

rushing back to Washington to say, do you know something, we are not getting paid, we better get back and fix the problem. There is not going to be any pressure that anybody can put on anybody in the Congress like saying we are not going to get paid when we cannot make the Government work. To some of us that is our only income. It will make one heck of a big difference.

I thought it was pretty much high rhetoric when initially offered. I cannot think of anything else to do. We got together with a bipartisan group. We offered a bipartisan suggestion. This is a blueprint or an outline. It has not worked. It still has not made the progress that I think is essential.

I suggest, Mr. President, that when, as I understand it, we have to have another continuing resolution that is going to be offered, I think maybe tomorrow sometime, because there is a continuing resolution to ensure that foster care payments and AFDC payments and veteran payments and Medicare payments would have to be made, that at that time if we have not reached some kind of a framework of an agreement, I will attempt to offer once again a suggestion, and part of that legislation, an amendment to that continuing resolution which will say Members of Congress shall be treated in the same manner as the basic pay of the most adversely affected Federal employees who are not going to be compensated during the shutdown period.

Mr. President, we cannot be treated better than the people that we are responsible for their jobs. I guarantee that if that amendment passes there will be a rush back to Washington by Members of both parties who will come to Washington, roll up our sleeves, and stay here and not leave until we get the job done. That may be the only way I think that we are going to push ourselves into making a proper compromise that is absolutely essential and necessary.

Mr. ROBB. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the period for morning business be extended by an additional 5 minutes and I be recognized to speak therein.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KEMPTHORNE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

Mr. ROBB. Mr. President, I have been listening to our colleagues this morning and I was not initially planning to say anything but with my distinguished senior colleague in the chair at this particular moment I know that I reflect his views in what I say, and what I say is that the continuing shutdown of the Federal Government and the impact it is having on not only Federal employees—and in most cases it is the most vulnerable and the least able to withstand this kind of treatment—but the impact it is having on many, many others who are directly or

indirectly affected by the Federal Government or by the activities of the Federal Government.

Mr. President, the continuation, indeed, the extent, indeed, the fact that we are having a shutdown at all, is unconscionable. I think that it makes no sense, no sense for either side, no sense for anyone who is involved in this particular debate, to see this protracted shutdown, the protracted demeaning, demoralizing impact on so many of our citizens continue.

I recognize that the feelings on both sides are very deeply felt. I recognize that there are important philosophical differences that are being debated, and indeed I have been very much supportive of the basic thrust of those who want to achieve more fiscal discipline. As the distinguished Presiding Officer knows, during the time I served as Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, one of the things I was most often identified with was fiscal responsibility and making certain that we acted within our means. I have voted for, on several occasions, a 7-year balanced budget using CBO numbers. I think there is general agreement on both sides that we are going to come up with such a budget, hopefully in the near term, although some of the philosophical differences are very, very deep and may not be resolved but we should not ask those who are most vulnerable to continue to bear the brunt of this shutdown.

Again, I am not speaking just of the 200,000-some Federal employees, many of whom reside in the State that the distinguished Presiding Officer and I represent, but all over the country, but so many others dependent on the effective operation of our Government. A huge number of citizens are uncertain whether they will be able to make their payments. For some, it will be a very basic decision as to whether or not they will be able to purchase food, medicine, what have you, the next time around, because they live from paycheck to paycheck. Others have mortgages, they have rent payments, they have car payments, they have all kinds of tuition payments, everything that you can imagine. Many things that we cannot imagine.

I have been in the last few days here at the Capitol, listening to stories of individuals who have been enormously inconvenienced by this continued shutdown. I appeal to the leadership on both sides. I believe in the Senate that there is virtual unanimous agreement that this shutdown should not continue. Indeed, the Senate has attempted on several occasions to pass some legislation that would keep the Government functioning.

But I appeal to those who are in a position to make decisions at this time to move forward, to not let this continue. Do not let this debilitating shutdown, which is so unconscionable, continue, and to put the people we are asking to provide Government services back to work, to stop the complete inefficiency

and the waste of taxpayer dollars, and then to get on to the serious business of negotiating some very real differences that I acknowledge.

Mr. President, I thank the President and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia is recognized.

A CONTINUING RESOLUTION

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, before my distinguished colleague from Virginia leaves the floor, I wish to express my appreciation to him for the references he made about me while I was the Presiding Officer. I know that my fellow Senator from Virginia has worked very diligently on the question of trying to resolve this budget impasse.

But, Mr. President, I would also like to suggest in his very careful comments about the Federal employees, which I do share, we should also bring to the attention of the Senate the severe suffering that has been placed upon the Nation's Capital, the Greater Metropolitan Washington area, composed of the District of Columbia, Virginia, and Maryland, because this area not only houses the Federal Government in large measure, but it also houses so many of the private organizations and institutions that have, as a consequence of this shutdown, been closed. That is bringing about a severe financial crisis here in the Nation's Capital because, as my distinguished colleague knows, tourism is one of the major sources of income in this region. The Commonwealth of Virginia, together with Maryland, provides the facilities for so many of these tourists to stay for whatever period, overnight, or, hopefully several days. It provides the meals and quality of life. That industry is virtually at a standstill.

So the distinguished colleague of mine from Virginia, and I, together with those colleagues from Maryland, have a very special desire to see that the Government returns to work.

Mr. ROBB. Mr. President, I ask my distinguished senior colleague to yield for a comment?

Mr. WARNER. Yes, I yield.

Mr. ROBB. Let me join with my colleague and say I fully understand the point he was making. Indeed, perhaps less eloquently, I tried to make the same point. But it is not just in the Nation's Capital. It is not just in our Commonwealth of Virginia. I think people would expect it of us, representing a disproportionate number of those who are directly affected, but it is all over this country and indeed all over the world in terms of Federal employees and people who depend on the Federal Government. Many of those small businesses, people who depend on the national parks and other facilities for their living, when those parks are shut down, when those visitor attractions are shut down all over this country, small business men and women who make their living being accessible to