

can do absolutely nothing unless the Congress appropriates the money for the military's use. It was precisely that restraint on the warmaking power which forced Bill Clinton to abandon his disastrous adventure in Somalia.

Mr. Speaker, coming to Congress after a decision has been made to engage in full scale military operations abroad is an affront to the Constitution and a threat to our soldiers. I don't care what Bill Clinton pollsters tell him. The momentous issue of war and peace is too dangerous to be left to one publicity hungry chief executive.

To paraphrase a great military mind, "Bosnia is the wrong war, in the wrong place, at the wrong time." Bill Clinton, who spent his college and Oxford years tearing down the American military and damning his country overseas obviously learned nothing from his experiences during Vietnam. It is long past time that he read the simple but powerful words of the Constitution. He must either get the people on his side or pull out now.

FREE THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA APPROPRIATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia [Ms. NORTON] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, we are 11 days before another possible shutdown of the Federal and the District Government and I am forced to come to the floor of the House every day trying to keep this from happening, at least in the District. I recognize now that there will probably be at least a short-term CR, so that 10 days before Christmas there is not a Federal Government shutdown, but I hope to impress upon my colleagues that a short-term CR will not help the District much because it is a city and not a Federal agency.

As we saw from the starts and stops of preparing for the last shutdown, it does not help a city to give it a short-term CR. I ask my colleagues to put themselves in the position of my constituents, who have paid their taxes, who are second per capita in Federal taxes in the United States, and their money is up here in the appropriations. Eighty percent of it is their money, and there is the possibility that the Congress would shut down on their money, or put them on a CR on their money.

Tomorrow, the gentleman from Virginia, Chairman TOM DAVIS, has agreed to a hearing on a bill that would allow the District to spend its own money in the case of government shutdowns, remembering that we are not HUD or HHS—we are a city, like the cities my colleagues represent. We are caught in the middle of someone else's fight. The District is in grave financial stress. It is important to let us out so that we can continue to rebuild this city.

Mr. Speaker, this morning's Washington Times reports some distressing

news, and I am quoting. "A paralyzing dispute over school vouchers has so divided Republicans that some are concerned the District will not receive an annual spending bill for the first time since the advent of home rule."

I say to my GOP colleagues who are in charge now, every year for 40 years that the Democrats were in charge, they got 13 appropriations out. It is now the GOP's responsibility to get 13 appropriations out, including the District's. Instead, what we have brewing is a major constitutional fight on the back of the weakest of the 13 appropriations, the smallest of the 13 appropriations—the D.C. appropriations.

I ask my colleagues, is it fair to hold up our appropriation over a fight, a constitutional fight, over vouchers for private and religious schools? This is a worthy question, but it deserves a hearing. It deserves exposure, major exposure, if my colleagues mean to depart from 200 years of American history.

Instead, we are told, again in the Washington Times this morning, that the gentleman from Vermont [Mr. JEFFORDS] currently holds the votes to bury any voucher program under a filibuster. Imagine filibustering our appropriation over matters that have nothing to do with the District. This proposal on vouchers and on educational reform was meant to help us. It is hurting us now very much. Get it off our backs.

If the GOP wants to do this, if they want to help us, let them do it the right way and not hold up money that the District needs desperately simply to run the city. We already have an agreement on the amount of our appropriation. It involves a cut, by the way. So everything is in order except an extraneous issue involving vouchers.

There is also an abortion issue. But the issue that is really holding our money up, threatening to shut the city down, threatening to put us on short-term continuing resolutions, is not an issue affecting the 600,000 people I represent. They deserve better. They deserve a whole lot better.

According to the Washington Times, Mr. Speaker, "Longtime observers and those involved in the process say negotiating a District spending bill is often tough, but the House and the Senate have always worked out their differences in one sitting." We are having the third sitting today and we are nowhere near to a solution on whether or not 600,000 people, many of them the hardest working people one could ever find, will get their own money out of the Congress.

Our money should not be up here in the first place. There was a whole revolution over charging people taxes without allowing them to have a say in how to spend their own money. The 80 percent I am talking about was raised in the District of Columbia from District taxpayers. Most Americans do not know that. My constituents know it. They are tired of being held up here

over the fight between the executive and the Congress of the United States. They understand that to be a worthy fight that has to be fought out, but surely no one believes that we should be punished by disallowing us the flexibility to spend our own money.

Mr. Speaker, there are over-obligation prospects out there because if we are given a 1-month CR, there are mandates such as AFDC. There are mandates such as payroll. We cannot guarantee we will get through those mandates. Free the District appropriation.

DEAD BROKE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. WOLF] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to the House's attention a front page article from the December 3, 1995, Minneapolis edition of the Star Tribune title, "Dead Broke," about how gamblers are killing themselves, bankrupting their families, and costing Minnesota millions. Let me read from this compelling article:

In less than a decade, legalized gambling in Minnesota has created a broad new class of addicts, victims and criminals whose activities are devastating families and costing taxpayers and businesses millions of dollars.

Thousands have ruined themselves financially, some have committed crimes, and a handful have killed themselves. Thousands more will live for years on the edge of bankruptcy, sometimes working two or three jobs to pay off credit-card debt.

The Star Tribune said these people include Minnesotans such as:

Catherine Avina of St. Paul, an assistant attorney general who killed herself with an overdose of antidepressants after a 4-day gambling binge. The mother of three had been fired just a few days earlier, and left debts of more than \$7,000 and \$600 in bounced checks.

John Lee, a 19-year-old St. Paul college student who lost \$8,000 in two nights at a casino. He returned home, kicked down the door to his apartment, put the barrel of a shotgun to his head, and killed himself.

Lam Ha of Blaine, a father of two and waiter at a restaurant. Last year, he and his wife filed for bankruptcy protection with a \$76,000 debt, much of it on 25 credit cards. They listed gambling losses of \$40,000 in 1994 alone, more than their joint annual income.

Reva Wilkinson of Cedar, who is in prison for embezzling more than \$400,000 from the Guthrie Theater to support her habit. Her case cost taxpayers more than \$100,000 to investigate, prosecute, and adjudicate.

According to the article, the costs of gambling include the following: 38,000 probable addicted gamblers in Minnesota; 100,000 people with increasing gambling problems; 6 confirmed gambling related suicides; more than 140 confirmed suicide attempts since 1992; more than 1,000 people per year declaring bankruptcy; \$400,000 per year in