

them to come together. But if we could find the parties in the former Yugoslavia that could come together and put a peace together, why can we not get an agreement to get this body going?

Why are we talking about shutting down the Government because we cannot do the budget this year, and basically the reason is they say it is because they are arguing over numbers for 7 years from now, which in all honesty none of us can bind people to 7 years from now. We ought to be held accountable for this year. I think we will be held accountable for this year by the voters. I think they are getting very tired of this.

Every time the President looks up, they are shooting at his feet and asking him to tap dance a little more. You put out one thing, he meets it. You put out another thing, he meets it. You put out another thing, he meets it. Finally, you begin to say, This must not be for real. Fifty-plus hours? Criteria after criteria met? And every time you do it, someone says, Oh, well, one more thing before we think this is really real.

Now, I honestly think that if anyone thinks this is new, they are wrong. I have been here for 23 years, and we have had all sorts of disagreements between this body and between the person down at the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue. We have had Republican presidents and Democratic Congresses and all sorts of different combinations in between and all sorts of polarizing incidents. But we have never let it get to this level, never.

This is one of the great things we pride ourselves in America on, is pragmatism. At the end of the day we can all say, OK, we didn't get 100 percent of what we wanted, but we moved the debate in a certain direction, and we will come back and fight again tomorrow. But we do not stop everything, and we do not default on the debt, and we do not throw ourselves on the floor and have tantrums.

So I really hope that all of us, on both sides of the aisle, give full attention tonight to this State of the Union, to this President, our only President of this great Nation, who is out here trying to chart a course to get us out of this century and into the next.

Mr. Speaker, I think the citizens deserve much better than what they got in the first half of this Congress. Let us clean up our act tonight and let us start tonight for this second Congress.

REMEMBERING PRIOR STATE OF THE UNION MESSAGE STATEMENTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Arizona [Mr. HAYWORTH] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Colorado for sharing her views here, and I think she does point up something upon which we

can all agree, and that is that fundamental to debate in a free society is the notion of disagreement, and it is the mission of all of us to achieve consensus. But the question comes, at what price?

Mr. Speaker, I bring you greetings from Arizona, the Grand Canyon State. I am here, Mr. Speaker, to use this time to address what is not a credibility gap, but instead a credibility canyon. Indeed, all members of the new majority, as well as members of the minority, welcome the President of the United States to this Chamber tonight, where he will stand at this podium and deliver his State of the Union Message.

To quote one pundit in this town, he said, "Heretofore most State of the Union Addresses by most chief executives have been forgivable." Well, at the danger of incurring the wrath of that pundit, Mr. Speaker, let us remember, let us remember the words of our President in his previous State of the Union Messages.

First dealing with the budget. Quoting now from his 1993 address:

The plan substantially reduces the Federal deficit honestly and credibly by using in the beginning the most conservative estimates of Government revenues, not as the executive branch has done so often in the past using the most optimistic ones.

Again from 1993:

This budget plan, by contrast, will by 1997 cut \$140 billion in that year alone from the deficit, a real spending cut, a real revenue increase, a real deficit reduction, using the independent numbers of the Congressional Budget Office.

Yet throughout last year, throughout 1995, President Clinton submitted to this body budget after budget after budget, but refused to use those objective numbers of the Congressional Budget Office. It was not until this new majority ultimately persuaded him to submit a CBO-scored budget to end the recent shutdown that he lived up to the above statements.

Most astonishingly, Mr. Speaker, from last year, quoting now the President of the United States who stood at this podium. "I certainly want to balance the budget."

Yet the fact remains, Mr. Speaker, as reflected in the record of this institution and through reports of the news media, President Clinton vetoed the first balanced budget submitted by the Congress in a quarter of a century.

Then to the topic of welfare reform. Quoting again from 1993's address:

Later this year, we will offer a plan to end welfare as we know it. I want to offer the people on welfare the education, the training, the child care, the healthcare they need to get back on their feet. But, say after 2 years, they must get back to work.

