

the President vetoed the defense authorization bill is because we say in that bill, we shall defend America against ICBM's and have that system in place by the year 2003. The President refuses to defend this country while Iraq, Libya, China, and others hurry up and accelerate their programs on offensive missiles.

Defend America. Vote to override the President's veto today.

AMERICAN TAXPAYERS ARE BEING CHEATED

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

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, it appears that self-styled Republican revolutionaries believe that the end justifies the means. Somehow they have this notion that these Federal workers are the President's Federal workers, or they are the Democrats' Federal workers. Sorry, fellows. They are the taxpayers' Federal workers, and the taxpayers are being cheated because of your shut-down.

They are being cheated because small businesses cannot get their loans processed through the SBA. They are being cheated because small businesses cannot bid on contracts because the contract offices are closed. They are being cheated because toxic waste cleanup is not proceeding. They are being cheated because student loan applications are not being processed. They are being cheated because FHA home mortgage applications are not being processed.

And then they go on and abuse the Federal workers: No checks for the Federal workers. That means no mortgage payments, no utility payments, and, sometimes, no food on the table.

There is one thing wrong with these self-styled revolutionaries. Someone told them that the end justifies the means, and they do not care who they hurt.

In this case, they hurt the taxpayer and they hurt our Federal workers, and that is a shame, Mr. Speaker.

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REPUBLICANS HAVE MET BALANCED BUDGET CHALLENGE

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

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, I remember, and I think the American people remember, that last year when we Republicans tried to pass a balanced budget amendment, we were defeated because the Democrats claimed, "Oh, my goodness, you don't need a balanced budget amendment, you don't need to amend the Constitution, just present a balanced budget. Why do you have to amend the Constitution?"

OK, we met the challenge. The Republicans came up with a balanced

budget. And the very same Democrats who voted against the balanced budget amendment to the Constitution, claiming we should just do it here legislatively, are now opposing our balanced budget.

For 4 years we have heard this President claim to be a new Democrat. In fact, 4 years ago he was running on a campaign motto of being someone who was going to end welfare as we know it and would balance the budget. Now, after 4 years of rhetoric, we have come to where he cannot dodge anymore.

The fact is we have laid upon the table a balanced budget. He claims to have been in favor of the balanced budget. I hope the American people remember that, too. But when the Republicans lay their alternative out, the President refuses to lay out his alternative, and that is the reason the Government is shut down today.

DEMAND FOR A CONTINUING RESOLUTION

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, first let me offer my deepest sympathy to the Fazio family and offer our love.

A tragedy occurred today in this House, however. One Nation under God, indivisible, and with liberty and justice for all, we stood and pledged allegiance to the U.S. flag. This is supposed to be a nation that protects working Americans, working people.

But yesterday in my community a Government worker performing essential services in the veterans hospital received for her 80 hours of work a \$5 salary check. That is right, Mr. Speaker, \$5 for 80 hours of work, a working parent with children, trying to survive, and yet she is there nurturing our veterans of war without getting compensated.

The Republicans refuse to put on the floor today a continuing resolution to open the doors of Government and pay these workers to provide the services that the taxpayers of America have asked them to provide. That is all we request, Mr. Speaker, and I demand that we put on this floor a continuing resolution to open this Government today. It is a disgrace on this House's ability to govern. Pass the Dole proposal to open this Government now.

SUNDRY MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Sundry messages in writing from the President of the United States were communicated to the House by Mr. Edwin Thomas, one of his secretaries.

AMERICA NEEDS A BALANCED BUDGET

(Mr. ROYCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I just want to take a minute, as we commence the second session of the 104th Congress, to focus on the necessity of reaching the goal of a balanced Federal budget.

Four years from now we will enter upon the third millennium and the 225th year of our Nation and, ironically, although the American revolution was mostly about taxes, an American child born today will inherit a tax bill of \$186,000 just to cover his or her share of the interest on the national debt. That is the direct per capita cost of financing \$5 trillion. That is not the cost of paying it off. That is that child's cost in taxes during his or her lifetime.

That is not the only cost of this enormous debt. That same child born today will have to pay higher monthly mortgage payments, higher car payments, higher college loan payments, all because of a \$5 trillion debt. That is because the Federal Government will be sopping up over half of the available credit in the markets as it continually refinances the debt, causing interest rates to remain arbitrarily high.

GO DOWN, MR. PRESIDENT, WAY DOWN TO CONGRESSLAND

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

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, day 19—and the U.S. Government is still closed, held captive. Forty million dollars a day—down the drain, wasted—almost \$800 million. All this the Republicans say, in the name of fiscal conservatism. More than a quarter of a million Government employees at home, waiting to work and wanting to work. Still thousands of others on the job, not getting paid.

The Ayatollahs of the right continue to hold the U.S. Government hostage to their radical demands. Do it our way they say—cut Medicare, gut Medicaid, slash education and student loans, attack our environment—or we will keep the Government shut.

People unable to pay their mortgages, their car loans, their children's education bills, Government contractors unable to work, business people unable to get passports to conduct business abroad. None of this matters to the mullahs of the Republican right. They are not affected, they are constitutional officers, not Government employees.

So I say here today, go down, Mr. President, way down to congressland, tell NEWT GINGRICH to let our Government go. The American people will not give in to Republican blackmail and hostage taking.

