Yes, the Federal employee, such as the person being evicted in my district today.

But it goes beyond that. It goes to the small businesses that will not be getting their Small Business Administration loan guarantees. It goes to the vendors; it goes to Federal services; it goes to the business person who is trying to get abroad to sell products for his or her company, which brings dollars and jobs back to this country.

□ 1430

And so those are the budgets that are being unbalanced. Thousands, perhaps millions across this country every day. And when do we hear about those?

I hear a lot about how because many of us voted to sustain the President's veto, in effect not approving the Interior appropriations bill a little while ago, or Commerce, State, Justice yesterday, that somehow that shut the Government down.

It is interesting, because 9 of the appropriation bills that run this government, 9 of the 13, were not to the President's desk by October 1, which is the beginning of the financial year. Some of them did not get there for months, but even then, does a veto, a Presidential veto mean somehow the Government is shut down?

I have had the privilege of serving in this Congress now through President Reagan and President Bush, as well as President Clinton. Basically, in all that time under the House leadership, and it was a Democratic leadership except for, of course, the present one, in no time during that period did this Government ever shut down because the House leadership said to President Reagan, with whom there was great differences, or said to President Bush, we are going to shut this entire Government down because you have vetoed an appropriations bill. We keep the Government moving in an orderly fashion.

Never, never have I seen this kind of situation. In fact, I challenge anyone to find a 20-day shutdown. Congratulations. I consider it the legislative Heisman Trophy for bringing a government to its knees.

Now, what is the impact that goes beyond the Federal budget? Let us talk for a second. Forty million dollars a day of payroll to workers who are not being able to do their jobs. That is the first loss to the taxpayers. The last 4-day shutdown in November cost this Government, cost the taxpayer, $700 million for 4 days in payroll as well as lost revenues.

It means that half the Head Start children in this country soon will not be able to attend that program. Who pays for that? What is the loss to those children?

It means the Centers for Disease Control cannot respond to flu outbreaks. It means, for instance, that in the State Department, where just during the last shutdown an anguished father contacted me about his children in Russia who needed visas to get their adopted children out. There is no one there to service them all across the globe.

They are talking now in Vietnam about dunning our representative there $1,600 for electricity or water. We are buying utilities on credit cards in some of our embassies.

Meals on Wheels. Very important in rural West Virginia, but across the country as well. The only contact many senior citizens have with the outside world endangered.

SBA is now unable to make $40 million a day in loan guarantees. How many small businesses are there? About 260 a day, actually, that need that money to either meet their line of credit, to start that new product, or to hire a couple of extra people.

Export licenses from the Department of Commerce are backed up. Billions of dollars of lost opportunities. Those are American jobs, jobs exporting abroad, not able to do it.

Got a problem with your water? Concerned about it? Do not call the EPA, you will only get voice mail. The EPA. We are not able to respond to basic environmental concerns? The fact is negotiators need to negotiate and Federal Government workers need to work.

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

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

SUPPORT A CLEAN CONTINUING RESOLUTION TO OPEN THE GOVERNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I may be comforted that I have heard more voices coming to this well and really asking in a very sincere and honest manner can we not all get along; and, in fact, answer the American people in an affirmative answer by saying we can and we will open this Government, and we will allow our citizens to go back to work not so much because they are Federal employees, but because they are public servants who are doing the business of the public, providing essential and necessary responsibilities that this Government is entrusted to do.

With that, I am comforted by the more than 40 of my colleagues that have joined me in supporting a clean continuing resolution that would open this Government for at least 2 weeks, to January 19, fund the existing operations at at least 90 percent, so that we would not have the crisis that we are facing.

In Houston we have only four Environmental Protection Agency employees. They cannot do their job. So communities like Pleasantville and Kennedy Heights, that would need the services of the Environmental Protection Agency dealing with Superfund cleanup responsibilities, they cannot get toxic waste areas cleaned up. The Superfund monies have been depleted as of last Tuesday.

