

they are going to be able to meet their next mortgage payment, or a car payment. It is hardly fair that Members of Congress, whose pay is secure, go home for the weekend and leave these workers hanging out to dry.

Mr. Speaker, as a story in this morning's Washington Post clearly pointed out, "The shutdown is beginning to have a ripple effect." That is throughout the country. "Government contractors have not been paid, and they are beginning to lay off workers. None of the national museums are open here in Washington, DC, and the national parks across the country are losing millions of dollars in tourist trades every day as this drags on."

We must, we must settle this budget dispute, and we have to do it in a bipartisan fashion. We are never going to sit down and work out a fair, balanced agreement if we just throw our marbles into the pot and go home. That is not right. That is not right. We need to stay, and we need to stay until we can get the job done.

I know there are freshman Democrats and freshman Republicans, both of whom, behind the scenes, have tried to put together some language that would be acceptable to both sides, but we need, we need to settle this matter at once.

Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Maine [Mr. BALDACCI].

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Maine is recognized for 1½ minutes.

THE DEMOCRAT-SPONSORED RESOLUTION; CONGRESS SHOULD STAY IN SESSION UNTIL IT COMPLETES ITS WORK

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the good gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. MASCARA], for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, we are trying to say as a group that we were elected to serve the public. We were elected to serve all of the public, Republican, Democrat, and Independent, and there are people who are out of work. There are veterans with disability payments that need to have their eligibility reviewed. There are people who are trying to visit Acadia National Park in Maine and many other national treasures that are told that it is closed.

This Government is shut down, people are laid off, and we feel that we should be working here because people are not working because of the actions of this body and the entire Congress, so we feel very strongly that we would rather keep working to try to bring about a resolution than trying to go back and forth, and trying to resolve this problem once and for all.

That is in the interests of all the people, whatever their ideologies are, to work together for that resolution, because every day we miss it seems like it is just that much further behind that we get. I think that is really what we are trying to achieve here.

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BALDACCI. I yield to the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, I do not understand this. We passed a continuing resolution in the House. Obviously, the House spoke. The gentleman did not vote for it, as I understand that, but 48 of your colleagues did. We passed it. The Senate has passed it. What more work is there to do? The President has said he is going to veto it. What else is there to do with that? We have done our work.

Mr. BALDACCI. We will continue that maybe a little bit later.

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. BRYANT of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak in place of the gentleman from Florida [Mr. GOSS].

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

TAKING A HARD LOOK AT THE SIZE AND SCOPE OF GOVERNMENT

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

Mr. BRYANT of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, the rhetoric has runneth over ever since the Federal Government shut down 3 days ago, but the truth is in the numbers. Today's Washington Times newspaper ran the headlines on its front page: "Dow Surges Towards 5000 as Wall Street Ignores Impasse."

The truth is, Mr. Speaker, that since 800,000 so-called nonessential Federal workers were placed out of the 2 million Federal work force last Tuesday, the stock market has surged. The stock market has set its consecutive record highest yesterday, Wednesday and today. One can only wonder what the market would do if we would quite stonewalling the cut in the capital gains tax rate. How high would it go if we simply eliminated the capital gains tax, just like most other industrialized nations? How much stronger would the market grow if we could cut out inheritance taxes or the marriage penalty, or reform our tax code? What if we took a hard look at the size and scope of government?

Maybe this country could survive with only 1.2 million Federal employees. Quite possibly we could get along with fewer. The American people might soon discover that they actually like not having such a huge, intrusive government. It certainly would cost less.

My office has received hundreds of telephone calls this week, as have other congressional offices. I think we have heard about a lot of those tonight. I think the overwhelming message we are all receiving is that the people we represent want us to stand firm on balancing the budget, getting this continuing resolution adopted within the 7-year period of time, and

with real good numbers through the Congressional Budget Office.

Mr. Speaker, I truly understand the turmoil that this standoff between Congress and the President is causing in the lives of Federal employees. We empathize with them with respect to the uncertainty they face personally. I believe that it is completely unfair to the furloughed Federal workers for the President to hold them hostage, when in the past, and I stress this, when in the past, he has agreed that the budget can be balanced in 7 years. It is also unfair of the President to hold them hostage so that his newest political consultant, Dick Morris, can boast that he is running the country.

According to the Washington Post, Mr. Morris was at his doctor's office not too long ago to get a flu shot. He was on his cellular telephone. He was overheard to have said, "I am running the country," into the phone. Who is running the country? Did we vote for Dick Morris to run the country or did we vote for President Clinton to be the President? One has to wonder when Mr. Morris is making these types of comments as a political consultant for President.

We as Members of Congress were elected to do hard things here. Especially we, as Republican Members of the freshman class, feel a very strong mandate from last November to come to Washington and to restore responsible government. Probably the cornerstone of restoring responsible government is to achieve a balanced budget within this 7-year period of time, which is a reasonable period of time to do this.

□ 2300

And to do so with good, real numbers that, as the President admits, the Congressional Budget Office affords.

Mr. Speaker, in closing I would urge the President to join with us, the elected representatives of the American people, and get away from his political gurus like Mr. Morris, and take this as most serious business.

Mr. Speaker, I am concerned that he chose to reject, to go out and say publicly that he would veto this continuing resolution, even before we had an opportunity to send it down Pennsylvania Avenue. I think we must all rise to this occasion. It is not a time for blaming. It is not a time to talk about blinking or who is going to cave in. These are not important matters at this point.

Mr. Speaker, I think what is most urgent, what those people on furlough would like to most see, what our people back home would like to most see, is not who blinks first, not who caves in, not who looks at the politics of this thing, but who works in a responsible fashion to join with us, as he has promised he could do in the past, to balance the budget.

Mr. Speaker, he said, no question about it, that he can do it in 7 years. He said he wants to use CBO numbers,