

The Senate has, through leadership of the majority leader and colleagues on both sides of the aisle, come to terms with this. We passed the continuing resolution. That issue is over and done with.

What remains is for the House to act responsibly to do what they should have done weeks ago—to pass a continuing resolution, put people back to work, and make absolutely certain that this horrendous situation we face today is solved once and for all.

If we do not, there will continue to be dire consequences. Everyone should know that Meals on Wheels runs out of money this week. Senior citizens who may only receive one meal a day will cease receiving those meals as a result of the inaction in the House. Senior citizens will go hungry. No one ought to be confused about it. Everyone ought to understand the implications of what we are doing here. Seniors who may not get any other nutritional opportunities for the entire day will be denied this one meal as a result of House Republican intransigence.

Medicare contractors are no longer being paid. Medicare contractors are now being asked to go out and provide medical services without any compensation at all.

So are we affecting the lives and health of millions of Americans beyond Federal workers? Absolutely. We are doing it today.

I already mentioned veterans not receiving their disability benefits. They are not receiving educational benefits either.

Unemployment offices—we have people out of work, walking in for unemployment compensation, not knowing how they are going to pay their bills. Their situation is totally unrelated to any budget negotiations. They are walking into unemployment offices and finding that no one can provide them with service because 10 States have already been forced to shut down their unemployment offices. Ten States have shut down every single unemployment office.

So people seeking help—not Federal employees, not people who may be part of the Federal Government but people who are out of work—are now being told there is nothing that we can do for them either.

Superfund has been halted now for cleanups in 32 toxic wastesites. There are 32 sites around the country completely shut down as a result of what has happened here in the Congress, and what is happening—or not happening—on the House side.

There are 20,000 student loans per day that are not being processed.

I had a call a couple of days ago from a friend in South Dakota whose daughter is depressed and in tears wondering just what is going to happen because she was told she cannot even go back to college because her student loan did not come through for the second semester. What happens to the next 6 months of her life?

Mr. President, there has been a lot of talk about furloughing Federal workers without pay. But it appears that the House may furlough themselves with pay. How outrageous can that be? What a contrast. What an incredible juxtaposition of fairness. The House is going out on a 2-week vacation with pay.

Every Federal worker is left at home without pay and the Federal taxpayer is left holding the bag each and every day for services not rendered.

This country has been in very difficult positions in the past. But I dare say, Mr. President, that this is the most inexplicable, outrageous situation that I have seen since coming to the Senate. It has to end. The House has to come to grips with taking the responsibility and doing the right thing. It has to happen, and it better happen today.

I yield the floor.

MAKING FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. STEVENS). For the information of the Senate, under the previous order, House Joint Resolution 153, which was just received from the House, has been deemed read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider has been laid upon the table.

So the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 153) was deemed read a third time and passed.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business for not to extend beyond the hour of 12 noon with Senators permitted to speak therein for not to exceed 10 minutes.

COMMEMORATION OF UTAH'S CENTENNIAL

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, 100 years ago today, Utah became the 45th State of the Union. I wish to join with Utahns everywhere and celebrate this momentous day, as I am sure my colleagues would as well, and I extend my best wishes for the next century.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, 100 years ago today, January 4, 1896, President Grover Cleveland signed a proclamation admitting Utah as the 45th State of the Union. I rise in recognition of this event and to join with Utahns everywhere to celebrate the centennial of the State of Utah.

Prior to President Cleveland's action, Utahns had diligently battled for more than half a century to attain this goal. The telegram announcing Utah's statehood arrived at 9:13 a.m. on that winter morning in January at the Western Union office located on Main Street in Salt Lake City. As gunshots rang out

the news, hundreds of people began shouting with joy, "Statehood has been proclaimed." Bells and whistles reverberated throughout the valley, and one-by-one, 100 American flags were hoisted.

President Cleveland actually signed the proclamation at 10:03 a.m. in Washington, DC. His private secretary, Mr. Thurber, was quoted in the Salt Lake Tribune as saying,

The President looked upon the signing of the proclamation as purely as Executive act, and one not, therefore, to be witnessed by the public any more than the affixing of his signature to other routine business which came before him.