This clean continuing resolution would allow us to continue to debate these very emotional issues dealing with the budget; whether we should have a $245 billion tax cut; whether or not we should shut down 57 schools in Texas by prohibiting them from having direct student loans for their students. And when I say shut down, shut down the opportunity of those students to go to college.

I might add, too, that the list is growing of supporters who want this resolution to come to the floor, and it is different from the one of the other body, because the other body's resolution was until January 11. And I applaud Senator DOLE, but now we have come to the end of this week and we still have not gotten a budget compromise. So FRANK PALLONE, ROBERT MENENDEZ, CHET EDWARDS, BOB WISE, CHUCK SCHUMER, HENRY B. GONZALEZ, MIKE MCNULTY, IKE SKELTON, GENE TAYLOR, JERRY NADLER, KAREN THURMAN, BOBBY SCOTT, EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, BILL HEFNER, LYNN RIVERS, MIKE WARD, and WILLIAM JEFFERSON are now adding their names to this effort of bipartisanship.

As we speak today, we are losing $50 million a day, ladies and gentlemen, my colleagues, by this shutdown. All total we have lost $550 million. We are in the middle of a peacekeeping responsibility in Bosnia. Our young men and women need us. We need our resources. We need to use our tax dollars effectively.

What have we seen in the headlines besides the budget? We see corporations laying off 40,000 people. We need to be in the business of providing and creating jobs. Our small businesses in the 18th Congressional District, who would receive small business loans, which, in fact, in my view, are the backbone of America, cannot, in fact, get those loans to keep their employees hired.

And, likewise, those small businesses who are involved in Government contracts, they are unable to meet their obligations because they are not getting paid. Businesses that rely on contracts for services with the Small Business Administration are at a risk during this shutdown. In fact, several businesses who are awaiting payment from the Small Business Administration are closing their doors. That may not be 40,000 employees, ladies and gentlemen, it may amount to hundreds of thousands. And the reason is because this country is filled with independent entrepreneurs who I am so very proud of who are trying to work.

So I would ask the leadership, the Republican leadership, join me with this continuing resolution. It is offered

in a bipartisan effort. We have over 40 Members who have joined already to cosponsor a resolution that would open the Government, stop the bleeding, stop the loss of money, but let us continue to debate whether we cut Medicare and Medicaid, whether we cut the education loans, whether we cut in the environment, but open the Government so we are not losing $50 million a day.

This funds the Government at 90 percent. It allows people to be back at work doing the nursing home inspections that they are entitled and must be responsible to do, opening the national parks, opening the monuments, taking down the image internationally that the Government is shut down. Our embassies have had to send out letters to ensure our foreign governments that we are, in fact, not a government in crisis or revolution. This should not be.

And let me remind my colleagues that under the Constitution we are to work with the three branches of government, and we must work with the President and this House and the Senate. Let us work together, pass House Joint Resolution 155, and allow us to open this Government up. It is most important. House Joint Resolution 155. Let us pass it and open the Government.

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

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of order in place of the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. JONES].

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

TALK IS EASY; BALANCING THE BUDGET IS DIFFICULT

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

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, actually, I do believe with some of the Members here on the floor, we could actually work out the budget deal. Don't you think? That is about how I feel at the moment, is to override that which is down below the hill so that we can get it done.

One thing that did bother me, before I start in on this, is when I heard one of my colleagues mention the word ''perhaps.'' Balancing the budget is perhaps a laudatory thing to do. Perhaps is kind of a word like a maybe. Like balancing the budget may be a good thing to do. It does not imply any form of desirability, which, in fact, bothers me somewhat, and that is the problem that we have.

