

So I guess now he is back to the point where balancing the budget is no longer important again.

Would not it be wonderful to be like Bill Clinton and wake up in a new world every day? When I was a kid, and many of you will remember this, too, by the way, today I will be the cowboy, you be the Indian; tomorrow I will be the Indian, you be the cowboy; maybe we will be policemen, maybe we will be explorers. We called it playing make believe.

Bill Clinton is still playing make believe. Maybe it is fun for him to wake up in a new world every day and decide who he will be. But it is not fun for the rest of America.

Decide, Bill Clinton, who are you? Liberal, conservative, whatever? America is getting tired of playing make believe.

TAKE MEDICARE AND STUDENT LOANS OFF THE TABLE

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, for months Speaker GINGRICH has threatened to shut down the Government in order to score political points and to give tax breaks to the wealthiest people in this country. The President has vetoed these bills because he is unwilling to increase Medicare premiums 25 percent and because he is unwilling to cut student loans to middle-class families.

It is simply wrong to increase Medicare premiums and to cut student loans so that Speaker GINGRICH can bestow huge tax breaks on the largest corporations and the wealthiest people in this country.

Let us take Medicare and student loans off the table and work together in a bipartisan way to run the Government the way that it should be.

BORROWING FROM OUR CHILDREN'S FUTURE

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

Mr. NORWOOD. As a nation, we are almost \$5 trillion in debt. The share of the national debt held by the people of the 10th District of Georgia is \$11 billion. The share of the national debt my 2-year-old grandson owes is 19 thousand dollars. I do not care whose fault it is; this mindless borrowing from our children's future must stop.

Mr. Speaker, as the duly elected representative of the people of the 10th District of Georgia, I cannot and will not vote to increase the debt limit of the United States without a clear commitment to balance the budget in 7 years. I cannot and will not vote to continue the spending of the U.S. Government without a clear commitment to balance the budget in 7 years or less.

The people of the 10th District of Georgia have my word on it.

DRIVE-BY DEBATE

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

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Madam Speaker, one of the prior speakers said that I came to the floor yesterday and I was very angry about how dysfunctional this House has become, and I am. I am, angry the tenor of this debate. It is like drive-by debate. People stand up on each side and go blah, blah, blah, and back and forth and back and forth. The American people have every right to deserve more.

Let me tell Members what this is about. This is not about whether or not we have a balanced budget. It is how we have a balanced budget.

The President says we will have a balanced budget by standing for the American values of continuing education, environmental cleanup, helping our seniors. That is what it is.

They have to take money from them because they made pledges to special interests. But forget what I am saying, because I just am engaging in the drive-by debate. Let us say that a picture is worth a thousand words.

Here we have from the Cincinnati Inquirer, not exactly a liberal paper, the Speaker taking food away from the children because there good friends who want a tax cut have not had enough. It says, "I need your pie back. They are still hungry."

UNCLE SAM NEEDS A CREDIT COUNSELOR

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

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, I ask you to imagine an American family, Mr. and Mrs. Doe, who have accumulated a debt more than three times their annual income and who are spending each year 10 percent more than they receive as income. Within a few years, their credit card companies say, "We have to cancel your credit cards," and their other creditors say, "We want to be paid off." Mr. and Mrs. Doe go to see a credit counselor. They say, "We would like to work this out. We want to achieve a balanced household budget, but we would like to have 10 years to do it, or at least 7 years. What do you think?" The credit counselor is going to say, "That is absurd. You have to do it this year."

Yet we as a nation have a national debt over three times our annual income. Furthermore, Uncle Sam is spending 10 percent more than his annual income each year. What do you think a credit counselor is going to say to Uncle Sam? I think Uncle Sam needs a credit counselor. The counselor is going to say, "You have to balance the

Federal budget. You do not have the luxury of the 10 years the President is asking for. You probably do not even have the luxury of 7 years."

Let us balance the Federal budget right away, just as the American family has to do.

PRESIDENT NEEDS OUR COOPERATION

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

Mr. RICHARDSON. Madam Speaker, just think how all of these gunfights at the OK Corral and gridlock play overseas where America has enormous interests. We are the laughingstock of the world.

How can a President of the United States go to Osaka, Japan, to meet with Asian leaders and talk about trade and commerce when he gets no cooperation from his own Congress on keeping the Government open? How can the President of the United States negotiate a peace agreement in Dayton over Bosnia when his own Congress is trying to undermine him even before he concludes a peace treaty?

Mr. Speaker, let us end these games and get serious. We are all going to be losers if we do not resolve this crisis soon.

LET US NEGOTIATE A BALANCED BUDGET

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, I am proud to be a member of the reform-minded freshman class here in Congress. We came to change the way business is done here in Washington, DC. We want to balance the budget.

But it has been really frustrating. The House has agreed to balance the budget. The Senate has agreed to balance the budget. But the President and the liberals in Congress are willing to say anything to keep us from balancing the budget, even if it is not true.

We have heard about cuts to education, but yet student loans are increasing. We heard about cuts to Medicare, yet the average recipient is going to get \$4,800 this year and \$6,700 in 7 years. We heard about cuts to nutrition programs, and yet we are increasing them 4 percent every year, a total of \$1 billion over the next 7 years.

The truth is the President and the liberals in Congress do not want to balance the budget, but the American people do. Let us get real, Mr. President. Let us stay home from Japan and negotiate a balanced budget.

STOP PLAYING THE BLAME GAME

(Mr. LEWIS of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House