

DOLE seemed to think he was representing the people in the Senate from the Republican Party. Apparently, the Speaker did not have negotiating authority from the freshmen in the House of Representatives.

So apparently, the Government will remain shut down through Christmas. We will or will not be here through Christmas, and families will have to go through that kind of trauma. It is terribly unfortunate, but it shows such a basic flaw in all of the rhetoric and all of the debate and all of the hot air from the Republicans about family values, about the importance of families, about how this was going to be a Congress that took that into consideration when we recognize the importance of the Christmas season to our families.

Now, what is the debate about? The debate, apparently, is that the freshmen Republicans told the Speaker there will be no give on the \$245 billion tax cut; that that was sacred to their sense of a balanced budget. So at the time that we are cutting the seniors' health care benefits, at a time that we are limiting the amount of money to be made available for the elderly in nursing homes, at a time that we are cutting back on health care benefits and abolishing the Medicaid Program for children, for poor women in this country, the first time that we have put children back into poverty instead of lifting them out of poverty, at a time that we are cutting back on access to student loans and increasing the cost of education, at a time that we are making those fundamental changes and cutbacks that affect every family in America, the bottom line for the Republicans is that if they do not get the tax cut for the wealthy in this country, if they do not get that, then there can be no negotiations.

To hold on to that position, they have decided, for the second time, to take hostages from the Federal work force. This is a little bit like a family that sits down, as we must do to balance a budget, and decides that they will only go to the show once a week, they will not eat out any longer, they will drive the car for a longer period of time, they will not buy a new house, they will take an extra job, maybe the kids will have to work, but then, all of a sudden, they turn around and say, but we are going to give the children a raise in their allowance.

We do not have the money for this tax cut. We do not have the \$245 billion when we are cutting \$270 billion out of seniors' health care and \$180 billion out of Medicaid. I think the freshmen Republicans ought to quit being so selfish and start thinking about America's families and families that need their help.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kentucky [Mr. LEWIS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky addressed the House. His remarks will appear

hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

A BALANCED BUDGET IS THE MOST SERIOUS CRISIS OF THIS GENERATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Colorado [Mr. MCINNIS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, we need a Government that keeps on ticking, but we do not need a Government that keeps on giving. This balanced budget is the most serious crisis of this generation. There is not a family in America that finds themselves in a situation where they spend more money than they bring in that they do not call it a crisis. There is not a family in America that if they got themselves into the same kind of situation as this Government, spending more than they bring in, would not sit down at a table and say, you know something, somewhere we are going to have to reduce the amount of money that we are spending.

Our problem back here in Washington, D.C., by the way, is not a lack of money. We have plenty of money in Washington. We have twice as much as we did 10 years ago. Our problem back here in the Nation's Capital is spending. We are spending more money than we bring in. Our problem back here is not a lack of taxes. In fact, the average person in this country spends the first 2 hours and 45 minutes of every working day just paying their taxes.

Like an old farmer one time told me, before you put more water in the bucket, you better plug the holes. That is what is happening in this Government. We need to plug the holes. We need to reduce this spending. You cannot tax the American people anymore.

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And the American people have every right to expect this Government to conduct its business as we expect them, the constituents, our bosses, to conduct their business.

Mr. Speaker, what will happen if we can balance this budget? First of all, let me tell my colleagues that the President, regardless of all of the rhetoric that goes on, regardless of what the President says right now, I can guarantee my colleagues that this President will be forced to accept a 7-year balanced budget; I can guarantee my colleagues that this President will be forced to have that scored by the Congressional Budget Office; and I can guarantee my colleagues that the President is going to have to address entitlement programs.

Mr. Speaker, if my colleagues think entitlement programs in this country are run well, ask anybody how well our welfare system is run. Imagine winning \$100 million in the lottery and wanting to give \$50 million of it to the poor people in this country. Would anyone send that to Washington, DC for distribution to the poor people in this country? Of course they would not. The system

is broken, and the President is going to have to be part of the solution in fixing that.

Mr. Speaker, another thing we have got to do is we have got to restore confidence in the American people. How confident can the American people be that business in Washington is changing when we have the Secretary of Energy traveling around the country in one of her jet rides that costs \$400,000 just for the jet, taking an entourage of 50 or 60 or 70 staff people with her, having 500 people to handle public relations?

We cannot allow that to go on. How confident can the American people be when we stand by and let that happen? The President should immediately ask for, and the Secretary of Energy should immediately submit, her resignation. We need to look at the scare tactics that are being deployed, and we have heard some of them on this floor today.

Mr. Speaker, we are not ending Medicaid. We are doing it in a different way. We are sending the money to the States and bypassing the bureaucracy in Washington, DC. Medicare is not being eliminated.

Mr. Speaker, if we listened to some of the scare tactics, we would think there will be no more school lunches for kids. That is obviously false. Not one kid who got a lunch this year is going to be denied lunch next year. We would believe that students will not get loans and the senior citizens are going to be thrown out in the street to starve. We would think all of these dramatic things are going to happen.

Mr. Speaker, a year from now, after this President is forced to accept a 7-year balanced budget and after this President is forced to have it scored by the CBO, a year from now we are not going to find any of that having occurred.

In fact, what we are going to find is lower interest rates. We are going to find that the next generation has got this generation paying off its credit card so that we do not send that debt on to the next generation. That debt right now accrues at a rate of \$30 million an hour. This next generation is watching our generation overspend the budget by \$30 million an hour.

What will we see a year from now? We are going to see that come to an end. We are going to see the U.S. Government in Washington, DC do as 48 States do, and every family in America is expected to do, and that is to balance their budget, to not spend more money than they bring in.

