

Now we know that the deficit was cut in half this year. It is \$160 billion rather than \$300 billion when the President took office. So we have already done some things.

No one ever thought in my district when I went home it was the subject of conversation that we would ever, the Congress of the United States, led by the Republicans, would shut down the Government. Twice. In fact, if that had not happened, I am sure no one would even believe, anyone in their right mind, that we could even think about the United States Government defaulting, putting our credit at risk.

That is unheard of. I was on the phone the other day with the head of the National Cancer Institute. Because of the Government shutdown, six cancer drugs were not released. In fact, the Geological Survey could not release maps to businesses that wanted to build projects. In fact, the SBA could not make loans to small business.

We are still trying to figure out what the impact of shutting the Government down was. I know it is difficult for NEWT GINGRICH and the Republican leadership, because they are a group of freshman that feel that it is their way or no way. I have always worked in a bipartisan way. I saw my colleague the gentleman from New York, BEN GILMAN, was here before. I wish my colleague from North Carolina, WALTER JONES, Jr., was here now, because I would have liked to have applauded his father, who was the chairman of the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries on which I served.

We did all kinds of good things on that committee. We passed the Coastal Zone Management Act, we worked to preserve Long Island Sound, we passed an ocean dumping bill. There is a lot of work that has to be done in the Congress of the United States for my constituents and for the country. We should be working on these issues at 10 minutes to 1, not talking about a possible default of the Federal Government.

The President put a balanced budget on the table. Now, originally I heard day after day the Republicans saying "We need a balanced budget, we need a balanced budget. We need it scored by the Congressional Budget Office." I apologize to all our constituents. They probably may not be aware of all these details. But the President did put a balanced budget on the table, scored by the Congressional Budget Office. Now the Republicans are saying "That is not good enough."

Well, let us bring that bill to the table. Let us bring that balanced budget on the table. We can agree on \$711 billion. Let us vote on it. Let us balance the budget and move forward and get to work.

I am very worried about how we are going to educate the next generation. I visit our schools. We can do so much more. It is legitimate to talk about what is the Federal role, what kind of investments can we make. There was

an article just this week on the success of some boot camps. Can we invest in more boot camps so we can ensure our kids can get that education?

Let us not talk about default. That is an outrage. Let us get to work at 1 o'clock.

U.S. MONETARY POLICY

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

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, the House will be adjourning shortly until February 6. Mark Twain would have greeted that news with great joy and said that during that period of time the Republic was safe.

The fact of the matter is the Republic is going to be in greater danger during that period. As the first Secretary of the Treasury, Alexander Hamilton, found, the one thing that was important for him to do as the Secretary of the Treasury was to assure the credit of the United States. This was something which had not existed prior to that time. In consequence, the currency, the full faith and credit of the United States, and, indeed, the economic promises and commitments of this country, meant very little.

Alexander Hamilton set in place a tradition and a history and a culture which during those years since his tenure have been manifested by two things: First, that the United States paid its debts when due; and, second, that the United States' credit was regarded as the best in the world.

Today as we sit here, credit rating agencies are reviewing the credit of the United States to see whether in fact the credit of the United States should continue to be AAA or whether in fact it should be reduced to some lower number.

During the time that we have been discussing the budget, we have been talking to our Republican colleagues about that matter, they have been stressing that there were two purposes that they were going to carry out to assure that the President agreed to their stand with regard to a balanced budget.

The first was to bring a Government shutdown. That has happened not once, but twice. The American taxpayers, American business, American industry, American citizens, have undergone substantial hardship. Our foreign trade has been impaired. The programs upon which business, industry, ordinary citizens are dependent, have all been hurt. Checks by the Government to its contractors have been delayed and withheld. Losses of employment amongst Government contractors have occurred.

Federal employees have been laid off. Federal employees have been paid for not working.

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That need not have been done. Indeed, with wise fiscal management, no

party in control of a legislative branch of government would permit a situation of that kind to obtain.

