

you know I have expressed strong doubts that the budget can be balanced in 7 years, if we use the current Republican congressional budget assumptions. But I am nevertheless committed to working in the coming weeks to see if we can reach common ground on balancing the budget. The key is that nothing will be agreed to unless all elements are agreed to." Unquote.

I must confess that I am concerned about that statement. The agreement, the specific language which we will vote on today, is not an agreement simply to see if we do it.

So I call upon the President not to run from the language, from the specific language, that he has agreed to sign, even before he signs it. The majority of this House of Representatives has shown that we can balance the budget within 7 years using CBO scoring. Coalition Democrats have come forward and given their version of the balanced budget, within 7 years, using CBO scoring.

I now call on my friends from the other side of the aisle to get with the President and to make sure that he comes forward with an honest budget using CBO scoring, and to tell the American people how he proposes to balance the budget within 7 years using the honest CBO figures that he has agreed to.

The President so far has had it both ways. He has had the best of both worlds. On one hand, he has been for a balanced budget, and on the other hand, he has not wanted to make the difficult decisions to get us there.

The American people have told us that our days of having our cake and eating it too are over. I look forward to seeing where the President would reduce the growth of Government spending. Then we can reach a balanced budget in 7 years, show the American people that a promise made is a promise kept, and give our children the future they deserve.

#### THANKSGIVING TRUCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. DOGGETT] is recognized during morning business for 2 minutes.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, surely all America can give thanks this Thanksgiving for a Thanksgiving truce in a truly senseless war. Our Republican colleagues in the Senate, as well as the President and his staff, deserve our praise for their hard work this weekend to try to reach a Federal budget eventually that will be balanced not only in terms of numbers, but in terms of the way it treats the American people with true fairness.

The only way that this agreement was implemented and 800,000 Federal workers returned to work today is because our Democratic colleagues worked together here in the House. I feel good about that.

Because of our willingness to work this weekend instead of to quit in the

midst of a national crisis, we were here on the floor last night, ready to implement this agreement. Had the adjournment motion that was forced on us on Saturday been approved, we would have had another day of delay for the American people, delay that would have cost them \$100 to \$150 million for our Federal workers to be idle again.

For, you see, from the very beginning, those who forced this crisis intended to pay people for not working for the Federal Government. Eight hundred thousand people were paid for not doing any work during the course of this crisis. Hopefully, those in this House who were so very determined and who spoke with such strident comments to impose their will on America, that they were willing to pay these 800,000 people not to work all of last week, those folks heard the message of the American people that Americans have been saying in one poll after another about the way this whole crisis was handled.

To be honest, the cost of that message was fairly dear to the American people. I think it can be estimated at well over a half billion dollars—\$100 to \$150 million a day. Hopefully the message is now heard and we can refocus on budget priorities, whether we want to give a tax break to the most prosperous Americans or protect our people on Medicare and who rely on educational assistance to have a better tomorrow.

#### PRESERVING NATIONAL UNITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy on May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. ROTH] is recognized during morning business for 3 minutes.

Mr. ROTH. Mr. Speaker, if ever we needed to be reminded of the need for America to preserve our precious national unity, recent events around the world have provided us with helpful reminders.

The most obvious was the wake-up call America received earlier this month, when our great neighbor Canada narrowly avoided splitting in two over linguistic and cultural divisions. Canada may yet divorce, and a nation founded on many of the same principles America was, might actually cease to exist. Canada's continuing bushes with separation should be the red warning light that causes us to stop and think: Could our Nation fragment like Canada almost did?

The answer is a disconcerting but reassuring yes. Columnist Charles Krauthammer in a recent essay notes that "Separatism is the single greatest political fact of the post-cold-war world." Today, it is increasingly difficult for diverse, multicultural nations to keep from splitting apart. And, as Krauthammer rightly remarks, the United States is not immune to the centrifugal forces of separatism.

It is a seldomly discussed fact in the debate over America's growing dis-

unity that countries the world over are dealing with similar problems. We are all familiar with the cases that have captured the headlines—Quebec, the end of Yugoslavia, and the fragmentation of the old U.S.S.R.—but this has truly become a global concern.

I know this because I have met and discussed with a number of foreign leaders and academics on this very issue. In March of this year, I participated in an international conference on this topic at the University of Paris. There, I met with the French Minister of Culture, who had just introduced legislation to preserve French in increasingly diverse France. I also met other Western European and South American leaders who were preparing to establish national languages in their respective countries.

It surprised me that so many nations around the world were dealing with many of the same concerns I have had about the disuniting of America. I probably shouldn't have been surprised; while our Nation is the most diverse in the history of the world, it is the hallmark of the late 20th century that almost every country is being enriched and impacted by immigration. With the advent of the global economy and the global village of communication and culture, the world has begun a mass migration of peoples that has no historical precedent. In a century, most—if not all—of the world's countries will be as diverse as America, or diverse nations will no longer exist.

The reason is because most nations are not addressing the fundamental challenge of the 21st century: how to defuse the time bomb of rising nationalism and tribalism in a post-cold-war world market by mass immigration.

The countries, whose representatives I met with in Paris, have begun to attack this problem. They are on their way to establishing national languages in their countries. They would join 87 other countries around the world who have declared official languages, 63 of which have chosen English as their national language. One of those countries is India, who recognized some time ago that in a nation where 14 different languages and dialects are spoken, one common language is needed to unite their people. They chose English, because of their colonial relationship with Great Britain, but also because it is the international language of commerce, diplomacy, air traffic control, and the Internet, among others. Ironically, India has recognized the need for making English their official language before the United States has.

I hope the events around the world and the emerging global realities of the 21st century will convince us in this country that we need to act to preserve our common language. We have seen the future of America if we don't; I pray we don't have to actually live it.

Congress should start to show the common sense that legislators the world over have demonstrated in dealing with the major challenge of the