Let me emphatically state 100 years later than President Cleveland's act was not just routine business—this was the birth of a truly remarkable State.

Utah is great because its people make it so. Utahns, regardless of religious affiliation, hold solid values in common that I believe are essential to the quality of life anywhere. These include a strong work ethic, honesty, charity, compassion, thrift, perseverance, and respect for the family. There is a positive can do attitude in our State that is irresistible and refreshing.

As our State motto indicates, Utah is industrious. As we excel in the arts and humanities, we also excel in the sciences and in commerce. This success has brought us an enviable level of prosperity compared to other States, and sets the stage for a stable future for our children.

Utah's natural beauty is unsurpassed. The State of Utah has as a lasting and historical landmark, the Great Salt Lake; the greatest snow on Earth; and everything to offer in pure natural beauty. We are surrounded by the majesty of our mountains and forests; the breathtaking beauty of our red rock canyons; and the wide, open, limitless expanse of our farmlands and deserts.

People have come to Utah from every part of the world with one basic motivation—the belief that this is the place where they would find the opportunity to pursue their hopes and dreams. Utah's history is filled with tales of people who have displayed remarkable determination and the will to forge ahead regardless of the odds. Our history and our people have literally made a desert blossom. Utah leaves an indelible impression upon its citizens, its visitors, and its leaders. The Utah values and the people who believe in them are the reasons Utah is a wonderful place to live, work, and most importantly raise our families.

Mr. President, most of my colleagues have had the opportunity to visit Utah and experience the spirit that makes our State what it is today. As many have told me, they can fully understand why I am so proud to represent Utah in this body. I choose to bring this highly important date to the attention of the Senate in the hope that my colleagues will join with me in congratulating all Utahns for a job well done.

I want to publicly recognize all of the citizens of the great State of Utah and sincerely thank them for making Utah the wonderful place that it is today. I am honored to represent the people of Utah, and I hope and pray that the next 100 years will be successful and peaceful for all those who dwell within Utah's borders. Happy 100th birthday Utah.

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I rise today to bring to the attention of the Senate the current celebration which is ongoing in my home State of Utah. With the beginning of this new year, Utah begins its centennial celebration having been admitted to the Union of States in 1896.

This 100-year mark is very significant considering the long struggle for the citizens of the Utah Territory to gain statehood in the late 19th century. The people of the Utah Territory tried unsuccessfully for admission to the Union six times—1849, 1856, 1862, 1872, 1882, and 1887—before being admitted in 1896.

Today, Utah is one of the fastest growing States in the country. Business is thriving as more and more companies establish roots in the State. The banking and financial industry have a long history of success in Utah. Manufacturing industry continues to grow and succeed. Utah's software industry is growing so rapidly that it has now surpassed that of Silicon Valley. Utah provides many opportunities for the families that reside in the State. With six 4-year, degree-granting universities and colleges, including four State institutions and two private institutions, Utah provides its citizens with many opportunities to enhance their education and circumstances. Today, Utah is ranked among the top States in the Nation for the quality of its graduates.

Again, Mr. President, it brings me great pleasure to join with the people of my State in celebrating during this centennial year. I would like to pay tribute to the many people who have worked so hard to put together the events that are taking place this week and throughout the remainder of this year. In particular I would like to single out Mr. Steve Studdert for the fine job he has done as chairman of the Utah Centennial Commission. Additionally, thanks goes to Gov. Mike Leavitt and his many predecessors who have worked so hard over the past 100 years to make Utah what it is today. Of course we cannot forget our pioneer founders who saw the vision of what the desert could yield and put forth the hard work to cultivate and culture the Rocky Mountain valleys we now call home.

For Utahns who find themselves transplanted to Washington, DC, I would like to announce that a celebration will be held here on the 27th of January, commemorating Utah's centennial. My staff and I can be contacted for further details.

BUDGET STALEMATE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I know that this is a Presidential election year. We are going to have a hotly debated and contested Presidential election. But it is going to be on issues that are important, as indicated by the action taken by the majority leader day before yesterday.

