

longer speak and govern on issues relating to the integrity of this House, we will have forever damaged this institution.

I urge members to uphold the Committee on Ethics recommendation.

BALANCE BUDGET FOR WORKING PEOPLE AND AMERICAN FAMILIES

(Mr. EWING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, this is the debt of the United States on December 19, almost \$5 trillion. Now, I think there is one thing we agree with on both sides of the aisle, that the economy is very important; not only reducing the deficit and paying off the debt, but to American families.

Mr. Speaker, just a few facts that I think are very interesting: A recent study shows that the optimum level of government spending is 17.6 percent of the gross national product. Unfortunately, government spending is 4 percentage points higher than that. If we would reduce it, we could increase the amount of energy in our economy. For every dollar of Federal spend down to the optimum level, we could get \$1.38 in growth.

This week, the Dow Jones dropped 50 points when the President scuttled the budget process. Let us get back to it. Let us balance the budget for our working people and for our families.

RISK IN DELAYING AFDC CHECKS

(Mr. WATT of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WATT of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I have talked to some of my Republican colleagues in private about this matter, and I want to say it publicly to the balance of my colleagues. If we do not pass a continuing resolution today or tomorrow at latest, 4.7 million families who are on AFDC are in risk of not getting their AFDC checks come January 1 of next year.

There are consequences that go with that, and I want to remind my Republican colleagues that they are playing with fire, if they think people will sit by and idly wait on them to play budget games with their lives and their ability to eat.

They came forward with a continuing resolution for veterans yesterday, and I am calling on my colleagues today to come forward with a continuing resolution to address this serious problem.

TIME TO GET SERIOUS ABOUT BALANCED BUDGET

(Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, it is strange that day in and day out

we keep hearing from the President and from his liberal friends that come to the well of the House and talk about how they want a balanced budget. But to hear them talk, \$12 trillion over the next 7 years is not enough. They want a balanced budget, but they are not willing to balance it.

I think they want an unbalanced budget, just like they have had for the last 26 years. More spending, more spending. And let me say this: In the year 2012, what are they going to do when every tax dollar will be consumed by entitlement and interest on the debt, and there is no future for our children and grandchildren? What are they going to do then?

It is time we get serious about a \$5 trillion debt. It is time that we get serious and not play these games. What are you willing to do to get a balanced budget?

BUDGET GAMES

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this chart shows the headlines in the Wall Street Journal, the New York Times, and the Washington Post this morning. They cut straight to the chase. One reads "GOP rebellion scuttles accord on the budget talks." Another reads "House Republicans derail budget talks." The other one from the Wall Street Journal says "The Republicans are revolting." They should read that Republicans keep government closed to give tax cuts for the few.

It appears as though there is a group that will not compromise and insists on holding not only government workers, but Social Security applicants hostage in keeping the Government shut down until they accept their harmful budget cuts and ill-advised budget-busting tax cuts for the few.

I am committed to balancing the budget, and I am also here to say I am committed to senior citizens, children, police officers, veterans, teachers, and students, and I will not sacrifice them to balance our budget.

We should remain committed to balancing the budget over 7 years, and doing so in a way that protects the priorities of Medicare, Medicaid, crime fighting, and education. Balancing the budget is not an agreement to do on Christmas eve. It is something you have to do all year.

EXCUSES FOR NOT BALANCING BUDGET

(Mr. BAKER of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BAKER of California. Mr. Speaker, this Congress has not balanced the budget in 26 years, I would like to remind the gentleman, so let us just start out with the facts.

President Clinton vetoed the balanced budget passed by the House and Senate. Then 30 days ago, after his poll numbers dropped, he vowed to sign a balanced budget in 7 years using real numbers. He did nothing for 30 days.

Then the four leaders met and agreed to three things. First, we are going to balance the budget in 7 years using real numbers; second, it is nice that we can all agree; and third, we are going to do it by yearend.

Within 5 minutes, one of the four participants in the meeting, AL GORE, stepped outside and repudiated two of the three. "No, we are not going to use real numbers and we are not going to do it by the end of the year." OK, AL, so much for the agreement.

Then the President yesterday found a new excuse why he could not go along with the balanced budget. Aliens had taken over the House and they would not let this nice guy NEWT GINGRICH sign a deal to reopen government. I could not believe it.

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The stock market did not believe it. While he was spinning that tale, it went down 50 points, but the liberal press bought it. Today's excuse: Aliens and unidentified flying objects will capture BOB DOLE and he will not be able to sign.

Folks, there are 236 Republicans on this floor that are for a balanced budget in 7 years with real numbers. Let us do it for our kids.

REAL BUDGET IMPASSE IS TAX CUT FOR THE RICH

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Mr. Speaker, the real budget impasse is a \$270 billion tax cut for the rich. NEWT GINGRICH calls it the crown jewel. That is where the budget impasse exists. That is why, Mr. Speaker, I am glad to be part of the reform-minded Democratic freshmen who believe we can balance the budget without taking away from our children, or making devastating cuts in Medicaid, Medicare, and the environment. This is where we are today.

And Mr. Speaker, we have another problem with the welfare bill to be proposed on the floor of the House today. This is an unfriendly Congress when it comes to children. There are no work programs in this proposed Republican welfare plan for the parents of these children. This legislation does not want the welfare recipients to be independent. The Republicans have cut the work programs out. We take away \$14 billion from Medicaid so that women and children cannot get good health care that are on welfare, and then those children who are disabled, the severely disabled children, 320,000 of them, this welfare bill tells them that we do not care about you by cutting their needed SSI benefits.

