

budget priorities on this country. When are Republicans going to realize that the majority of Americans reject their mean-spirited budget proposal?

A balanced budget should not come at the expense of the elderly. Let's balance the budget by giving less for defense and ending sweetheart deals to special interest groups.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you to honor the commitment you made last month with the President and give us a responsible balanced budget that protects children and education and stop this mean-spirited attack on seniors.

#### PASS BALANCED BUDGET NOW

(Mr. BASS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday by a vote of 351 to 40, with 133 Democrats joining a unanimous vote on the part of the majority, we passed a resolution reaffirming our commitment to a balanced budget in 7 years using honest numbers.

Well, today we are going to have the second part of the story here. We are going to bring up the President's budget for a vote. We are going to find out just how unanimous the support is among Republicans and Democrats to vote for the President's budget. It is time that we got the basic issues here, and that is do we really support a balanced budget in 7 years?

It has been 12,093 days since the President promised us a 5-year balanced budget. It is time for Republicans and Democrats who agree on saving this country for our children and our children's future to get together and make the President as relevant as he has been all through the 1995, which is irrelevant, and pass a balanced budget over his veto.

#### GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

(Mr. GUTIERREZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, all around Washington, we hear the sounds of the season. Not the holiday season—the budget season.

We hear the word furlough float through the air. Who gets furloughed if the Government keeps shutting down?

But the key question is not furlough—it is how low? How low will the Speaker stoop to satisfy special interest sponsors? How long will GINGRICH sink America's seniors into debt just to pay-off his own political debts?

With every shutdown, we hear the question: Who is essential? But the key question is not who is essential, but what is essential?

To Republicans, essential means the wealth of the upper-class rather than the health of the middle-class. To the GOP, essential means the priorities of powerful political patrons—rather than public programs that protect people.

You hear the GOP say they are making history. But you will not hear them discuss the history of the Reagan-Bush era—and the trillions of dollars of debt they racked up. Those Republicans busted the budget by shifting the tax burden to working families and cutting the safety-net for the most vulnerable.

Sound familiar? As we have all heard one Republican say, "there they go again."

#### USE HONEST NUMBERS TO BALANCE THE BUDGET

(Mr. COX of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COX of California. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the stock and bond markets sent a unmistakable signal to Washington: Balance the budget. Congress, the House and the Senate, have passed a balanced budget, the first in decades. The President has vetoed it, claiming that it cuts Medicare spending. In fact, as Hillary Rodham Clinton testified on Capitol Hill very recently, the President's own proposal was to reduce the rate of growth in Medicare spending from around 12 percent to around 7 percent. The budget that was passed by this Congress increases Medicare spending more than 7 percent in every year.

The President of the United States is hiding behind this distortion, this lie, about Medicare, because he wants to avoid balancing the budget.

Yesterday this Congress sent him another message: Balance the budget using honest numbers. Do not cook the books. Do as you promised, standing right here; use the Congressional Budget office figures. The budget the President submitted is \$115 billion out of balance. Let us get to work. Let us do it for America's future, for our children, and for our grandchildren.

#### LET FEDERAL EMPLOYEES WORK

(Mr. MORAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday at a press conference Speaker GINGRICH indicated that there were a great many House Republicans who objected to paying Federal employees for not working. Fair enough. Federal employees do not want to get paid for not working. They want to work. We ought not repeat a situation where we paid out \$750 million to Federal employees for not working. They should have been at work then, and they certainly should be at work now.

There are two things the Speaker could do to rectify the situation. One, we have legislation we are trying to get to the floor that would keep Federal employees on the job and reimburse them subsequently when appropriation became available.

The second thing to do is just what we did during the Reagan administra-

tion, the Bush administration, the Nixon administration and every administration prior. When we had a conflict between the executive and the legislative branches, you pass a clean continuing resolution at the lower of the House or Senate level. You keep the Government functioning. You do not hold Federal employees hostage. And that is what we are doing, and to do it at Christmastime is wrong. It is mean-spirited.

I was in a school yesterday and the principal and teachers came up and said, "You know, these children are not happy like they should be at Christmas time. Their parents are fighting, their parents do not know what the future holds, they are not buying Christmas presents." We have ruined their Christmas, and it is wrong.

□ 1030

#### REPUBLICAN PROMISE TO BALANCE THE BUDGET

(Mr. BOEHNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, let me remind my colleagues of the fact there was an election in November 1994 when the American people decided to make a great change in this Congress. For the first time in 40 years they decided to put Republicans in charge of both Houses of Congress.

Over this past year we have kept our word to the American people. The central promise that we made to them is that we would balance the budget in 7 years using honest numbers. And all year we have done that by increasing the amount of money for Medicare, increasing the amount of money for Medicaid, increasing the amount of money for student loans.

Mr. Speaker, during the last shutdown of the Government, the President decided that he would finally agree with us; that we would balance the budget in 7 years using honest numbers. But over the last 29 days, the President has not kept his word. He has done nothing to further the commitment that he made to the American people that he would balance the budget in 7 years.

Now, the long and short of this is that we are going to keep our word to the American people. We are going to do what we promised we would do. It is time for the President to keep his promise.

#### THANKS TO SPEAKER GINGRICH WE ARE AT DAY NO. 4 OF SHUTDOWN NO. 2

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, thanks to Speaker GINGRICH and the new majority, today is day No. 4 of Government shutdown No. 2. All in the last 2

months. As far as I'm concerned, that's 4 days and 2 shutdowns too many.

Yes, my friends, we're at this point again because Speaker GINGRICH and the new majority just can't seem to do their job. They haven't done their job when it comes to passing the spending bills needed to keep the Government running.