Mr. Speaker, let me say that our issue back here is spending. We are not cutting Medicare; we are reducing the growth of Medicare. The President's proposal, by the way, on Medicare is very similar to ours. If some of these people get up talk about the Republicans and want to use the word "cut," they better talk about their own President.

Mr. Speaker, we need to stop the spending in Washington and we need to

control. With that, I would just urge and tell the American people I am positive and optimistic that we will have a balanced budget and all of us, including the next generation and especially the next generation, will be better off for it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COBLE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida [Ms. BROWN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Ms. BROWN of Florida addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

SPEAKER AND HOUSE REPUBLICANS SHOULD NEGOTIATE WITH PRESIDENT AND END GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. GEPHARDT] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, the President reached an agreement with the Republican leadership last night, both to begin intensive discussions about how to balance the budget on a rapid timetable and also that the Congress would pass a continuing resolution today to reopen the Government. Evidently, the extreme elements of the House Republicans have rejected this agreement and prevented the Government from reopening today.

Mr. Speaker, the President is committed to balancing the budget in 7 years and doing so in a way that reflects our values and also our priorities: health care, education, the environment, tax fairness. He is prepared to talk with the Republican leaders today, tomorrow, the next day, as long as is necessary to get the job done.

But Congress in the meantime should reopen the Federal Government. We cannot achieve this important goal through threats and ultimatums. The Republicans in Congress have threatened to keep the Government shut down unless the President agrees to deep and unconscionable cuts in Medicare and Medicaid. The President will never give in to these kinds of threats, nor should he.

Mr. Speaker, this country has a responsibility not only to balance the budget, but also to protect our values and our interests as people. We must act in the interest of the 3.3 million veterans who will not receive their benefits checks due December 29 unless the Congress passes a continuing resolution by tomorrow morning.

Our first obligation must be to these people, not to confrontational tactics or extreme agendas. Let me last say this. I believe that if this cannot move forward today, we are in a constitutional crisis. This is the first time in memory that the Speaker of the House and a majority in the House has said that the President's veto, being an extraordinary power, must be met on the side of the majority in Congress if they

disagree with that veto, not with a two-thirds majority to override the veto, not with another bill that might gain the President's signature, but with shutting the Government down.

Mr. Speaker, there is no language in the Constitution that says that is what the majority in Congress should do if they are displeased with the veto. The Constitution says we override the veto or we pass another bill that the President may or may not sign.

It is irresponsible, it is unconscionable, it is immoral to have taxpayers' money to pay for services and then to say we are not going to give those services to people or, in the case of veterans, their checks for their pension, because we are in a pique with the President with his priorities on the budget.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot believe this is happening to our country. In the name of sense, in the name of morality, in the name of logic, in the name of decency, I ask the Republican majority and the Speaker of this House to come to this floor today to pass a continuing resolution, to open this Government back up and to get in a room with the President of the United States and the other leaders in Congress and try to see as hard as we can if we can find a budget for this country for the next year, if not 7 years.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GEPHARDT. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, the Leader is obviously here, as are many Democrats, ready to work this afternoon. I am advised that unless this Congress, which went into a kind of recess at 2 o'clock eastern time today, unless by 8 o'clock in the morning it has approved a continuing resolution, thousands of veterans in Austin, TX, and I believe you said 3.3 million across the country, people that have served our country, who have put their lives on the line, many of them disabled veterans, will not get their checks on time if that resolution is not passed within just a matter of hours.

Mr. Speaker, does the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. GEPHARDT] know of any reason why those veterans should be asked to sacrifice and should be caught in the middle of all the crisis that is going on here in Washington?

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, there is absolutely no justification for it. It is immoral. It is immoral to say that they will not get their benefits because there is a disagreement between the Congress and the President on a budget. That is not the adult way, the sensible way to handle this disagreement.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. BARTLETT] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN UNNECESSARILY INCONVENIENCES CONSTITUENTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio [Ms. KAPTUR] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to follow on the remarks of our distinguished minority leader here. This is a serious moment for our country. Our congressional office has now been in receipt of phone calls from constituents who are not able to get their passports processed because of the shutdown of the Government. So, in addition to veterans, whose checks are being threatened at this point because this Congress and this Speaker chooses not to move legislation through this body that will keep the various agencies operating, and not inconveniencing the public during this very busy travel season, it is truly a tragedy what is happening here just to make some sort of political point.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is time for people here to grow up or get out, and to deliver the kind of services to the American public that they expect of us. We have thousands of families across this country who have filed for home mortgages that have a relationship to HUD where they insure and process those mortgages. Mr. Speaker, 20,000 of those a month cannot be processed because of this Government shutdown.

We are inconveniencing the American people from coast to coast. We have tourists all around this country that cannot get into the monuments. Think of when in recent history my colleagues ever remember this happening. This does not need to happen, especially during this very important season of the year when so many people are traveling and expecting the goodwill that this season represents to govern our actions toward others.

YES! TOLEDO WINS IN OVERTIME

Mr. Speaker, I came to the floor this afternoon on a little bit lighter subject, and I would like to say that my good colleague from the State of Nevada has elected not to join me here this afternoon, but I am compelled to rise to tell my colleagues that if they happened to miss the first college bowl game of the 1995 season, they may have missed the best, most historic bowl game of the year.

Mr. Speaker, in the Las Vegas Bowl, the still undefeated University of Toledo Rockets beat the University of Nevada Wolf Pack 40 to 37 in the first overtime game in the history of post-season college football.

It was a close game, as evidenced by the 34 to 34 fourth quarter score sparkling with flashes of offensive brilliance on both sides. But in overtime, Reno's Wolf Pack defense could not withstand the onslaught of Rocket star Wasean Tate's powerful running game.