regular order. The gentleman will have to choose the regular order. The gentleman will have to choose whether or not to object at this time.

Mr. DURBIN. If the gentleman will withdraw his regular order request, I promise to conclude my remarks momentarily.

Mr. KINGSTON. I will withdraw, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve my right to object.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield, I would say to

my friend and fellow committee member, we have all worked very hard on this committee to try to get the District of Columbia back to work and get the appropriations bill passed and so forth. Unfortunately, it is one of the bills that is getting caught in this massive debate over the size and scope of Government over the next 7 years.

I think, as the gentleman knows well and certainly the ranking Committee on Appropriations member knows well, that the chairman has worked very hard on that process and will continue to do so. What we are trying to do now is at the request of the District of Columbia folks to let them continue to work.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. Speaker, continuing to reserve, I would like to ask the gentleman from New York one final question: Why are we passing this temporary spending bill for the District of Columbia?

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

Mr. DURBIN. I yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, the delegate from the District of Columbia has asked us to try to get the people back to work. This is their money, it is not ours, and that is the reason. It is a very narrow CR that affects only their money, no Federal money.

Mr. DURBIN. I would just say to the gentleman from New York, I hope he will remember those words when the next D.C. appropriations bill comes up, because the gentleman has taken a position in the past that this Congress has some responsibility even over the local funds of the District of Columbia, and now he is saying that we should let them have their own money with no strings attached. I think that may not be consistent with the gentleman's overall position.

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

Mr. DURBIN. I yield to the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, first of all, I want to commend the gentleman's dialog. I think the gentleman has made an important connection here between the point of suspending the pay of the Members while we are suspending the pay of other people.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, regular order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia has renewed his request for regular order. Does the gentleman from Illinois object?

Mr. DURBIN. I object, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Objection is heard.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SPEAKER TO DECLARE RECESSES SUBJECT TO THE CALL OF THE CHAIR AND WAIVING REQUIREMENTS OF CLAUSE 4(b) OF RULE XI WITH RESPECT TO CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON RULES

Ms. PRYCE, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privilege report (Rept. No. 104-445) on the resolution (H. Res. 330) authorizing the Speaker to declare recesses subject to the call of the Chair from January 5, 1996, through January 23, 1996; waiving a requirement of clause 4(b) of rules XI with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules during that period, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was unable to be present for a number of rollcall votes at the end of last session. I was paired for several of the votes, but on other votes I would have voted as follows: Rollcall 871, "no." Rollcall 872, "no." Rollcall 873, "yes." Rollcall 874, "yes." Rollcall 875, "no." Rollcall 878, "no." Rollcall 879, "no." Rollcall 880, "no." Rollcall 881, "no." Rollcall 883, "no." Rollcall 884, "no."

EXTENSION OF MOST-FAVORED-NATION TREATMENT TO PRODUCTS OF BULGARIA

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 1643) to authorize the extension of nondiscriminatory treatment (most-favored-nation treatment) to the products of Bulgaria in order to permit the immediate consideration in the House of the Senate amendment to the House amendment that is the Dole appropriation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the guidelines consistently issued by successive Speakers as recorded on page 534 of the House Rules Manual, the Chair is constrained not to entertain the gentleman's request until it has been cleared by the bipartisan floor and committee leaderships.

SUSPENDING PAY OF MEMBERS OF CONGRESS DURING GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on House Oversight be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 2658), a bill which would suspend pay of Members of Congress during this Government shutdown and thereby force us to play by the same rules as the rest of the Federal Government, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the guidelines consistently issued by

successive Speakers as recorded on page 534 of the House Rules Manual, the Chair is constrained not to entertain the gentleman's request until it has been cleared by the bipartisan floor and committee leaderships.

□ 1800

PURE LUNACY

(Mr. VOLKMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, we have heard all day today about the Members on the other side trying to blame the President for the shutdown when we all know that only in the House can appropriation bills be instituted. All they have to do is bring a clean continuing resolution, we pass it, and everybody goes back to work.

It is really silly, I would say it is lunacy that today we tell Federal workers that they can work but not be paid, while at the same time here in this House we are getting paid and we are not working. We have not really done anything today.

Look at the legislation that was passed. Unanimous consent on a little agriculture bill which we needed, but that is all. What did we do? What are we going to do tomorrow? Nothing. What are we going to do the next day? We are going to recess, we are going to recess until the 23d, almost the whole month, not do anything, get paid, while the Federal workers out there, the Republican majority tells them, "You go ahead and work but you won't get paid."