Unfriendly, childless, careless, that is what the Republicans are doing with the budget impasse; \$270 billion in tax cuts for the rich, and then a welfare bill that misrepresents to the American people that the Republicans want real welfare reform. No; this legislation will not correct the welfare crises. This Republican legislation takes the safety net away from innocent children.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to stand up for the children.

LIBERAL EXTREMISM

(Mr. HOKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday during special orders I heard the gentlewoman from Connecticut [Ms. DELAURO] call our 7-year, \$245 billion tax cut massive. And I looked at the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Mr. Speaker, and I cannot find a single instance in which the gentlewoman used the word "massive" to describe Bill Clinton's 1993 7-year tax hike of \$400 billion.

In fact, she was a vocal advocate of that plan. She described it as "courageous, responsible, a bold initiative," and my favorite, "serious change."

Now, let me repeat this, Mr. Speaker, because I think it is important for the American people to understand where the Democrats are coming from philosophically. The liberal extremists criticize a \$245 billion tax cut by calling it massive, but they call a \$400 billion tax increase "serious change."

When it comes to letting the American people keep more of what they have earned, the liberal extremists are morally offended. But when it comes to the Government confiscating more and more money from those who have earned it, they pat themselves on the back for their courage.

REPUBLICAN RHETORIC

(Mr. KLINK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, to the previous speaker I would mention that we had in 1993 a \$250 billion tax increase and a \$250 billion cut in spending. And that did something very historical. It brought down the deficit for 3 consecutive years. We have cut in half what was almost a \$300-billion-a-year deficit, without one Republican vote.

Now we are arguing about balancing the budget. We took the vote to bring the budget much closer to balance, and the stock market reacted correctly. Employment was created in this Nation. All of the things that the naysayers on the GOP side of this House were saying were going to happen after 1993 never occurred. Not one of them has occurred.

As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, I have noticed that since the GOP is in

control of this House, not one of those massive tax increases that they complain about have they rescinded. Not one of them have they rescinded. So the rhetoric is getting a little thick and America is beginning to notice.

PARTIAL SHUTDOWN II

(Mrs. MORELLA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, yesterday morning there was a ray of promise. Yesterday afternoon that promise evaporated. The country cries out for a balanced budget agreement now; 260,000 Federal employees have been furloughed.

The good news is that yesterday we obtained a commitment from the Speaker and the Senate majority leader that all furloughed employees, those who are not working, will be paid. And, indeed, that is correct and it is the proper thing to do. These employees and their families should not be the victims of budget gridlock. They want to work. This is not an extended vacation. They are frustrated and anxious about their fate.

I do want to point out there are a lot of other consequences to this partial shutdown. Important research grants at NIH are not being processed. I have heard from employees who are missing important deadlines because they cannot go to work. They are frustrated and point out important work is not being done.

Each day of the shutdown 2,500 families will not be able to close on their mortgages, 260 businesses that receive SBA loans will not receive the financing they have been counting on. So many examples. This says let us resolve this impasse and do the job we were sent here to do.

'Twas THE HOLIDAY SEASON

(Mr. NADLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker:

'Twas the holiday season, and all through the House,

Any hopes for a budget, the Speaker did douse.

But the PAC checks were tacked to the chimney with care,

In hopes that a tax cut soon would be there. With Bill in discussions, but Newt's jaws

aflap,

Our nation's fine workers must just take a nap.

When what to our wondering eyes should appear,

But GOP leaders spreading more fear:

Senior citizens, women and children disabled,

It seems any help for you soon will be tabled. Please don't be mad, but you're taking the

fall,

So the wealthiest wealthy can soon have it all.

We Democrats greeted this warning with ire,

But Newt and his friends want cuts even higher.

So to every American watching tonight, Be assured all this the Democrats will fight.

SECRETARY OF LABOR NEEDS TO GET OUT IN THE REAL WORLD

(Mr. HOEKSTRA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, here is what the Secretary of Labor said this morning on C-SPAN. "This debate is not being driven by economic issues." I now know why the Secretary works for the Government. Everybody in the real world knows that a \$4.9 trillion debt, that \$200 billion deficits and that deficits as far out as the eye can see, those are economic issues.

The Secretary then goes on to moan that Federal workers cannot volunteer, at the same time his department has been shutting down Salvation Army bell ringers. Let us have some consistency.

Mr. Secretary, get out of the Washington puzzle palace into the real world. It will give you a better perspective on the issues and the solutions that we need to be making in America today.

SUPPORT THE COALITION BUDGET

(Mr. PAYNE of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, sometimes the answers to our problems are so obvious that we miss them entirely. That is exactly what is happening right now with this budget stalemate. The conservative Democratic coalition has created a budget that is simple. It eliminates the major stumbling blocks to a 7-year balanced budget. It asks each of us to do exactly what the American people want us to do, that is to compromise, to work together, to get the job done. It asks my Republican colleagues and the American people to forego tax cuts until we get at this balanced budget. It asks Medicare beneficiaries and their champions in Congress to recognize that Medicare has grown at an unsustainable rate and we must curb the growth of this and other entitlement programs. Yet it does not contain the kind of large Medicare cuts that have sparked so much partisan rancor here in Congress. It cuts the deficit faster and deeper than the Republican budget and it is the one budget that is balanced in 7 years according to CBO and occupies a sensible middle ground.

Mr. Speaker, that is where the American people are. So let us end this business as usual. Let us summon the political courage to do the right thing. Let us take some risks for a balanced budget. Let us pass this coalition budget.