I commend and applaud publicly the action of the majority leader in allowing the Senate to pass a clean continuing resolution. I say that because the issue of allowing the Federal workers to go to work is important. It is important to more than just the Federal workers. Therefore, I think it is important we talk about procedure so that people understand a little bit better what is going on.

The House of Representatives yesterday refused to allow to come to a vote—they refused to allow the continuing resolution that has passed the Senate to come before the House to be voted upon. They did that, the leadership in the House refused to let it come forward, because they knew if it came forward, it would pass.

That, to me, is a cowardly act. Why would they not let people stand in the light of day and cast their vote as to whether or not this Government could continue to function? They refused to do it because they knew if they brought it up for a vote, it would pass.

There are some in the House who think they are hurting what they hate; namely, the Federal Government, but they are hurting a lot more than just the Federal Government. Look at any newspaper, wherever it might be, in the United States today, and you will find the same stories.

I think the most illustrative appears in today's USA Today. In today's USA Today, Bangladesh, if not the poorest, one of the poorest countries in the world, is going to loan money to the United States to keep the Embassy open in Bangladesh. How embarrassing.

In Bangladesh, one of the world's poorest countries, the government has offered a loan [to the United States] to keep lights on at the United States embassy in Dhaka.

It is hurting more than Federal workers. Alabama ran out of Federal unemployment money, as did many other States.

U.S. embassies around the world are being forced to beg for credit.

You have businesses and governments throughout the world saying the United States cannot pay, will you give us some credit.

In Miami—

This same newspaper reports—fishing guide Mike Haines has lost \$3,000 in the past 2 weeks. Haines takes people on fishing trips in Everglades National Park which shut down December 20.

Now, 2 months after fulfilling his boyhood dream of being a full-time fishing guide, Haines is scrambling to make ends meet.

The Federal court system, including the Supreme Court, is running out of funds. It has tapped into a \$120 million emergency fund drawn from fees collected by the courts.

They are going to run out of money on the 7th. That is Saturday, or Sunday. The Federal courts are going to run out of money.

About 15,000 employees of Government contractors are temporarily out of work.

On television last night in the news it was very, very graphic—people with uniforms, protective uniforms, faces covered, every part of their body covered, working in toxic waste dumps, being laid off.

The L.A. Times—this is not something just within the beltway. It is all over the country. The L.A. Times:

Shutdown Begins To Hit Home Across the United States.

The effects of the shutdown have spread gradually during the holidays, customarily a slow time in the public and private sectors, but this week the pace quickened and the closure is being felt in everything from restaurants and tourist businesses to toxic waste cleanup.

National parks, Mr. President, according to the New York Times, average 383,000 visitors a day. They are closed; a potential loss to businesses of \$200 million a day. That \$200 million goes to people's wages. Those people can buy cars. This, Mr. President, is an economic disaster based upon an unwillingness of a certain small group of people in the other body to allow an up-or-down vote on whether or not the CR should continue. Of course, it should continue.

Mr. SARBANES. Will the Senator yield for just a moment?

Mr. REID. I will be happy to yield to my friend from Maryland.

Mr. SARBANES. I wish to add one further example. In Mariposa County, CA—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada has the floor.

Mr. REID. I yield to him. He wanted to ask me a question.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Do so through the Chair, please.

Mr. SARBANES. Will the Senator yield for a question?

Mr. REID. I will be happy to yield for a question.

Mr. SARBANES. I thought that was the question that had been put earlier, I say to the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. No.

Mr. SARBANES. Is the Senator aware that apparently,

In Mariposa County, CA, home of Yosemite National Park, which has been closed through one of the busiest times of the year, the number of private sector layoffs has climbed to over 1,600 people. Most are hotel, restaurant, and gas station workers who usually can depend on the revenue they collect during the holiday season to carry them until the summer. One-fourth of the adults in that county are out of work. Officials there have declared an economic emergency.

I say, is this not yet another example of the kind of harm that is being felt across the country as a consequence of this closure of the Government?

Mr. REID. I would respond to my friend's question that the answer is yes. Even in Reno, NV, northern Nevada, why, we have significant numbers of people coming from California