It is pure lunacy. What is lunacy? It is insanity, great or wild foolishness.

You never saw anything foolish like this in the history of this Congress.

A SAD DAY

(Mr. MICA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, this is an interesting turn of events today. We have had opportunity to put Federal employees back to work. This House met its constitutional responsibility and in fact did vote, and twice the other side of the aisle has now voted down measures that would put our Federal civil servants back to work.

Now we had another opportunity here to get some relief for the District and other Federal employees, and that was objected to by the other side. We have given the President of the United States a balanced budget, we gave him a CR and 30 days to come back with a plan, and we have met in good faith.

We need trust, we need working together. We do not need this obstructionism from the other side of the aisle. We need to come together, get these problems resolved. It is a sad day for the country and a sad day for the Congress that in fact we could not have

taken care of the people's business and the Federal employees' business today with simple action by the House of Representatives and working together.

SHUTDOWN AFFECTS INNOCENT FEDERAL WORKERS

(Mr. MORAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, during 1987 when we had a Republican President and a Democratic Congress that could not agree, what we did was to respond to the President's request to have a continuing resolution throughout the year. Again in 1988 we had the same inability to agree, and we had a continuing resolution throughout the year.

This is the normal course of business. That is what the majority leader in the Senate has attempted to do. He said yesterday this does not make any sense. Whatever point there was, I do not know what the point was, but it has not been made.

The fact is that what we are doing is punishing Federal employees, and that is the point we want to make. The Congress is not punishing the President, it is not punishing ourselves. We are punishing innocent Federal employees, public civil servants. These people are innocent.

Politics is the art of compromise. It is not the tactics of terrorism. Terrorists take hostages, innocent hostages for purposes beyond anything to do with the hostages. This has got to stop.

FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 1996

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I again offer a joint resolution (H.J. Res. 153) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 1996, and for other purposes, and ask unanimous consent that it be considered as passed and that a motion to reconsider be laid on the table.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WALKER). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, and I will say to the gentleman from New York, I will not object, but I want to under my reservation say that my frustration over being held back from offering the no-budget/no-pay provision led me to object earlier.

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

Mr. DURBIN. Further reserving the right to object, I yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. WALSH. My good friend from Illinois objected to this, which would have stopped the District government from going back to work tomorrow. I

hope he regrets that decision. Does the gentleman regret that decision?

Mr. DURBIN. Let me say this to the gentleman from New York. I will not object because I will not allow myself—

Mr. WALSH. Do the gentleman regret the decision that he made?

Mr. DURBIN. Regular order, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Illinois controls the time under his reservation.

Mr. DURBIN. I will not object because I will not descend to the level that you have inflicted on 280,000 other Federal workers across this country.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I trust that no one at this point will object, and I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

The text of the joint resolution is as follows:

H.J. RES 153

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled. That the following sums are hereby appropriated, out of the general fund and enterprise funds of the District of Columbia for the District of Columbia for the fiscal year 1996, and for other purposes, namely:

SEC. 101. (a) Such amounts as may be necessary under the authority and conditions provided in the applicable appropriations Act for the fiscal year 1995 for continuing projects or activities including the costs of direct loans and loan guarantees (not otherwise specifically provided for in this title of this joint resolution) which were conducted in the fiscal year 1995 and for which appropriations, funds, or other authority would be available in the following appropriations Act:

The District of Columbia Appropriations Act, 1996:

Provided, That whenever the amount which would be made available or the authority which would be granted in this Act is greater than that which would be available or granted under current operations, the pertinent project or activity shall be continued at a rate for operations not exceeding the current rate.

(b) Whenever the amount which would be made available or the authority which would be granted under the Act listed in this section as passed by the House as of the date of enactment of this joint resolution, is different from that which would be available or granted under such Act as passed by the Senate as of the date of enactment of this joint resolution, the pertinent project or activity shall be continued at a rate for operations not exceeding the current rate or the rate permitted by the action of the House or the Senate, whichever is lower, under the authority and conditions provided in the applicable appropriations Act for the fiscal year 1995: *Provided*, That where an item is not included in either version or where an item is included in only one version of the Act as passed by both Houses as of the date of enactment of this joint resolution, the pertinent project or activity shall not be continued except as provided for in section 111 or