

for him to sign; but send him the simple continuing resolution and get this Government back to work.

CONGRESS NEEDS LEADERSHIP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentlewoman from North Carolina [Mrs. CLAYTON] is recognized during morning business for 3 minutes.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Madam Speaker, what this Government needs and what this Congress needs is leadership, leadership that will not play political games or brinksmanship. What we need in a time of crisis is vigorous leadership that understands the needs of the people are more important than their political game.

What we need are rational people, moderate people who will find opportunity to compromise. Is it rational to expect that the Government will have a clean continuing resolution? I think it is. It is, because really the arguments that we are making on the continuing resolution are arguments we should make on the budget reconciliation. That work has not been done.

Why stretch this argument for the American people? Already the American people have said things that are in the budget reconciliation should not be there.

Why are we giving the American people this anguish, this turmoil, when we need not do it? Why do we not step up to the bar and say there is a right way to do this, there is a right way to govern?

I challenge the Speaker to find that vigorous verbosity that he has in explaining all of the nuances of democracy, to find it by simple leadership, the leadership that says we will govern without respect to party, we will govern without respect to politics, we will govern without respect to who wins.

Actually the American people would not care who wins, who blinks first, when this is all over. But they will blame us if indeed senior citizens have to pay a larger premium. They will blame us if students no longer have opportunities to go to school. They will blame you if opportunities for the environment retrogress, if we have that opportunity and fail to do that.

These are the attributes of leadership and crisis, not to blame each other but to find how we have common good, common issues that bring us together, that is the leadership that we need in a time of crisis.

□ 0945

STOP THIS FISCAL INSANITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. PRYCE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Colorado [Mr. MCINNIS] is recognized for 4 minutes.

Mr. MCINNIS. Madam Speaker, I think that it is very important that we put today's events and the events over

the last several years in its proper perspective.

A lot of people in our Chambers think that the crisis started at midnight last night. That crisis did not start at midnight last night. This crisis has been going on for years and years and years. The old bad habits in Washington, DC, have forced this country into a position of fiscal insanity.

We heard some of the previous speakers talk about extremes. You want to hear about extremes? Compare this: Right now your Government in this country is spending \$30 million an hour more than it brings in, \$30 million an hour.

I ask the American people, how many of you out there in America can overspend your budget in the same proportion that the Federal Government has been allowed for year after year after year after year to overspend its budget? When are we finally going to stand up to this fiscal insanity, when are we going to finally get the courage to stand up and say you cannot continue to run a government like you are running this Government in Washington, DC?

If you think the people out there in America are confident about Washington, ask them if they think for their taxpayer dollar they are getting a bang for their dollar, a bang for their buck? I think you are going to find the answer is no.

Ask the American people what it is like to spend the first 2 hours and 45 minutes of every workday of their working career just to pay taxes? In other words, when they go into work at 8 o'clock in the morning, it is not until a quarter to 11 or so before they finally get to put some money in their own pocket.

Ask the American person what it is like to owe more money to the Federal Government as a result of this Federal deficit than most families owe on their home mortgage. Ask the American family what it is like to pay more in taxes than they pay for transportation, for housing, for clothing, and for recreation combined.

Madam Speaker, we have got to do something about this fiscal insanity. Now, sure, everybody said my gosh, the sun is not going to come up today after the Government shuts down. I venture to say in comparison to the fiscal crisis we have got, it is going to be classified as an inconvenience.

I hear some of my colleagues up here telling you about Medicare. It is the Democrats' position to drop the premiums. Folks, this is a fund that is in fiscal trouble. It is going bankrupt. Even Clinton's advisors, even the President's advisors, said this fund will be bankrupt if we do not do some fiscal management on it. You cannot lower the premiums right now.

By the way, if you lower the premiums, it does not lower the cost. The cost stays the same. Who makes up the difference? All the rest of the taxpayers in this country.

Folks, we have to stand up to the line and accept the responsibility, just like every constituent we have got out there accepts their personal responsibility with their personal checkbook, with their personal family, every month. That is what this is about. It is not about the Medicare issue. That is a diversion. It is not about whether or not to use the trust funds out of Social Security. That is a diversion.

The question is, will this country get to a balanced budget? Will this country operate fiscally like every family in America is expected to operate?

Most of the people on this side of the aisle say no, business as usual. Let us continue to run this deficit. But those of us, some of us who have been labeled as extremists, say wait a minute, it is not asking the impossible. It is not unusual to expect the representatives of this Government in Washington, DC, not to accept business as usual, but to demand from the American Government that we operate our budget like the American people operate theirs.

NOW IS THE TIME TO FACE REALITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE] is recognized for 2 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Madam Speaker, I think the real issue this morning and over these past 11 months, starting around the month of February, is that the Republicans really do not get the message.

Madam Speaker, it is interesting that someone would argue what the American families need. I think basically the American families do very well in helping to create what they need, a roof over their heads, transportation, food for their children, and support for their elderly citizens. And anything that hinders that opportunity is absolutely wrong policy.

Basically, September was the month when we should have passed all of the appropriation bills, which would have caused this Government to continue to operate. But now I have to tell the Federal employees who took their day off on Saturday and joined me with my congressional office in a local grocery store and worked on their holiday, those from Social Security, IRS, and the Veterans Administration, that they do not matter; the services that they provide to veterans and the senior citizens and people who need and have concerns about Internal Revenue Service issues, that they do not count.

I think what we should recognize is that we have been negotiating. In fact, the Democratic leader said just last night, let us pass a 24-hour continuing resolution so that we can keep the doors of this Government open. It was rejected by the Republican leadership.

Now is the time to face reality. The reality is that we do have the opportunity to create a budget that reflects