REPUBLICANS WILL BALANCE THE BUDGET

(Mr. COX of California asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COX of California. Mr. Speaker, as our colleagues know, we have done our job here. We did it last summer. We passed all our appropriations bills.

The truth is that the President has now vetoed appropriations bills that would keep our parks open, appropriations bills that would keep our prisons and the guards paid. We passed not only a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution, by a two-thirds vote here, which would have kicked in in 7 years, but failing the one vote necessary to get a two-thirds margin for a constitutional amendment in the Senate, we, the House and Senate together, passed the Balanced Budget Act to balance the budget in 7 years, and the President has vetoed that.

Then we passed a resolution that the President signed that said you, Mr. President, will come up with a balanced budget, scored by the CBO, in 7 years, and he has not done that.

There is a good reason that now we have this seeming impasse. It is that the President has not done his job. We will continue to do ours and we will balance the budget.

REPUBLICANS HOLDING GOVERNMENT HOSTAGE

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, when I was home in New Jersey the last week and in my district office, I received many calls on a regular basis from Government employees, some of whom were almost in tears because they have not been able to pay their rent, pay their mortgage, creditors are calling upon them, and there really was not a great deal we could do.

I naively expected when I came here today that because the Senate had moved a continuing resolution that would reopen the Government, and because the President supported it, that we would take that continuing resolution up today, but we did not.

The only thing I can say is that finally we know where the blame is. The blame is with the House Republican leadership and those Republicans that they represent here in the House who want to keep the Government shut down, who want to hold the American people, the Government workers and the taxpayers who are paying for services they should be getting, hostage to their own ideology about what the budget priorities should be.

I have said from the very beginning that is not the way to operate.

REPUBLICANS READY TO PASS A BALANCED BUDGET

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

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Speaker, to hear the rhetoric in this debate one would

think that most of the Government is shut down. That is not true. Most of the Government is up and running.

It is about one-fifth of the Government that is not open for business today. And most of that one-fifth could be open for business today if the President had simply signed 3 appropriations bills the House and the Senate, representing a majority of the American people, sent to him in time for him to put his signature on it and to put these people to work. The President chose not to sign those bills and so most of that one-fifth of the work force is out of work today. As to that remaining number, they are tied up in a filibuster on the Senate side led by Members of the President's own party.

So if you want to know why part of the Government is shut down today, it is because the President failed to sign the appropriation bills the House and Senate agreed upon, and because his own party has the final remaining appropriation bills tied up in the Senate in a filibuster. We are ready to go to work, pass a balanced budget bill for this country and get us on a course to fiscal sanity again.

FRESHMAN REPUBLICANS HOLD GOVERNMENT HOSTAGE

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

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, that is true, that the Government is not totally shut down, but most of it is shut down and today Federal workers, joined by senior citizens and others, will take to the street to protest. They are going to picket the houses and the offices of the 73 freshman Republicans who are holding the Government hostage.

Yes, nearly 760,000 Federal employees are either furloughed or working without pay. This is having a calamitous effect across the country, and impacting not only our economy but individual Americans alike. We are told that 12 States have already advised the agency for Health and Human Services that 600,000 seniors in the next 2 weeks will probably not receive Meals on Wheels nor have adequate transportation. That is simply disgraceful.

Ladies and gentlemen, we ask those 73 Members and our Republican leadership to let this Government go back to work.

A SIMPLE SOLUTION TO BUDGET IMPASSE

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

Mr. BONO. Mr. Speaker, this place cracks me up sometimes. I sometimes feel like I walk through a mirror and I am going to meet the Mad Hatter. We hear bleeding heart after bleeding heart. We hear all these stories.

It is this simple. The President said he would sign a contract to balance the

budget in 7 years, scored by CBO. We said fine. If you do that, there is no problem, we will keep going, and Government will be open.

Now the President has not done that, so all the rest of this rhetoric is rhetoric. As soon as the President decides to keep his word, that is what has got to be understood, Mr. Speaker, is that he has to keep his word, and his word was that he would sign a balanced budget scored by CBO. I hope he keeps his word soon.

PRESIDENT HAS PROBLEM WITH BALANCED BUDGET

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

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I too, as my colleague from Illinois, offer condolences to the Fazio family and to the Johnson family.

Mr. Speaker, on November 20 there was a continuing resolution that was signed that said that Congress and the President shall balance the budget by the year 2002, using Congressional Budget Office numbers and using honest numbers. That resolution expired December 15 at midnight. At that time, the President had not offered a balanced budget, scored by CBO, that would balance in 7 years.

Mr. Speaker, that has been the problem. We have had appropriations that have been vetoed. We do not have a President that submitted a budget that would balance over the next 7 years, and that is the problem. What is the problem with submitting something that will balance? Is it that the President does not want to be accountable, the President does not want to discipline himself?

We said, "Mr. President, you don't have to agree with our numbers. You can disagree with our numbers. Just give us your priority, your numbers, and we will negotiate a settlement."

TIME TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY IN BUDGET BATTLE

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

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, the leader of the other body is right, enough is enough. For 19 days much of the Federal Government has been closed through the failure and intransigence of the new House leadership.

Federal workers and their families are the most obvious victims of this hostage mentality. They are not the only ones suffering. At Rhode Island's VA medical center employees are already working with either half or no pay, and now the veterans' benefits are threatened because the VA continuing resolution expires today.

Moreover, by the end of the week Rhode Island will have no funds left to administer its unemployment compensation insurance program, which