

have undertaken has stopped Government. Two hundred and forty-five billion dollars in Medicare cuts, \$170 billion from Medicaid, an assault on the environment, student loans, the Endangered Species Act, the Arctic National Refuge.

Mr. Speaker, every part of the program is too extreme, and that is why Government has come to a halt. It cannot get through the House and Senate, so they are trying to blackmail the American people by shutting down this Government.

Mr. Speaker, if they take the tax cut off the table, we could even reach the balanced budget in the time they want to. But no, their goal is to take seniors and throw them off Medicare, to take children and take away their lunch program, to end the kind of environmental protection that has cleaned up the air and our rivers, a program even this week's Business Week says is too extreme.

AMERICAN DREAM, NOT AMERICAN DEBT

(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, as Members of Congress we are sent here to, as the Constitution says, "secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves, and our Prosperity." For a generation now Congress has forsaken the mandate laid out in the founding documents: limited government freedom of opportunity, and common responsibility.

For years now, Congress has helped to create a government that is too big, taxes too much, and makes people dependent. Well, last year the American people said "Enough." They are tired of seeing their paychecks shrink while the Government gets bigger and goes further and further into debt, and elected a new majority to Congress.

Congress and the President are now in a conflict over the budget. It must be made absolutely clear, the people and the President that Congress now follows a very different agenda than it did before. This Congress is committed to balancing the budget, so that our children will inherit the American dream and not the American debt. I hope the President will join us in this commitment.

REPUBLICANS THROWING BUDGET TANTRUM

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

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, the Republican leadership is throwing a budget tantrum that has shut our Government down.

Speaker GINGRICH and his freshman troops decided months ago to force their extreme agenda on the American people by creating this crisis.

Accept our cuts in Medicare, education, and the environment, the Republicans say, or else we will shut the Government down and cause a default.

Mr. Speaker, that's no way to run a country. NEWT GINGRICH should not be shutting the Government down in order to force his agenda on the American people.

Republicans and Democrats should sit down together and pass bipartisan bills to keep the Government running. Unfortunately, the Republican leadership is more interested in provoking confrontation that they are in governing responsibility.

The American people overwhelmingly support our budget priorities—they agree that we should not cut Medicare, education, and the environment. We should not raise premiums on Medicare 25 percent. The President is fighting for the priorities of the American people, and he is clearly standing firm.

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SEVEN SUMS UP BUDGET DEBATE

(Mr. GANSKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GANSKE. Mr. Speaker, let me sum up the current debate on the budget. One word: Seven. We are committed to balancing the Federal budget in 7 years with honest numbers. Not 8, not 9, not 10. Seven. Why seven? Because it is not too extreme, it is not too fast. But is realistic. We will not compromise, we will not back down. We will balance the budget in 7 years. The sooner the President of the United States understands this, the sooner we can stop the Government shutdown, and the sooner we can balance the budget. Seven.

BALANCING BUDGET A MATTER OF PRIORITIES

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, Speaker GINGRICH tries to blame the President for the Government shutdown but he has been planning this now for months.

Just take a look at the Speaker's words in September:

"I don't care what the price is. I don't care if we have no executive offices and no bonds for 30 days—not at this time.

"I don't care what happens." That is what Speaker GINGRICH says. President Clinton does care. He cares about seniors, he cares about our children, and he cares about our environment. The question is not will we have a balanced budget, the question is how will we balance the budget. What are our priorities?

The President and the Democrats are standing with the American people in opposition to Medicare, education, and environmental cuts to pay for tax

breaks and tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans. This is not the American way. It is wrong.

DO IT FOR OUR CHILDREN

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

Ms. PRYCE. Mr. Speaker, I hope the mothers of America are watching what is going on in Washington.

As a mother, do you know that your child will have to pay \$187,000 during his or her lifetime just to pay for interest on the national debt?

As a mother, do you know that interest payments on the national debt eat up one-third of the entire Federal budget?

As a mother, do you know that generational accounting indicates that your children will face lifetime tax rates of more than 80 percent in order to pay off the debt?

Well, as a mother, I know I will not stand for this.

As a mother, I believe it is time to get our Federal house in order.

As a mother, I believe it is immoral to continue to saddle my children and all American children with the national debt.

I hope the mothers of America will join me.

Call the President. Tell him it is time to get down to the people's business. It is time to stop politicking, pass a balanced budget, and save our children's future.

Come on, Moms, keep the pressure on.

SPEAKER OUT OF TOUCH WITH AMERICAN PEOPLE

(Mr. SANDERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, this partial Government shutdown is causing a great deal of anxiety for people who utilize Government services and for the 800,000 Federal employees who are currently being furloughed. We must stop that shutdown and end that anxiety as soon as possible. But we should also be clear as to what is really going on here. What is going on is that Mr. GINGRICH and the Republican leadership are attempting to blackmail the President and accept an agenda that the vast majority of American people disagree with. Very few people in this country think that we should give huge tax breaks for the rich, build B-2 bombers that the Pentagon does not want, and slash Medicare, Medicaid, veterans' programs, student loans, environmental programs, and job programs that protect our kids.

Mr. GINGRICH is dead wrong. He is out of touch with the American people. He should back down and let Government start running again.