

serious, and I am prepared to stay here until we are done.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COBLE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arizona [Mr. SHADEGG] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. SHADEGG addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

STOP THE REVOLUTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Ms. WATERS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, and Members, we just heard from the minority leader that the negotiations have broken down, that the talks, rather, that were going on to try and get this Government going have broken down. I was hopeful, but I guess I am not surprised. I am not surprised because I have kept up and watched very carefully what has been going on, and I suppose, as I thought about this, I was reminded that Speaker NEWT GINGRICH said he is a revolutionary and this is a revolution, and I suppose Speaker GINGRICH is leading a revolution, and in order to do that you must disrupt, you must block, you must impede, you must deny, you must do whatever is necessary—I guess by any means necessary—you must even take extreme means to keep anything from happening. I guess that is what revolution is all about.

It is unfortunate that the Speaker has decided to lead this revolution against the American people. Government, for all intents and purposes, has stopped. It is closed down. We cannot get a continuing resolution because the revolutionary has stopped everything.

Now I was led to believe that there were some agreements. Now, if you will recall, we got a continuing resolution that carried us up until December 15. How did they get that? They got that because there were some agreements. They got together, and the revolutionary said, "Mr. President, if you will agree to a 7-year balanced budget and CBO numbers, then we can talk," and the President, in order to get a continuing resolution so that we could keep going, we could keep Government open and get on with the negotiations, essentially agreed to that. So that is off the table, that is already agreed to, a 7-year balanced budget and CBO numbers.

So what is stopping the negotiations? The revolutionary GINGRICH also agreed that he would recognize and respect our priorities. The President said to him, "I cannot allow you to dismantle Medicare, I cannot allow you to gut Medicaid, I cannot allow you to do away with education in this country, and we must, we must, protect the environment."

And the revolutionary, NEWT GINGRICH, said, "All right, we will respect that."

So, Mr. Speaker, they came together and agreed on those basic principles in order to get to the negotiation table.

Now revolutionary NEWT GINGRICH is saying, "Unless you agree to gut Medicare and Medicaid, I don't want to play, I don't want to negotiate," and so we are past December 15 now, the Government is closed down, we cannot get a continuing resolution, and the revolutionary will not go back to the negotiating table.

That is where we are, my colleagues. That is what it is all about. I am convinced that this really is a revolution; I just did not think it would be so extreme. I never dreamed, not in my wildest imagination did I dream, that revolutionary NEWT GINGRICH would be willing to stop this country dead in its tracks in order to prove that he is a revolutionary.

So I suppose, when the veterans do not get their paychecks, when people cannot use their public parks, I suppose when people cannot get passports, when all of this is taking place, that revolutionary NEWT GINGRICH is willing to sit here and say, "That's all right, I want my way."

We have seen some of the actions of the revolutionary in the past, and we know that the revolutionary gets very upset when he does not have his way. If you can recall what happened just a few weeks ago when there was a plane that went to a most important funeral in Israel, and the revolutionary could not have his way, he came back, he pouted, he made statements, he went on and on and on.

Mr. Speaker, I hope the revolutionary will stop this revolution on the people and allow Government to work.

BALANCING THE BUDGET IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING WE CAN DO

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

Mr. TORKILDSEN. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the chance to talk a little bit. I want to applaud my colleague, the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. KENNEDY], who was here a few minutes ago when he talked about Aaron Feuerstein who runs and owns the Malden Mills in Methuen, the factory that very tragically burnt down and literally hundreds of people, thousands of people were left without a job. Several people lost their lives in that fire, and Mr. Feuerstein very generously, first, committed to rebuild the factory in Massachusetts; second, the next day told employees that they would be paid for at least 30 days and also that their health insurance would be continued for at least 90 days, and in the holiday season everyone in Massachusetts appreciated that. Even though the factory is not in my district, many of my constituents work in the that factory because it neighbors the Sixth District of Massachusetts, and I just

wanted to, first, applaud Mr. Feuerstein for what he has done. I have not met him personally, but I have called to congratulate him and offer assistance, and I think it is something that all of us nationally do across the country. Any time there is a tragedy like that, we all pull together.

