

why our Founding Fathers created a system of checks and balances. That is why we have a loyal opposition. That is why we negotiate. But, Mr. Speaker, there comes a time for closure. That time is now.

The picture is coming into focus, Mr. Speaker. One side wants a balanced budget by a date certain; the other side is not even certain about a date. On the one side is Congress, including, as these folks will not tell you, 48 Members of their own conference intent on balancing the budget in 7 years. On the other side is the President.

Mr. President, it is time to come to the table. Do not pick up your walking stick; come join us now and negotiate this 7-year balanced budget. Our children are counting on us.

NAFTA ACCOUNTABILITY ACT TO MEASURE AGREEMENT'S IMPACT

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, today my colleagues and I introduce the NAFTA Accountability Act of 1995 to stand up for the thousands and thousands of workers across our country who are being terminated.

NAFTA promised our country a \$12 billion trade surplus. This year we will rack up an historic \$40 billion deficit with our two trading partners on the continent. NAFTA promised our people 200,000 new jobs.

It has already cost us over 300,000 lost jobs: Like 3,200 workers at Fruit of the Loom in Alabama, Louisiana, Kentucky, and North Carolina; like 200 workers at Emerson Electric in Indiana; like 120 workers at Alcatel Data Networks in New Jersey; like 127 workers at American Manufacturing Co. in Alabama; like 130 workers at Data Products in Georgia; like 220 workers at Woolrich, Inc. in Pennsylvania; like 340 workers at Oxford Industries in Georgia; like 245 workers at Sara Lee in Georgia.

Mr. Speaker, we will continue the list as the week moves on.

TIME FOR THE PRESIDENT TO COMMIT TO A BALANCED BUDGET

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

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, today we will ask only one thing of the President. We will ask that he agree to work with us to balance the budget in 7 years using the numbers of a non-partisan Congressional Budget Office. It is a basic, simple request, but for some reason he seems very afraid of this commitment.

Mr. Speaker, the President said last night he thinks it will hurt America. Fortunately, some of us know better than that. The hundreds of people calling my office certainly know better than that. They know that the best

thing we can do for this country is to make an unmistakable commitment to balance this budget.

That is what we will do. No matter what the President says, no matter how long it takes, we are going to balance this budget in 7 years, and we will do it by controlling spending, saving Medicare, and giving the hard-working people of America back some of the money that was stolen from them by the 103d Congress. The people of the 10th District have my word on this.

WHY CAN WE NOT FIND COMMON GROUND?

(Ms. HARMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, driving my 11-year-old to school this morning she said, "Mommy, I need to write a term paper, but the D.C. public library is closed. You worked until midnight last night. Why can't you get the Government started again so that my library will open?"

Mr. Speaker, why can't we? Why can't we stop shouting and issuing press releases and instead find common ground? Why can't we pass a continuing resolution this week and then back off and go home and talk to our constituents, not about whether to pass a 7-year balanced budget, but about what should be in it.

There are genuine disagreements among us. If we come back on November 28 and spend 5 or 6 days having an enlightened debate about the Medicare cuts, about tax cuts, about Federal entitlements and block grants. I think our constituents can help us find this common ground that just might get us to passing a 7-year balanced budget. I think we can make our children proud, not just about what we do here, but about how we treat each other.

PRESIDENT SAYS ONE THING AND MEANS ANOTHER

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, so now the President tells us he does not want a balanced budget, and we were wrong to believe him when he said he did. Sure, he campaigned promising a balanced budget in 5 years, and sure, at one point he said he favored a balanced budget in 7 years but how insensitive, how downright mean-spirited, of us to take him at his word. What were we thinking?

Last night, we passed what the President said he wanted, a clean bill with simple language reiterating the President's commitment to a 7-year balanced budget and he's throwing it back in the face of the American people.

But it shouldn't be that surprising. After all, this is the man who said he wanted a middle-class tax cut and then gave us the largest tax increase in his-

tory. This is the man who said he wanted to end welfare as we know it and is now fighting us as we try to make welfare reform a reality.

So, you know, on second thought, maybe it's good that the President says he'll veto our balanced budget. Maybe that means he'll sign it and the Government shutdown will end.

REPUBLICANS MEETING IN SECRET

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, the Republicans have been meeting in secret the last few days to hammer out their differences over the budget bill, which they will probably bring to the floor tomorrow. This is the bill that cuts Medicare and effectively destroys Medicare in order to pay for tax cuts for the wealthy.

Mr. Speaker, they have not allowed the Democrats to participate in their secret negotiations, and as a result of that, a bad budget bill, as the New York Times says today, only gets worse.

If I could just read, according to the New York Times, "The House GOP budget will take about \$900 worth of benefits on average from families earning less than \$30,000, but only \$155 from families earning above \$100,000. At the same time, it will cut taxes by virtually nothing on the low-income families, but cut them by about \$1,600 from high-income families."

The Republicans work in secret and they come up with a budget bill that we will get tomorrow that provides even more tax cuts for wealthy Americans while it destroys Medicare and destroys Medicaid and provides us with a much worse health care system than we have now in America.

MISTREATMENT RESULTS IN GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, when I heard last night that NEWT GINGRICH said he had shut down the Government because he did not get the right treatment on an airplane, I was amazed. I could not believe it.

Mr. Speaker, today it is true. Here it is in black and white in my hometown paper, the New York Daily News, "Cry baby, Newt's tantrum. He closed down the government because Clinton made him sit at the back."

Well, the only thing one can treat such statements and actions with is humor and verse, so with all due respect to Peter, Paul, and Mary and "Leaving on a Jet Plane," here goes.

Well, my bags are packed, I am ready to go. I am sitting here on Air Force One, but sitting in the back ain't much fun. They wouldn't give me an aisle seat. The in-flight