

ho, professional enlisted men and women and NCO's and an officer corps ready to do the job.

However, do they feel some hurt that the Commander in Chief is using them politically? That we do not see on the television news or in the newspaper reports. You bet they do. To a man they feel they are being used, and I will talk about that tomorrow.

#### WHAT IT IS LIKE TO BE IN WASHINGTON

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

Mr. MINGE. Mr. Speaker, when I go home, especially over the last Christmas break, people ask me, well, how do you like being in Congress? Is it an honor? Is it fun? Are you going to receptions? What is it like to be in Washington?

Often I respond by telling them a story about my Uncle Oly and Aunt Lena. I, like many in Minnesota, am of Norwegian ancestry. And Oly and Lena one morning were in the house and Oly got up, excused himself, went out to the outhouse, and did his business. As he pulled up his bib overalls, a couple quarters dropped out and went down the hole. Oly was disgusted. He took off his watch and he threw that down, and he took out his wallet and threw that down as well.

He went back in the house and Lena said well, "Oly, what is wrong with you? You are in such a foul mood and you don't smell so good either. What you been doing?" And finally it came out. Oly explained to her that he had lost the quarters and thrown his watch and wallet, and she said, "Oly, why did you do that? Why can you go down there?" He said, "Well, you didn't think I was going to go down after just 50 cents, did you?"

Well, there may be some humor in what Uncle Oly did, but there is little humor in what we are about here in Washington. We have all been regaled with stories about the shutdown, its impact on innocent Federal employees, about individuals that need passports to attend funerals, its impact on servicemen, national parks, veterans who are seeking guarantees for loans, businesses that are seeking guarantees from the Small Business Administration, and a vast array of others in America.

It is truly a tragic situation. And the best I can say to folks at home is it is a highly frustrating experience to serve in Congress these days. I have been here exactly 3 years, and I have had to say it has been frustrating each of these 3 years.

In the first 2 years, many of us chafed under rules that prohibited what we perceived to be a majority in Congress from considering legislation that we felt was important for the American people. Now, under the leadership of a new Speaker and a different

political party, we continue to cave under the same techniques of managing the business of the House of Representatives.

I would say to my brethren on the other side of the aisle, I certainly shared with you the dismay and frustration when good proposals were held up. Certainly you must understand that the same is happening today, and that altogether too often the rules of the House are being used to keep important initiatives from consideration by the Members of the U.S. House of Representatives. This is certainly happening at this time as I speak.

This leadership is preventing what I would consider to be the majority of the Members of this body from considering a continuing resolution to put Federal employees back to work. Similarly, I expect that the discipline of each political party in this institution is preventing the majority of the Members of the House of Representatives from honestly considering a 7-year deficit reduction plan that actually would work to balance the budget and would have broad support throughout our Nation. It is tragic when the majority so manipulates the rules. I do not care if the majority is Republican or the majority is Democrat, the tragedy is the same.

I think it is important that all of us work together on a bipartisan basis to try to make this institution as effective as possible. Forget about the next election. Forget about who gets credit. Instead, focus on how do we balance the budget, what is right for America, what do the American people expect of us?

I think that if we focus on these considerations, the frustration that I and many others have felt can be overcome. But unless we do that, we, like Oly, are simply going to go back home with a foul odor, that will be immediately noticed by our friends and family and residents of our district. We certainly can handle our responsibilities in a better fashion.

#### REASONS FOR LACK OF PROGRESS ON BUDGET

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

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to take this 5-minute special order to discuss the budget and my concerns with the lack of progress and really the lack of response from the administration.

We have heard continuously from some of those Members on the minority side that this really has been caused by a group of so-called radical freshmen Republican Members. Well, I rise as a five-term Republican who over the 10 years I have been in Congress have supported and worked with my colleagues on the other side on labor issues, even opposing NAFTA when my party and this President supported

NAFTA; working with Members of the other side on issues like family and medical leave; issues involving reform of Davis-Bacon that is acceptable to the labor unions and the working people of this country; and working on environmental issues and environmental legislation, opposing the riders that were attempted to be inserted in the bill. So I am not someone who rises as someone who has always been against the President. To the contrary, I have been supportive of some of the issues that this administration has supported.

But, Mr. Speaker, that is not what this debate is about. This debate really is about this President finally being called to task to live up to commitments that he has made publicly. He has gotten away with saying one thing and doing something else on numerous occasions that I cannot cite here today. But in this instance, Members on our side, even those of us who have worked with the President on key issues, are saying "We want to see this President simply come forward and do what he said he would do, and that is to provide for us a detailed seven-year plan to balance the budget."

Now, why has he not done that? It is because he is reading the political tea leaves and polls. He knows if he comes out with a 7-year plan in detail, he is either going to offend senior citizens or offend those business groups where he told them he would support a capital gains tax cut, or he is going to offend those veterans who he has told he will not have any changes in the way we fund veterans programs, or he is going to offend those defense workers by having to say we need additional cuts in defense, even though he was out in California last week and even made the case, and I cannot believe this, as the Republican who opposed the B-2 bomber, this. He even went so far as to say "Yes, we may need more than 20 B-2 bombers." Talk about ultimate irony, for this President to make that statement.

You see, if this President comes out with a detailed 7-year plan that lays out specifics like we have, he is going to take some heat, and this President does not like to take heat.

Mr. Speaker, the time for this rhetoric and demagoguery has ended. As I said earlier today, the Philadelphia Enquirer, no bastion of conservative politics in this country, said it best today in one of their lead editorials. The headline is, "Your turn, Bill. Clinton must offer the serious budget he promised."

I will insert this editorial in the RECORD, Mr. Speaker, but let me read the final paragraph of the editorial.

Congress should pass stopgap funding as soon as the President provides the missing ingredient of serious bargaining: A credible White House plan to balance the budget in seven years.

Even the Philadelphia Enquirer has now read through the demagoguery of this President.