I would disagree with my colleague from Massachusetts though in just what enables a very generous employer to do what was done in this particular case. In the case of the United States we have had a deficit in this country now for 26 consecutive years. If any company had run a deficit for 26 consecutive years, they could not have offered employees pay for 30 days, they probably would not even be in business. And so the situation for the United States of America is something that we have to address because instead of a one-time immediate calamity, the calamity for the United States has been a long time in coming and will not be resolved overnight.

I give people the analogy of the situation with the debt in the United States and why it is so important to balance the budget. I compare it to someone's personal finances. Imagine that you had four credit cards and you had charged the maximum amount you could on each of those four credit cards. Well, if you wanted to go and make payments, you would hope to pay down the balance, but if you, instead of doing that, you went out and applied for a fifth credit card so you could start paying the other four credit cards, it would not take someone long to figure out that indeed it would be a very quick amount of time before that fifth card was also run up and, indeed, the debt would be much, much worse.

That is very close to the situation where the United States is right now. It has borrowed and borrowed and borrowed. Now the debt is officially just below \$5 trillion, but if you add all the money that has been promised to Social Security recipients and others, the debt is even larger than that, and at some point there will not be enough money to make all those commitments which have been made, those things which are called mandatory spending, and that is why it is so important that now we take steps necessary to have a balanced budget. I am someone who believes that we could not do it in 1 year; I mean even that would be too drastic, and that is why a 7-year plan is very reasonable. If we can do it in 5, all the better, but a 7-year plan certainly would be very, very positive.

Now we are in a situation now where we are debating the 7-year balanced budget, and not too long ago we thought we had an agreement between the White House and Congress that we would use Congressional Budget Office numbers, that we would protect certain things like Medicare, education, the environment, provide for an adequate defense, provide for fair tax policy for working families, and even though we

thought we had that agreement, the White House did not respond with Congressional Budget Office numbers, and instead came back and said, well, no we have what is called a rosy scenario, we think everything is going to be better. Indeed when you cannot even agree on the parameters, it is very difficult to have negotiations if one side comes to the table with apples and the other side comes to the table with oranges, and you cannot figure out why you cannot have any type of negotiation. I think it is probably because the two sides have come to the table with different measures of what they are talking about.

That is why I think that resolution, the continuing resolution we have voted for, was so important, and I would call on the White House to go back to its agreement and say please live up to your agreement. If you do not like the budget that passed the House and Senate, and that is your option, please submit your own balanced budget using the same estimates. If you do not want any tax cut, take the tax cut out. If you do not want any defense spending, take defense spending out. If you want a lower amount of defense spending, put in a lower amount of defense spending. But please submit your own balanced budget so we can have a comparison and we can actually have legitimate negotiations.

Now a lot of people say, well, the Government shut down at least some departments; is that not the fault of the Congress? Well, the President was sent the appropriations bill for the Interior Department, and he vetoed that. That was his option, but if he had signed it, the Interior Department would be open now. The President would sign the appropriations bill that covered the Veterans Administration. If he had signed that, the VA would be opened now. He choose to veto it. The President was sent the appropriations bill for Housing and Urban Development. He vetoed that bill as well, and HUD remains closed. He was sent the appropriations bill for the Commerce Department. He vetoed that bill, and Commerce is closed. Also with the Department of Justice and the Department of State.

I would call on the President to submit an honest balanced budget so we can balance the budget for our children's future. That is the most important thing we can do.

HOLIDAY SPIRIT IN THE CONGRESS; WHERE IS IT?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina [Mrs. CLAYTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, I would remind our colleagues in the spirit of Christmas and the observation of Hanukkah there are certain words or feelings that come to us. There are feelings of joy. In fact, the whole religious experience of being a Christian is the advent, is the spirit of expectation, look-

ing forward to something. Also we have feeling of caring and feeling of responsibility, feeling of families and friends. I would just ask you, what joy is there to the more than 250,000 Federal employees who we are holding hostage this Christmas because of our failure to pass budgets? Why should we make them victims of the fight that we have going on? Certainly does not seem to be in the spirit of Christmas, it certainly is not consistent with religious feelings of that.

