

ready to open the Government again. Frankly, all but the Speaker would have kept the Government open.

The President and Mr. DOLE and Mr. DOMENICI could have kept this government open, but what happened? First, the Speaker got a bad seat on an airplane, and so he shut the Government down. Now, he has gotten bad poll numbers and he figures he cannot rebuild himself, so he is going to tear the whole Government down, hoping to bring everybody down with him.

We are one country trying to resolve some issues and it seems clear to me that the way to resolve these issues is not to set out to put our citizens in harm's way, put our Federal workers in harm's way, and disgrace this country by an inability to keep this Government working.

When we were first elected in 1980, we had grave differences with Ronald Reagan. But we had Democratic Speakers who gave the President every courtesy, who then proceeded to work with President Reagan to make sure the Government kept working, even where we had grave disagreements.

But not this Speaker. This Speaker refuses, of all the leaders here, he refuses to keep this Government operating. It seems clear to me that if he was a military leader, he would start bombing his own cities as a demonstration of strength. What we need to do is get back to work.

Mr. Speaker, I will be happy to yield to the gentlewoman from Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE].

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the words of the gentleman from Connecticut, because I rise this morning to ask if we could simply tell the truth. I think if we put the truth on the table, we might get going.

The continuing resolution, and I think the gentleman from Connecticut was here that weekend of the 19th, insisting that we worked to ensure that the Government not shut down. I think it is important to remind the American people that the President is not standing on weak ground.

I would caution my colleagues on the other side of the aisle about believing in Santa Claus. There are millions of children around this world and in this country that we hope will hold a vision of hope and we hope they will believe in Santa Claus. But the President and the Congress signed onto a continuing resolution that indicated that we would provide adequate funding for Medicaid, education, Medicare solvency, agriculture, national defense, and the environment and to ensure the protection of generations of people.

This morning, I spoke to my 10-year-old and this is in tribute to Jason, because I am not there with him for his Christmas program. We all believe in moving this country forward. But the American people are seeing, first of all, their Government shut down with innocent, hard-working Federal employees out on the streets, hindering their

opportunity to provide for their families. But more importantly, all of the services that they provide are no longer here for the American people.

This side is standing for the American people. I believe those who say they do not believe in Santa Claus are just about bringing Scrooge to the national forum. What we should be doing is coming together and working, telling the truth so that I can go home and tell the mother who has a young child with a brain tumor, and a mother who has another child with respiratory problems, and another child with a heart condition, and who is a single parent on welfare and needs Medicaid, that she is an American too and that we are trying to help her bridge out of this condition into independence.

Mr. Speaker, I think we need to stand on the side of the American people, tell the truth, and to make sure that we provide an opportunity for a fair, balanced budget, not on the backs of those who are most needy.

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. MORAN].

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman mentioned President Reagan, and think it is important to bear in mind that when we had a budget conflict in 1987 and 1988, between a Republican President and a Democratic Congress, what we did was to pass a continuing resolution that lasted all year long; a clean continuing resolution. But Federal employees were not made pawns in that process. There is no reason why Federal employees should be furloughed today.

Yesterday, in a press conference, Speaker GINGRICH indicated that those Federal employees may not even be paid at Christmas time. How unbelievable could this situation be that we would have families with children who are working for the American people, laid off, put on furlough just before Christmas, and told they may not even be paid during Christmas?

But it is believable. We just fired 11 people that served this House in the well of the House, doing necessary work. They had built up compensatory time, because they worked late at night. But because we will have the same laws that apply to the private sector apply to us January 1, we fired them just before Christmas time so we would not have to compensate them. Talk about mean spiritedness.

DEMOCRATS SHOULD PRESENT A 7-DAY BUDGET PLAN

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

Mr. LONGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I had a chance to talk to my daughter, Sarah, this morning, who was very proud that tomorrow morning she is going to be in a Christmas play. She was very concerned as to whether I was going to be able to make it or not.

In very simple English, I told her that unfortunately I could not, but that the reason I was not going to be there was that I had to be here because there were some people who wanted to spend her money, money that she was going to have to pay back, and she did not think that was a good idea.

Mr. Speaker, I have got a challenge for the other side of the aisle. Our agreement of 30 days ago said, yes, we are going to ensure Medicare solvency, Medicaid, education, veterans, and the environment, all of the nice programs, all of the programs that we support. Well, I ask my Democrat colleagues to put their money where their mouth is. Tell us that they would spend. Give us a budget that reflects their priorities and stand up like men and women of integrity, not just mouthing off about the fact that they are in favor of this or in favor of that. Give us a legitimate 7-year budget. Tell us where they stand, so we can compare our plans with theirs.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the previous order of the House of January 4, 1995, morning hour debate may not continue beyond 9:50 a.m. today. Pursuant to clause 12, rule I, the House will stand in recess until 10 a.m.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 50 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until 10 a.m.

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AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 10 a.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

We are grateful, O God, that You have given to us the goals of justice and the designs of freedom. Remind us this day, gracious God, that it is our work to develop the strategies and the plans of achieving those goals being aware of the prodding of Your spirit. We know that You have given to each of us the abilities to do good works so we pray that we will be faithful in our tasks, responsible in our actions, and fervent in our desire to serve. We pray this together with the petitions of our own hearts. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House this approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. The gentleman from Georgia [Mr. KINGSTON] will lead the