

all the time, and they many times do continue when they are visiting Yosemite, which is so close to Nevada. That has been lost.

This is felt by not only Federal workers; this is felt by non-Federal workers, and it is really reverberating throughout the entire United States. And I also respond to my friend that it is going to get worse, as indicated in these newspapers about which I was talking.

The L.A. Times goes on to say that "at the other end of the economic spectrum"—they are talking about people. The reason they say this is, unemployment compensation checks, as indicated by the minority leader, are not being sent out in a number of States, but at the other end of the economic spectrum, many businesses are unable to obtain needed export licenses or are being left with no way to obtain required Federal approval of special imports or other transactions.

That is jobs. It is fancy talk, but it means jobs.

Also, the Securities and Exchange Commission cannot approve various offerings that have been made. Why is that important? It is important because each time a new company, a new stock offering is made, people are hired, put to work. They are simply not being put to work, all because a few people in the other body refuse—the leadership led by the Speaker of the House of Representatives refuses to allow that issue to come to a vote.

I see in the Chamber my friend from the State of Virginia. One of his fellow Members of Congress, Congressman DAVIS, with whom I am not personally familiar but someone I have followed, he publicly, a Republican, spoke out yesterday saying let us at least have a vote on the House floor as to whether or not a continuing resolution should pass.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, will the Senator yield for a question?

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

Mr. WARNER. I just left, Mr. President, Congressman DAVIS' office. The delegation here in the greater metropolitan area, Congressman DAVIS, myself, Congresswoman MORELLA, who represents Montgomery County, and Congressman WOLF, and we were joined by Congressman BATEMAN, who represents the Tidewater district of Virginia, all met this morning, as we have been regularly meeting on this.

I wish to inform my distinguished colleague that Congressman DAVIS and the entire group this morning unanimously are going to do everything they can to oppose the House of Representatives going into recess tonight, as contemplated for a period to extend perhaps until the State of the Union Address around the 22d or 23d of January, while these employees are out of work.

I shall on my own time—and perhaps these statements could be charged to time I will eventually seek—talk about the ripple effect here in northern Vir-

ginia. So I thank my distinguished colleague from Nevada for mentioning Congressman DAVIS. I said yesterday publicly he and other Republicans in the House of Representatives from this area indeed deserve a great deal of personal credit for their courage in this situation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair is going to add 2 minutes to the time of the Senator from Nevada because of the statement from the Senator from Virginia. The Senator is recognized for 2 minutes. His first 10 minutes has expired.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I think we should recognize that this should be a bipartisan resolution of the problems we have facing this Government. I have not been a party to the talks with the President, the two leaders from the House and the Senate. I hope they are progressing, but they are very difficult. We know that.

There are 80 different issues that are issues dealing with public policy that they have to work out. There has been an agreement on both sides that there should be a balanced budget, there should be a balanced budget within 7 years. They will use CBO figures. That has been stated publicly. That is not a secret. But in the meantime, let the Government go forward and go back to work, as it should.

I also say there are a few people—the House leadership is holding up the ability to vote on a CR. What are they afraid of? They are afraid of the fact that if this comes up for a vote before the House of Representatives, it would pass. I understand that in the House of Representatives yesterday in a secret meeting that they had, a Republican conference or caucus, 54 Republicans there voted to have this brought to the floor. It would pass. Clearly it would pass.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for 3 additional minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Chair would state under the previous order morning business would not extend beyond the hour of 12 o'clock.

Mr. REID. I ask for 2 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is recognized for 2 minutes.

Mr. REID. I say that Mr. President, because I have been interrupted a couple times.

Mr. President, the Los Angeles Times:

... budget analysts warned Wednesday that if the standoff continues for even a few more days, the impact will spread to larger and larger slices of the American economy and stopgap solutions will be more difficult to achieve.

Several federal agencies reported that they have begun to halt contracts with private companies that provide supplies or services for federal programs. The White House Office of Management and Budget said [that] no overall estimates are available, [but they are strong].

It is the same in other newspapers.

The New York Times talks about the real problems that face this Government.

Mortgages. Work has halted on an estimated 200 million mortgages a day on mortgage loan processing for American people.

Veterans' Administration. That 170,000 veterans are not going to receive their benefits.