And, they haven't done their job when it comes to living up to their side of the deal to deliver a budget that protects Medicare; Medicaid; education; the environment; and poor children.

Unfortunately, for the Nation, when the new majority doesn't do its job, we all suffer—crucial services for the elderly; veterans and National Parks have, once again, been cut off, and the stock market is now dropping. This Nation can't afford another day of Speaker GINGRICH's Government shutdown. It's time to stop the partisan bickering; pass a temporary funding bill; and get to work on a balanced budget that protects Medicare; Medicaid; Education; the environment; and poor children.

#### BUDGET IMPASSE TO BLAME ON STOCK MARKET PLUMMETING

(Mr. KOLBE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the stock market plummeted by over 100 points. That is the biggest drop in nearly 4 years on a single day. I do not think we need to ask why. Investors, market analysts, traders, economists and, yes, common folks that buy and sell stocks are telling us why. They are worried that for the first time that this budget impasse is going to continue. They thought we were going to have a 7-year balanced budget. They thought at the end we would get that. But now they see the intransigence of this President; that we may not actually get a 7-year balanced budget, and they know what that means.

It means that we are talking about higher interest rates. It is the American family that will suffer. They will be paying more for their automobile. They will be paying more for their children's education. They will be paying more for their mortgage because we cannot get a 7-year balanced budget. We cannot do what we have to do in order to get interest rates down so that American families can thrive; and so that, yes, those CEO's somebody was talking about earlier can make jobs for Americans.

That is what this budget is all about. It is for our future. It is for our children's future and we should do it now.

#### SPEAKER GINGRICH NAMED MAN OF THE YEAR

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, congratulations on being named man of the year. The Speaker has had an impact on our country, but has the Speaker's impact been good? The poll that accompanies this article, "The Man of the Year" article, appears to demonstrate that the American people do not believe the impact has been good.

"Which descriptions apply to the Speaker," asked the poll. Listen to this. Only 24 percent described the man of the year as someone they could trust. Only 26 percent describe him as someone they would be proud to have as a leader in Congress. Even worse, 63 percent described the Speaker as too extreme in his views.

The Speaker has had an impact. He has had an impact on the country, but I hope and pray that cutting Medicare, cutting education funding, and cutting crime fighting funding to finance a tax break for the wealthy is not the way to become Time magazine's "Man of the Year." nor do I believe that shutting down the Government twice to win concessions from the President, concessions which include severe cuts in Medicare, Medicaid, education, and crime fighting, while simultaneously providing extreme tax breaks before we balance the budget, is the most upstanding way to become "Man of the Year."

#### PRESIDENT WOULD RATHER SEE SHUTDOWN CONTINUE THAN TO SUBMIT A BALANCED BUDGET

(Mr. CHAMBLISS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, it has been 29 days since the President agreed to enact a 7-year balanced budget, and Congress is still waiting for President Clinton to produce a serious budget. I am led to believe that the President would rather see the shutdown of the government continue than to submit a balanced budget.

Congress, as I emphasize that word, "Congress", because in a bipartisan effort, a bipartisan effort of Republicans, and Democrats kept our end of the bargain. We submitted a balanced budget in 7 years that met the CBO standards, but the President vetoed that.

Since that veto, the President has failed to present a legitimate alternative. His only attempt at a balanced budget is \$365 billion out of balance. \$115 billion of that comes in the last year and higher amounts in between.

Mr. Speaker, it is all very simple. If the President wants to avoid the continuing shutdown, let him submit a balanced budget that we can lay on the table, talk about, and it will pass in this Congress if it meets CBO numbers.

#### 237 MEMBERS VOTED AGAINST SENDING TROOPS TO BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

(Mr. PETERSON of Florida asked and was given permission to address

the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PETERSON of Florida. My friends, the magic number is 237—237 Members of the House of Representatives last week voted against this resolution. This resolution said that the House of Representatives unequivocally supports the men and women of the United States Armed Forces who are carrying out their mission in support of peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina with professional excellence, dedicated patriotism, and exemplary behavior.

Two hundred and thirty-seven Members of the House of Representatives cannot even agree on supporting the troops in Bosnia. Does that tell my colleagues something about the possibility of a budget deal? Ladies and gentlemen, this is a disgrace. It is a disgrace to this Nation. I have never been so disappointed in my life to see people walk up here and cast a "no" vote against support of the troops.

#### PRESIDENT IS FAILING TO HONOR COMMITMENT MADE ON NOVEMBER 20, 1995

(Mr. TIAHRT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, yesterday Congress voted to overwhelmingly support the agreement that President Clinton signed into law on November 20, 1995, stating that Congress and the President shall enact a 7-year, CBO-scored balanced budget. The vote proved that the President is failing to honor his commitments and his word.

Today should also be very interesting. Later, Congress will debate and vote on the President's fourth budget. Just like the first three, it fails to balance. And just like the other budget, it fails to address issues like the solvency of Medicare or reprimands to agencies like the Department of Energy, where Secretary O'Leary is spending millions of dollars on overseas travel where she has no responsibility.

President Clinton is long on spending, short on ideas. He is unable to present a balanced budget and he is unable to be honest about the details about the budget that is before him, just as he is dishonest about the details of Bosnia.

#### EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO UNEMPLOYED NOT AVAILABLE DUE TO GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

(Mr. REED asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I have heard some callously suggest that if you shut down the Government no one would notice.

Well, Mr. Speaker, nothing could be further from the truth.

In my home State of Rhode Island, 27 Almacs supermarket stores have gone