

fiscal year, they want to blame the default of this Government, of the shut-down tonight at midnight, on the Democrats.

Stop the foolishness, Republicans. Speaker GINGRICH, on the GOP budget strategy, said "The President will veto a number of things, and we will put them all on the debt ceiling, and then he will decide how much of a crisis he wants." That is according to the Washington Times, April 3, 1995.

The Washington Post of September 2, 1995, quotes Speaker GINGRICH: "I do not care what the price is. I do not care if we have no executive offices and no bonds for 30 days. Not at this time."

It is wrong for the Republicans to treat the American people this way. Let us do what is right for this Nation. Let us send a clean CR to the President, and a clean debt ceiling as well.

#### TIME FOR A BALANCED BUDGET

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

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join in decrying the coming crisis. However, I believe it is extremely important to resolve the crisis that we are facing, and believe we should not shut down the Government.

Let me just give some of the facts. You heard earlier from the gentlewoman from California that the deficit is above \$4.9 trillion; in fact, within a few weeks it will be \$5 trillion. In one-thousand dollar bills, that would be a stack 300 miles out into space. We have to address the deficit problem.

The Republicans have addressed it. We have voted for a balanced budget. I applaud those Democrats in this Chamber who have voted for a balanced budget proposal. The President's proposal, 18 pages long, does not even begin to outline a solution.

I believe it is time for the President to come to the table to meet in all sincerity with the Speaker and the majority leader of the Senate. It is time for us to reach agreement on a balanced budget. The American people demand it. They deserve it. Let us pass a balanced budget.

#### DO NOT BALANCE BUDGET BY MEDICARE INCREASES

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I was so proud to read over the weekend that the President has indicated that he will not sign a continuing budget resolution because of the increase in Medicare payments. I think it is really awful to think that the Republican leadership in this House has said that unless the President agrees to increase Medicare part B premiums, which would go from \$46.10 per month to \$53.50 per month, when they are sched-

uled under current law to be decreased to \$42.50 per month. What the Republican leadership is saying is unless you sign this continuing resolution, we are going to make sure that the Medicare premiums go up.

It is not fair to American senior citizens. Over the weekend I talked to a lot of senior citizens. They cannot afford the Medicare part B increase being proposed by the Republican leadership. It is not fair to hold the budget and the Government hostage to this Medicare increase. The President recognizes it. I commend him for the fact he refuses to sign this continuing resolution, primarily because of the Medicare increase.

#### HOW TO ACHIEVE A BALANCED BUDGET IN 7 YEARS

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

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, if honesty were the high road, too often in this debate we are at a much lower level, traveling the course of what happens to the future of this country.

Do we want a balanced budget in 7 years or less or do we not and, if we do, how should we try to change politicians' behavior around to achieve that goal?

What we have done in this case is try to say that we are going to use the continuing resolution, that we are going to try to use the temporary increase in the debt ceiling, to change what politicians have been doing since the 1920's, and we are actually in some areas going to cut some of the funds that have been going into some of those discretionary programs.

In Medicare, it is a farce. It comes as a strong untruth between what the President and the Democrats in the Senate have already suggested of the changes and where we end up with Medicare reform.

#### AMERICA IS PRESENTED WITH A MANUFACTURED CRISIS

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, today America is presented with a manufactured crisis, and the inventor of this crisis, the person with all the rights to the patent to this crisis and all the silliness attendant to it, is one Speaker NEWT GINGRICH.

Way back on April 3, he made very clear his determination to manufacture this crisis. He reiterated it on June 3, saying that he hardly worried whether the Government would show up. And then finally on September 22, he said to all that were listening then what was going to happen tonight, he said "I do not care what the price is. I do not care

if we have no Executive offices and no bonds for 30 days. Not this time."

Well, the American people do care. They want their Government working together to take care of the problems that we have, and they do not want to have to pick up the tab for this unnecessary invention, for unless Speaker GINGRICH plans to pay personally for the cost of this whole mishap with the proceeds of the next couple of books that he does with Rupert Murdoch, it is the American taxpayer who will have to pick up the price for this weird invention.

#### CONGRESS FAILED TO COMPLETE ITS WORK

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, as one who represents 56,000 Federal employees and therefore has always been concerned about the failure of this Congress and the President to do their work in a timely fashion, causing the Government to temporarily shut down, I rise to express once again my deep regret that the Congress of the United States has not done its job.

The fact of the matter is, the only reason there needs to be a continuing resolution signed today or passed today is because we have not done our work, period. All the other rhetoric about balanced budgets, all the other rhetoric about the politics in the White House, are, frankly, not accurate.

There are nine appropriation bills that neither the House nor the Senate have finally acted upon. Therefore, this crisis could have been averted had we done our work.

#### NOW IS THE TIME TO GET A BALANCED BUDGET

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

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, what we have heard on the floor today is the liberal extremists who will do virtually anything that they can to stop a balanced budget from taking place. They will just obstruct, they will use anything in their power to stop a balanced budget from taking place.

Now, they would have you believe that they are simply acting for good government. The fact is what they are doing is trying to stop the American family from saving \$37,000 in interest costs on their mortgage, because that is what a balanced budget would do. They are trying to stop the American people from getting \$900 less in interest payments on the family car that they purchase, because that is what a balanced budget would do. They are trying to stop people from getting a \$10,000 interest advantage on their student loans, because that is what a balanced budget would do.