We have seen the consequences of that: new trucking unable to be certified, businesses unable to send delegations abroad to promote sale of U.S. commodities and goods and services, Americans incapable of bringing in foreigners to see things like the automobile show; our monuments to the success of that unfortunate policy.

We are now looking at February 29. What will happen on February 29? On February 29, the United States will go into default on its obligations. At that time, the credit of the United States will be reduced in the eyes of all on that sole event. It need not happen.

Never before in my memory in this body, or indeed in the history of the United States since Alexander Hamilton was the first Secretary of Treasury, has that sort of event occurred.

We are going to adjourn here shortly then until February 29. We will probably do so without having addressed the question of the debt ceiling. Let us look a little bit at what happens to this country if a default occurs.

My Republican colleagues are feeling very, very macho about this matter, because they are now able to say they have a tool which they can use which will force the President to do their bidding. Well, the President has not been forced to do their bidding by the shutdown of the Government. Indeed, the only persons who have been hurt have been the United States and the people of the United States.

The President has done his best to see to it that the country is run during those periods of time. But we have wasted billions in paying salaries to people who did not work. We are now paying people who are not able to work effectively because their agencies are not fully funded, even though we are paying them. But let us look ahead to see what will occur.

A BALANCED BUDGET

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

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. DINGELL].

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, interest rates will rise. Prices of U.S. Government obligations will fall. Interest rates will rise on municipal bonds, State securities, and private debt, corporate and individual.

Prices of bonds will drop. The securities markets, both stocks and bonds, will fall. The credit rating of the United States will be impaired. Employment will rise. Home mortgages will be thrown into disarray. Homeowners will find the value of their real estate declining. Pension funds will be impaired by reason of the loss of the value of their equity and the loss of earnings. Perhaps high unemployment in this

country and around the world will occur because of a significant breakdown in the world money markets and the world currency markets.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on the Republican side, if they are going to play with fire, to burn only themselves, but be careful of what they do.

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I have been listening to some of the debate that is going on over here, and it is really amazing to me that we have adults here masquerading as Congressmen that will not accept the responsibility for their own actions.

I can remember back when my children were young. One of the things that I tried to teach them was if they take an action, do something, to accept the responsibility for what has been done. But what we find here among the Republican majority is that they will not accept the responsibility at all for shutting down the Government. They want to blame it on somebody else.

Mr. Speaker, I have known of people that way. They do things and they think of all kinds of reasons to blame somebody else for what has happened to them instead of accepting responsibility for their own shortcomings.

Come March 15, I want to see the President continue this Government in those areas that expire by March 15. There is only one group that can do that, and that is the majority in the House. Senator DOLE cannot even do it on a continuing resolution. It is an appropriation that has to originate in the House. Only the Republicans can originate a bill of appropriations. If they do not do it, like they did not do it in December, they did not do it, and, for not doing it, the Government shut down. The same thing happened in November. When they did not do it, the Government shut down.

That is all it amounts to, folks, and now they tell us that all this big fight is over a balanced budget, that the President has not submitted a balanced budget. But the President has. And not only the President, the Democratic Coalition submitted a balanced budget that is a lot better than the Republican balanced budget.

The Congressional Budget Office tells us that the Democratic Coalition budget, by the year 2002, that Federal debt is \$66 billion less under the Democratic Coalition budget than under the Newt Gingrich Budget. No, they will not take that.

Know why? I will say why, Mr. Speaker. Because it does not have a tax cut for the wealthy in it. It does not have a tax cut at all. Some of us believe that we should not be cutting taxes until we see a balanced budget. All I am doing and my colleagues are doing in these balanced budget resolutions is estimating that by the year 2002 there is going to be a balanced budget.

There is not one person in this world that can guarantee that there is going to be a balanced budget. So let us wait

until we get to a balanced budget, then we will do tax cuts. They say: Oh, no. We want the tax cut now. We want the tax cut now.