In terms of responsibility, who is responsible for the situation? One would say that, well, the President is the only one standing between American people and a balanced budget. Truth be known, as far as the shutdown, it is Congress' responsibility. On October 1 we were to have a budget, and we did not have that budget reconciliation. It is our fault because we could not come to that.

What is this debate about?

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What is this debate about? It certainly is not about what the Republicans will say over and over again: "It is about balancing the budget, about balancing the budget in 7 years." It could not be about that because the majority have already agreed upon that.

Why do they repeat that? Simply to confuse or to persuade the American people that the debate is not about real issues, is not about who wins and who loses, it is not about our commitment to compassion, it is not about whether the wealthy succeed at the expense of the poor. It is not about our lack of commitment or commitment to the environment or education. They would rather have you think of this principle that they are willing to die on the sword for and say, "We promise, now, and we are going to keep our promise, come hell or high water."

What they are saying to you, Americans, is that "We will allow you to die on the sword. So we get our provision, or what we perceive to be, we are willing to allow 250,000 employees to have no Christmas." That is what they are saying. They are not standing up for principle. They are saying, "It is my way or no way." No compassion in that position, and certainly nothing to be lofty about.

This whole idea that a balanced budget is sacrosanct escapes me. A balanced budget is because it makes sense to balance the budget, but we balance the budget how? I was told if I want to make a good living, I want to be honorable. I can make a living several ways, but I would rather do it in an honest way. It is as important how we balance the budget as to balance the budget.

It is important in my sight if those Americans who are senior citizens have the opportunity at the end of their lives to make sure that they are not frustrated and in pain because of lack of health care. It is important in my life to think that I would like to prepare for the future, and the future

means we want to invest in education. I hear my colleagues get up and say, "You know, I want my grandkids to grow up in a society where they do not have to pay all of this debt."

I have three grandkids too. I want my three grandkids to grow up so they do not have to pay for a lot of debt, too, but I also want my grandkids and other peoples' grandkids—I happen to be privileged, and have been not because I came to Congress, but because I just happened to be, but I know there are those who are not. America is not just great because of its defense, its technology. America is also great because it makes a place for those who are least among us. We are also great because we have a sense of compassion.

I would say to you, I do not know a better time to show compassion other than in the Christmas season. Surely, there is no compassion in closing down Government. Veterans may not get their checks, welfare mothers may not get their checks. Surely there isn't any compassion with those Federal workers who will not know whether, indeed, they will be paid.

I think, Mr. Speaker, our colleagues need to know the spirit of Christmas is the spirit of joy, caring, and responsibility. We have been ill responsible, and I certainly know we have not been compassionate.

THE SPIRIT OF GIVING, AND THE DIFFICULTY IN MAKING TOUGH BUDGET DECISIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COBLE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. SMITH] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, it is a season to be very conscious of giving and what we can do for other people. It seems to me that the President and some of the Democrats feel they are gaining politically by calling Republicans mean-spirited in their efforts to whether we are going to reduce the growth of Government and end up with a balanced budget. It is easy for the President, I think, and some of the Democrats to say they want a balanced budget, but it is hard to come up with the specific cuts and reductions in growth that are necessary to achieve that balanced budget.

If we are going to give a present, it seems very, very important that we start considering the tremendous obligations that we are putting on our kids and our grandkids by spending the money today to satisfy what we consider our today's problems with money they have not even earned yet, so we are obligating them to pay our today's bills. I think all of us, collectively, must believe that their problems are going to be as difficult and as great as our problems today, if not greater.

It seems to me that there are two things that are going to have to happen before we can break this budget impasse: First, the President is going to