Then from 1994:

So we must also revolutionize our welfare system. We will say to teenagers, if you have a child out of wedlock, we will no longer give you a check to set up a separate household. We want families to stay together. We will provide the support, the job training, the child care you need, for up to 2 years. But after that anyone who can work, must.

Then from last year:

Nothing has done more to undermine our sense of common responsibility than our failed welfare system. Let this be the year to end welfare as we know it.

Mr. Speaker, despite the fact that the President year after year has come to this House and addressed from this podium his willingness to end welfare as we know it, he did not support the welfare reform bill that had broad bipartisan support. Instead, he vetoed the welfare bill that Congress sent him.

Again from 1993:

This plan will give this country the toughest child support enforcement system it has ever had.

From 1994:

If we value responsibility, we cannot ignore the \$34 billion in child support absent parents ought to be paying to millions of parents who are taking care of their children.

Then from 1995:

If the parent is not paying child support, they should be forced to pay. We should suspend drivers licenses, track them across State lines.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the welfare reform bill that President Clinton vetoed would have required States to create a central case registry to track the status of all child support orders. The bill also gave the States the authority to suspend drivers, professional, occupational and recreational licenses of anyone whose child support payments are in arrears, all the things the President said he wanted to do last year.

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Mr. Speaker, I understand my time is short. The record is replete. Words mean something. Actions speak louder than words. Mr. President, keep your promises, join with the new majority, and let us help govern this Nation.

REPUBLICAN REVOLUTION IS PARALYZING THE NATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentlewoman from North Carolina [Mrs. CLAYTON] is recognized during morning business for 3 minutes.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, it is said one can tell one who wants to move on by those who argue last year's argument. My last colleague who spoke is regurgitating for us the arguments they will not let go.

Mr. Speaker, the Republicans demanded a 7-year budget. The President has given them a 7-year budget. The Republicans demanded that any budget plan that is adopted be approved by the Congressional Budget Office using their numbers. Again, the President has agreed to that. The Republicans further insisted that there be a large tax cut as a part of their budget plan. Again, the President has offered a smaller tax cut but for working families.

Mr. Speaker, the President has gone a considerable distance to meet the demands of the Republican Party, and

yet they continue those same arguments. We just heard the litany go on. What is their argument, then, if he has done those essential things that they say they wanted?

Why not move on, as one of my colleagues suggested, to the farm bill? I can tell my colleagues that farmers in my State are uncertain as to what their future will hold. Democrats are simply insisting that the budget we pass hold fast to the principle that made this Nation strong; principles that Republicans and Democrats should indeed support. Democrats want to safeguard health care for seniors, for children, for poor families; to promote education for our future and to protect our environment.

Here we are again almost facing yet a third shutdown and threatening to default on our Nation's liability and debt; that we will not honor our obligation. What kind of governance is that? Is that being responsible?

Yes, we have made progress in the last few years. Unemployment is down, interest is indeed low, and inflation is stabilized. That is progress we all, Republicans and Democrats, should want to protect. Progress like that, however, will stop and our economy will suffer if we do not work together. Both Democrats and Republicans must come and work together to prevent a national default on our obligations.

I can tell my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, this Republican revolution is paralyzing this Nation and it will do great damage to this economy. It is now time for cool heads and rational minds and thoughtful persons to come together, to join together and revive what is important to Americans in this Nation.

NAFTA AND SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. GOSS] is recognized during morning business for 3 minutes.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, January first marked the 2-year anniversary of NAFTA. As we begin the third year of tariff reductions and opening markets under this accord, it is appropriate to take a moment to assess our progress—so far reports show NAFTA has been a mixed bag: Mostly the news is positive; however, there are some serious problem areas that clearly need attention. In Florida, we are particularly concerned about the negative impact that import surges of tomatoes and other winter fruit and vegetables are having on southwest Florida's growers, the packing houses and the workers in these industries. This is a bi-partisan concern—and I am pleased that Senator BOB GRAHAM is working this issue in the Senate. On November 16, 1993, the President wrote a letter to the members of the Florida delegation, assuring us that he was committed to taking the necessary steps to ensure that the trade representative and the ITC would take prompt and effective