What that tells me is that they really want a tax cut more than they want a balanced budget. That is what it tells me. They are more interested in seeing a tax cut. Let us wait and see the debt limit. I hear talk now that the gentleman from Texas [Mr. ARCHER] is going to put some of those tax cuts on the debt limit. That tells me something. That tells me that that tax cut is really important, more important than the credit of the United States.

That is what my colleagues are taking a risk with doing, by doing that. It is more important than the balanced budget. It is the most important thing of all among the whole area, this whole year, is the tax cuts. That is what the Republican majority really wants.

Mr. Speaker, it is not really the balanced budget. If they wanted that, they could have had that a long time ago. We gave that to them, the Democratic Coalition. CBO says, yes, it just does not have the tax cut. And if they really want a debt limit increase, I suggest that they pass a clean one. Once they do not, the Senate will add all kinds of amendments. If my colleagues add some, the Senate will add a bunch more, and we will not have it done.

TRIBUTE TO RONALD REAGAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Arizona [Mr. HAYWORTH] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

CONGRESS MUST WORK TOGETHER TO END DEFICIT SPENDING

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, we were to use this time for a special occasion that appears on the calendar in a few days, and we will get to that in a few minutes. But after hearing the rhetoric bandied about this floor this morning and on into the afternoon, I think it is important to make several points.

First and foremost, when we talk about credit and credit ratings, when we talk about abdication of responsibility, Mr. Speaker, the problem is this: For too long those who have come to this Chamber have always found a reason to say yes; have always found a reason to spend more and more of the American taxpayers' money.

For almost a half century, it has been fact in this city, in this Chamber, that it is always easier to say yes. It is always easier to say, oh, gee, we should be able to find some money for that. To that extent, we have now spent ourselves to almost \$5 trillion of debt.

No, Mr. Speaker, the ultimate abdication of responsibility is not facing up to this problem and saying, let us work together to change these ways. The ultimate abdication of responsibility would be to continue to heap debt upon debt upon those who have no voice in

this Chamber, for they are generations yet unborn.

We have heard a lot about bipartisanship. Let me congratulate the President and his budgeteers for something they did a couple of years ago, something called generational accounting, where the President asked his budgeteers to take a look at Government as it exists today and extrapolate what it would cost the average American taxpayer if nothing changed. The President's own budgeteers said, if nothing changes, the average American 25 years from now will surrender 82 percent of his or her income in taxation to some level of government, to some governmental entity.

Today the American taxpayer, the average American family pays more in taxes than on food, shelter, and clothing combined. Yet, our friends would come here and say, gee, if you want to make the Government work, we will just take more or hang on to more of people's hard-earned money, and we will get our act together.

Yet the inescapable fact is, for every dollar raised in taxes for years, this Congress has spent \$1.59. Now it is supposed to be different. My distinguished friend, the gentleman from Michigan, quoted Mark Twain. Mark Twain also said this: "History does not repeat itself, but it rhymes."

Yes, momentous decisions await us in this Chamber. Yes, the American people deserve the best. Yes, the American people deserve a Government that will allow pro-growth policies by letting people hang on to more of their hard-earned money and at the same time deliver a one-two punch, not only allowing Americans to hang on to more of their money but, yes, curtailing the levels of spending.

It is only extreme in the sense that it makes extremely good sense.

Mr. Speaker, with that I yield to my friend from California.

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, I think it is important to realize that, when we say 80 percent of people's income will have to be taken from them in taxes in the future in order to pay for government if we leave the situation the way it is, let us remember what that 80 percent will mean. That 80 percent will not be providing those future generations with services. What we are talking about is leaving future generations to pay a majority of their income simply to pay for the interest on the debt that we have left them.

Mr. Speaker, we are basically condemning future generations of Americans to slavery. Our fellow Americans should take a look and see what we are talking about here. One is not a free person if one has to work half of one's life simply to pay the interest on the debt that someone else has given. That is what the young people of our country have to look forward to unless we are responsible.

Our country will not be a prosperous country in a situation like that, and our people will not be a free people. It