Mr. President, I say that this has gotten out of hand. This is not fair to the Federal workers, but more importantly it is not fair to a wide segment of the American population. This has got to stop. It is folly. I say, let those people come forward and allow an up-or-down vote in the House of Representatives. Speaker GINGRICH should allow an up-or-down vote if he believes in the democratic process.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. WARNER addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

THE PRESIDENT'S VETO OF THE INTERIOR BILL

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, the President vetoed the Interior bill December 18. We are not here to try and reopen the debate in terms of what has taken place in the past, but I must say that this action by the President of vetoing the bills that were passed in the Congress just simply cannot help but to worsen the situation.

This particular bill, of course, embraces so many of our national parks and other places that people come from all over the world to visit, as well as our own citizens. This has been a point of very significant contention, the fact that people who have planned for a long time to visit these sites and many others cannot do so as a consequence of this deadlocked situation between the Congress and the President.

ENDING THE BUDGET STALEMATE

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I join all those who wish the President and indeed the leadership of both the House and the Senate to get these talks to reach a point where we can have a reconciliation of this problem. We have finally, after some months, focused the country's attention on the need for a balanced budget. And that is the centerpiece of this controversy. But I feel that this shutdown is taking the public attention away from that important and historic landmark achievement by the leadership of both the Senate and the House, and others; that is, bringing a final agreement on a balanced budget within a 7-year period of time.

If the President would be forthcoming, if he would be forthcoming with a balanced budget, with his own ideas as to how he can achieve it within that 7-year period of time with the CBO figures, I think these negotiations could very quickly resolve such differences that remain and allow the current stalemate to be concluded.

Mr. President, earlier I spoke about the meeting on the House side this

morning with Virginia Representatives DAVIS, WOLF, BATEMAN, Congresswoman MORELLA, who represents Montgomery County, MD, and myself. We meet regularly throughout each day. But this morning we reported as a group first that in our own metropolitan area the SAIC Corp., private contractors, furloughed some 600 people. DynCorp, another private contractor, has furloughed 700 people.

We had the transportation representatives in to see us this morning, primarily the taxicab operators in northern Virginia. Their business is absolutely devastated. Yesterday we met with those of the hotel industry and the restaurant industry. Their business is being devastated.

So the ripple effect, Mr. President, is impacting the greater metropolitan area, and indeed in many other places throughout the United States. It is imperative that all of us bring to bear our best judgment to try and resolve this problem.

Mr. President, I wish to include in today's RECORD just samples of the thousands of communications being forwarded to my office, both by telephone and by letter. I am certain that this is taking place in other offices here in the Senate. As a matter of fact, Congressman BATEMAN said he cannot even get through to his office in Tidewater, VA, today because of the volume of communications from his constituents.

But one letter dated December 12 of last year from a retired Navy captain, signed both by himself and his wife, simply says:

Our country is already in a sorry state due primarily to congressional incompetence over the years, and these situations only make matters worse. Perhaps one answer to the "stalemate" problem might be to exclude the media from all deliberations and eliminate press conferences.

This is sort of the typical reaction of an individual who has dedicated his life as a public servant here in the military to try and keep our Nation strong but expressing his own views.

A second letter, December 29, 1995, from Mr. John Fulton of Vienna, VA, indicates he is a lifelong Republican, but he says:

There is no rational reason why the issue of ongoing day to day operations of our government cannot be separated from the larger, and critically important, budget deficit problems.

I certainly agree with these constituents.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that these letters be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the letters were ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

VIRGINIA BEACH, VA,
December 12, 1995.

Hon. JOHN W. WARNER,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR WARNER: I am a retired naval officer, having served forty years in the Navy, and my wife a homemaker for fifty-four years are most concerned with the

political shenanigans now going on in Washington. While you are not directly involved the respective parties leadership must stop this nonsensical attempts to outwit the other side for political gain. It is time for your colleagues to put aside their egos and do the work Congress was elected to do, and within the framework of the Constitution.

Our country is already in a sorry state due primarily to congressional incompetence over the years, and these situations only make matters worse. Perhaps one answer to the "stalemate" problem might be to exclude the media from all deliberations and eliminate press conferences. In any event, you and your colleagues must get your act together, for the good of our country.