action to protect the United States vegetable industry against price-based import surges from Mexico. Now is the time for him to take that action because, unfortunately, it seems that the safeguards in NAFTA and the implementing language—the volume-based snapback provision, the automatic price monitoring and the expedited import relief procedures—have not lived up to our hopes. They are not working properly. I am currently drafting legislation calling on the President to live up to the promise he made and to protect our growers from potentially unfair Mexican trading practices. In the meantime, my colleagues in the Florida delegation and I will continue to work in a bipartisan, bicameral fashion to address the urgent needs of the Florida fruit and vegetable industries. To their credit the Department of Agriculture has been very forthcoming and willing to work with the Florida delegation and our growers.

Unfortunately, I have to say that the USTR could be more helpful. Of course, the administration and its officers can't fix all of the problems, some of that is our responsibility in Congress. In response to the very real needs of the tomato and fruit and vegetable industries in Florida, a series of bills have been introduced to address definitional problems faced by our growers when they attempted to seek relief through the section 202 process, to address the differences in enforced packing requirements between Mexican and domestic growers, and to create national country of origin labeling to allow consumers to make more informed decisions when they make their individual purchasing choices at the market. An invitation has been issued for U.S. Trade Representative Ambassador Kantor and Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman to brief Florida delegation members on the tomato and winter fruit and vegetable situation. I understand this meeting will take place tomorrow and I hope it will bring progress we need and look for. This is a critical issue for Florida and an important one for the Nation.

I think it is also a very critical one in terms of living up to the promises that have been made.

Those of us who felt NAFTA would be good for the United States of America want to be certain that we correct the sore spots that are there, if they are correctable. If not, we will have to excise those sore spots with legislation. In any event, once we see those sore spots, the time is now to move, and we have seen them and we must move.

WEST VIRGINIA DIGGING OUT FROM RECORD FLOOD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from West Virginia [Mr. WISE] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, today West Virginia is digging out from a record

flood, just like your State of Pennsylvania, and like other areas of the mid-Atlantic. I want to report to Congress today on our efforts and to ask for assistance.

Mr. Speaker, this was a true bicoastal flood for our State, going from the Ohio River all the way to the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers, from border to border of our State. The Governor, during the weekend, declared 29 of our 55 counties in a state of emergency. Thousands have been driven from their homes or had their homes and jobs threatened. Water systems have been damaged, sewer systems have been compromised. Businesses in some cases have been wiped out, others will take a while to resume. Highways in some cases have been washed out.

From Friday night, beginning Friday night in the basement of the State capital and the State Office of Emergency Services office, I have tried to monitor and follow this flood as closely as possible. From Friday night, with the State OES personnel, to traveling with the Governor on Saturday to our hardest hit central West Virginia counties, to going Sunday night to Mason County to watch the Ohio River as it began its relentless rise, and then yesterday back across the State to Jefferson County where I watched the swollen Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers as they began to recede, I can testify about how awesome and how devastating this flood has been for many of our people.

Today and yesterday our staff has been fanning out across the hardest hit counties trying to bring immediate word about where people can get assistance and to assist in assessing the damage.

Mr. Speaker, in the face of this devastation, of course, we also see incredible acts of human spirit, and I just cannot speak highly enough or applaud loudly enough nor respect enough those thousands of volunteers across our State at every level: The hundreds of National Guard that were mobilized and responded. We do not know what it means, in a county that is still watching the flood waters recede, to see those National Guard uniforms come rolling in on those trucks bringing the promise of help.

The emergency service personnel at every level in the county and the State, the Red Cross, the sheriff and police departments, the highway department staffs, the Corps of Engineers, who control the many dams that prevented the damage from being far worse. All of them working long hours, Mr. Speaker. Long hours, of course, that did not start just with this flood, but started with the blizzard that began over 10 days before. Then the flood came and many of those volunteers and personnel are still working. Many individual acts of people rebuilding immediately their lives.

One question I have received, Mr. Speaker, time after time as I made my trip back across the flood-stricken