It is easy to talk about let us balance the Nation's budget, but when we actually get down to doing it, it is very difficult. One thing that is bothersome is, whether it is the Republicans or whether it is Democrats, there is this blame game that goes on in this town. And when we feel the heat back home by our constituents or Federal workers or someone who cannot get a passport or visa, it is easy to quickly blame someone else. Or if, in fact, someone is working in a Veterans Administration and someone calls to have a need and they say, well, just call your Congressman. They would like to blame the Congress, and that is an easy thing to do.

There is something that confronts us, though, and that is the Federal Government cannot sustain its current fiscal policies. I do not care who we are or what our background is or our partisanship, that is a fact. The spending commitments will far exceed the revenues available to meet the Federal Government's obligations. That is a fact. So we cannot deal on assumptions. Assumptions carry great liability.

Facts are stubborn things. It is a condition, not a theory, which presently confronts us. Look at this chart here for a moment. This is what confronts us. We have a national debt. Look at this national debt and the explosion. There is a great blame game when they say this national debt. They blame it on the 12 years of the Reagan-Bush era, as if Congress did not pass spending bills. So when they cut taxes, they did not cut spending, and we got a mushroom in the national debt.

I came to Congress in 1992. I am not interested in a blame game here. I know what confronts us. Fact is what confronts us.

If my colleagues would time travel with me and we say, now in the year 2002 we balance the budget, well, this bothers me. I am not satisfied. I am not satisfied because I know the national debt will continue to grow from its $4.9 trillion today to around $6.8 or $6.9 trillion. This national debt, this will take us up to about 2030 to 2035 to bring it back into better balance. I will not even be alive.

So people say, STEVE, why are you doing this? It is very easy to come here to the floor and say all of these things. Oh, my gosh, we have Federal workers not being paid. Here are some of the impacts. Here is someone that needs a visa to come back to school from whatever country they are from. Or here is someone that needs to go overseas for a particular job, or whatever is going on.

There are numerous examples, and we can go on and on and on. Do we give in to the moment or do we permit the eyes of our minds to see the greater vision? And the greater vision is saving the country. Save the country. Because if we permit the national debt to just mushroom and balloon like it is, I know what countries do whose debts become unmanageable. They devalue their currency.

I will submit this to the American people. If they see Members of Congress leaving this institution and they are starting to buy gold, Americans better buy gold, because we can see what is about to happen.

So it is easy to come here and wrap ourselves around whatever issue. There is no ownership on the issues of compassion. Some like to believe there are, but there are not. I neither believe that the milk of human kindness has soured, nor will I give in to the tears of vexation.

Mr. Speaker, I look at this chart and I think what a luxury President John Kennedy must have had when he came to this town in the early 1960's. Because at that time he had 70 percent of the budget that was discretionary spending. Seventy percent. Twenty-three percent was entitlement, 7 percent was interest on the debt. By 2002, the discretionary spending will have gone from the 70 percent all the way to only 28 percent.

□ 1445

So when we subtract 16 percent of the 28 percent for the military budget, we are not arguing over much anymore, because the mandatory spending side, entitlements and interest, they overtake itself. It is wrong and we have to balance the budget. Let us not give in to the rhetoric today.

CLEAN CONTINUING RESOLUTION WILL PUT FEDERAL EMPLOYEES BACK TO WORK

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

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, I wish to commend the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. BUYER], who just spoke, for his steadfastness for an effort to balance the budget, but I must disagree with him to the extent as far as he will go by saying that we must have a vision, and the vision is that we balance the budget in 7 years, and in the meantime, we make people suffer unendlessly. Those people who are suffering are innocent victims, not only Federal employees but contractors, private businesses, et cetera, in order to reach that goal, and it is not necessary.

Mr. Speaker, I tell the gentleman from Indiana, he and others on his side had an opportunity to vote for the coalition balanced budget amendment that many of us supported, and they did not, for the sole reason that it did not include a big tax cut for the wealthy. That is the only reason.

So, it tells me that what they really want is a big tax cut for the wealthy at the same time they want to cut back on Medicare, et cetera. But that is not