

shutdown of government services, we also need to note that, particularly to my constituents who are concerned, that also the Department of Justice is shut down. That means that if there are some who are interested in the timely filing of an appeal to the Supreme Court for the drastic measures that were taken by the lower court in Georgia, we are just out of luck, because the Department of Justice is among those whose Federal employees have been called off of the job.

We have definitely got to do something to put our Federal employees back to work. The work of our government employees is necessary, it is essential, it is valuable, and it is critical. To deny our Federal employees paychecks just a few days before Christmas is about the most cold-hearted kind of treatment that I have ever, ever thought that anybody could visit upon other people.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TIAHRT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. SAXTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

FRESHMAN REPUBLICANS DEDICATE THEMSELVES TO GETTING AMERICA'S FINANCIAL HOUSE IN ORDER

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

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, it is one of the greatest privileges in the world to serve in Congress and represent constituents who have sent you to Washington. I have had the pleasure as well to represent a smaller constituency in the State House in Hartford, and it never ceased to amaze me, as a State legislator, how I as a State legislator had to make sure that our State had its financial house in order, and yet the Federal Government could deficit spend. I often wondered how those men and women in Congress could do such a terrible thing to our country, to burden future generations with horrific debt, on which we have to pay annual interest payments which are in excess of over \$235 billion annually.

Mr. Speaker, when I got down to Washington I vowed that getting our financial house in order would be my first and highest priority, making sure that we balanced our Federal budget. I have seen during the past 8 years that there has been here a greater awareness that we needed to do this and more and more Members willing to put their, candidly, political lives on the line to do that.

I pay special salute to the freshman class that have joined us this year, because this number of 73 Members has given us the opportunity to lead. We

have not had an opportunity as a Republican conference to lead in 40 years. What we have done in that short period of time, Mr. Speaker, I think is extraordinary. We passed major reforms in the first day of the session by reducing the size of Congress, reducing the number of committees, reducing the staff on committees, requiring or no longer allowing proxy votes, requiring all committee meetings to be open to the public, requiring that Congress live under all the laws we impose on everyone else. I want to say that again; to require Congress to live by all the laws that we impose on everyone else.

Mr. Speaker, we not only voted during the beginning of the year for a balanced budget amendment, but we did something obviously more important, we voted to balance the budget. That is what I want to address at this point.

Mr. Speaker, we are going to get our financial house in order and balance our Federal budget. At the same time we are going to save our trust funds, particularly Medicare, from insolvency and then ultimately bankruptcy. Our Medicare fund will go bankrupt if we do not take corrective action to restore funds in the Medicare Part A fund, which will go bankrupt in 7 years. We are looking to transform our caretaking social and corporate welfare state into a caring opportunity society. We are set to do all three of these objectives, and we are working hard to accomplish that task.

Mr. Speaker, Prime Minister Rabin, who was the former prime minister in Israel, made it very clear that he viewed his responsibility this way. He said he was elected by adults to represent the children. That is what I think Members in Congress have to do. We are talking about not having a horrific debt that mortgages our country's future.

We have a plan. The plan is very simple: We balance the budget in 7 years. Admittedly, we have a tax cut. What do we do? We balance it in 7 years. I could forego a tax cut if we balance the budget in 6 years, but I will be darned if I am going to reduce the tax cuts and then take what we had saved to allow for tax cuts and just spend more money. We are allowing this Government to grow. In the past 7 years we spent \$9 billion. We are going to spend \$12 billion. The issue is should we spend \$13 billion in the next 7 years. We say no. The other issue is we say it should be balanced by the seventh year.

Mr. Speaker, I constantly hear about Republican cuts to the budget. They are just not true. At least they are not true when they refer to the earned income tax credit, a very important program to provide proactive financial assistance to individuals who do not pay taxes, but work. The earned income tax credit grows from \$19.9 to \$25.4 billion. The school lunch program under our plan grows from \$5.1 to \$6.8 billion. The student loan program grows from \$24.5 to \$36 billion. That is a 50-percent increase.

Only in this place when you spend 50 percent more do people call it a cut; Medicaid, growing from \$9 billion to \$127 billion, Medicare from \$178 billion in the seventh year to \$289 billion. That clearly is an increase in spending.

Mr. Speaker, we are cutting some programs, and maybe some we should not, but we had to make choices. Now it is up to the President. We have spent a whole year working on our budget. We have closed it and advertised it, and have proclaimed it to our constituency and the entire United States. Now it is time for the President to say where his priorities are.

A member of our conference pointed out that we have been authors and the President has been a critic. It is important now that the President be an author of what he favors and show us what he wants, and then compare the two options. I think we can have an agreement on 24 hours, as soon as the President and the leaders in the Democratic side of the aisle, the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. GEPHARDT] and the gentleman from South Dakota [Mr. DASCHLE], determine that the American people want to balance the budget in 7 years and get our financial House in order. We are not asking that they agree to what we are doing with Medicare and Medicaid or the tax program or our discretionary spending. We are asking them to present their plan, see where we agree and, where we agree, case closed. Where we disagree, then iron out our differences.

Ultimately, the President is the President of the United States. He is going to have to pass judgment on what we do. There will have to be an agreement. But rather than compromise, we are looking to find common ground and save this country from bankruptcy. We are determined to get our financial House in order and balance the Federal budget. We are determined to save our trust funds, particularly Medicare, from bankruptcy. We are determined to transform this social and corporate welfare state into an opportunity society and end this cycle of 12-year-olds having babies, 14-year-olds selling drugs, 15-year-olds killing each other, 18-year-olds who cannot read their diplomas, 24-year-olds who have never had a job, and 30-year-old grandparents. That has to end.

We need to transform this society into truly what is an opportunity society. I look forward to doing that, and working with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to accomplish that task. Mr. Speaker, I would just conclude by saying I am proud to serve in this incredible opportunity as a Member of Congress, and to represent the people of the United States.

REEMPHASIZING THE DETERMINATION OF REPUBLICANS TO BALANCE THE FEDERAL BUDGET

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