Having said the above we, like most of your senior citizen constituents, only ask that in your deliberations and voting that we be treated equally and fairly.

Sincerely,

T.H. CONAWAY, Jr.
MARGARET P. CONAWAY

VIENNA, VA,
December 29, 1995.

Hon. JOHN W. WARNER,
U.S. Senate, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR WARNER: I am writing to express my concern and dismay over the way in which this congress is conducting the work of the Nation.

As a lifelong Republican, I am embarrassed and appalled at the recent actions taken by members of our party which have resulted in a partial shutdown of government operations, financial problems for thousands of federal employees and private contractors, cost to the nation of millions of dollars in federal funds wasted daily and gross inconvenience to our citizens nationwide. The lack of mature leadership and responsibility demonstrated by Republican members of both the House and Senate in this situation is without historical precedence in the 44 years that I have been privileged to be a party member and vote! It would appear that a significant number of congressional members have forgotten a fundamental principle of our Democracy—the ends don't justify the means! If this behavior continues there will be no need for term limits.

There is no rational reason why the issue of ongoing day to day operations of our government cannot be separated from the larger, and critically important, budget deficit problems. We must separate these issues; get the government and related businesses back to work and focus on the central issue before the Nation—the re-prioritization of our national goals, priorities, programs and commitments necessary to balance our budget and relieve our children and grandchildren of the horrendous 4 trillion dollar debt. If the congress and administration are unable to resolve this issue before the next election then let the voters decide who they want to entrust the challenge to.

I am also greatly concerned about the proposed capital gains tax cuts and child tax credits. If our party is serious about deficit reduction and restoring our Nation's fiscal health and credibility we should recruit all Americans to share in the sacrifice—sustain the cuts, drop all tax cuts and apply all the savings toward the \$4,000,000,000,000 + deficit! Any other course of action will be correctly viewed by the American people as a sham, catering to wealthy-special interest groups and we will (and should) pay at election time. This is a year when those of us who have profited greatly from stocks/bonds investments should be willing to make a continued investment in the Nation which made those earnings possible—through capital gains and other revenues. When we get our nation out of debt we can cut taxes—and all celebrate!

I appreciate your leadership and wish you and your staff a blessed and prosperous New Year.

Sincerely,

JOHN FULTON.

Mr. WARNER. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Does the Senator from New Mexico seek the floor?

Mr. BINGAMAN. Yes, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is recognized for 10 minutes.

LIVELIHOODS DISRUPTED

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I wanted to comment on two major items today. First—this is a somewhat new item. I believe it is a new example of the abrogation of responsibility by the House Republican leadership. For 20 days we have been holding three-quarters of a million Federal civil servants hostage in this effort to exercise what Speaker GINGRICH calls his right not to pass spending bills.

He has referred to that many times in interviews. As a result, as the Senator from Virginia was just pointing out, many Americans—contract workers, those planning to travel, those seeking export licenses, those seeking federally insured mortgages—have had their livelihoods disrupted.

Now the leadership in the House has added the military personnel of the country to the list of those whose livelihoods are being disrupted.

Yesterday, the House failed to override the President's veto of the Defense authorization bill. And when they did that, Congressman DELLUMS sought to bring up S. 1514, which is a bill that the Senate passed last Saturday to ensure that our troops get their full January pay raise, both their basic pay and subsistence pay, which are to increase 2.4 percent, and their quarters pay, which is to increase 5.2 percent.

When the Senate passed the bill last Saturday, the Presiding Officer, Senator STEVENS, made the statement: "Mr. President, this bill should not be controversial. The President asked that it be passed and has said that he will sign it as soon as he receives it."

Congressman DELLUMS yesterday tried to bring it up in time so that the Pentagon could ensure that troops receive their full pay in their first January paycheck. He was refused.

Mr. President, when we have troops in Bosnia and when our troops are proudly around the globe in other potential hot spots—South Korea, the Middle East—the House Republicans should not be adding them to the list of people who are being inconvenienced and whose livelihoods are being disrupted by inaction in Congress. This is yet another example of where Senate Republicans have acted responsibly in carrying out their duties under the Constitution; House Republicans have not. The Senate acted last Saturday on the Stevens-Thurmond bill as soon as the President vetoed the Defense authorization bill. I am sure many Senate