

going to get enough to eat, the poor kids, the school lunches, the food stamps, we are going to take care of our kids because we are going to balance the budget. That is a pipe dream.

They say, according to their projections they are going to balance the budget. Let us be truthful about it. According to the projections of CBO, you are going to balance the budget in 7 years. Well, folks, you have not taken the time to look at those projections. You need to do that. You need to look at those projections, and if you do not agree with them, like I do not agree with them, and I do not agree with the cuts in Medicare and all of those things, you are not going to have a balanced budget. They are not going to have a balanced budget, but yet they want to shut down the Government.

BALANCED DEBATE GOOD FOR BALANCED BUDGET

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

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, I come here to this floor to add a little balance to the debate. The rhetoric that you have heard from the other side of the aisle, I think has been very strong, many times stretching the believability of almost anyone who would be listening. I think the American people can see through this debate.

The last speaker, my good colleague from Missouri, has a selective memory. His selective memory forgot about the Carter administration and double-digit inflation, unemployment, and interest rates. He can go back only a little ways, and of course I would have to defend Ronald Reagan, who had a very liberal, a very spending Congress who certainly never helped to balance the budget.

The time has come to try and balance the budget. We know we have a tough job to do it even in 7 years. But this party, the Republican Party in this Congress is dedicated to doing that.

I want to talk about the shutdown. We have heard some very, very strong words about the shutdown and revolution. Well, many people back in the country do not realize any of Government is shut down, and the part that is shut down, if we look at it, we might say, those employees have the best of all worlds. They will probably get paid and have the week off before Christmas. I do not think that is so mean-spirited to those employees.

Then we have to look at why we have even a partial shutdown of Government. Well, most of it is because the President vetoed the spending bills that we sent to him. He did not like those; they were not spending enough. Very basically, the disagreement between the President's budget and Congress' budget is that we want to spend \$3 trillion less over the next 7 years.

We are going to spend more on every program of importance to this country

for environment, for education, for senior citizens, for health care, more money, in many cases, a high percentage of increase in the spending.

Why have we not reached a budget then? Why have we not reached an agreement? Well, the White House is too interested in talking about talking. They do not want to talk about anything specific; they only want to talk about how we are going to talk about the specifics if and when we can get to the specifics if the President is in town and if it can be done, and it is on and on like that; and then the President makes an agreement with the leadership, and before they can get back to the Capitol, he sends the Vice President out and reneges on every agreement.

The American people are surprised, I think, about all this talking and no action. They want something to happen, and so does this caucus. And that is why the Republicans have said, no more temporary spending, Mr. President. Come to the table. The budget could be put together before Christmas.

There is only one viable document on the table, and that is the Republican version that we have worked on for months; no one else has one that is so complete, and changes can be made in that. Within 2 days the President and the leadership of this Congress, if they would stay at it continuously, would have a budget and we would be on the road to balancing the budget; we would be on the road to funding social programs in this country, yes, at a higher level, and we would be on the road to a balanced budget.

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I do not think that we could give the American people a better Christmas present, if we would put away the cruel, mean-spirited, yes, the rhetoric from the other side, and sit down and start talking about the issues. We are here, we are ready to do that. We will stay ready to do that right through the holiday if necessary, so that we can accomplish what is good for America, and to it at this time of good will, this Christmastime when we all should be thinking not only of our families but what we can do for our neighbors and everyone in our society.

IN MEMORY OF STEVE ROULETTE

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, as Americans celebrate the holiday season with their families and friends, my thoughts turn to the family of a young man in my district in my hometown of Lorain, OH.

This Christmas season will be an especially difficult time for Steven Roulette's family. Steve, a seemingly very healthy 23-year-old, was playing basketball with friends when he collapsed. He died a short time later.

It is always disturbing when a young person dies. In Steve's case it was even

more tragic. A native of Lorain, Steve believed in giving back to his community. He worked diligently in my campaign in 1994. Prior to that, he had worked at the Nord Family Foundation that supports social services in Lorain County.

Steve Roulette believed in public service in the best sense of the term. He always had a twinkle in his eye and a passion in his voice when he talked about commitment, when he talked about involvement, when he talked about helping his fellow men and fellow women. He cared deeply about his family and passionately about his community.

So many in Lorain whom Steve's life touched were so saddened by his untimely death. I would like to offer at this Christmas season my sincere condolences to his family. Steve left behind his fiancée Denise, his parents Orah and Kathryn, his stepmother Alice, his brother Alan, and his sister Angela. As a father of two young daughters, I cannot begin to imagine their grief but my thoughts and prayers are with his family and his friends during this holiday season.

WELCOMING A NEW REPUBLICAN, THE BUDGET, AND NATIONAL DEFENSE BILL

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

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, I was not aware of the situation the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. BROWN] had reference to there, but I commend him for taking the floor to recognize this young man and all our best wishes for this holiday season go out to his family.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to talk on a couple of things here. First of all, I had a very special point of pride today when I received a phone call from my hometown advising me that in spite of all the lambasting of Republicans by folks on the other side, that this morning the sheriff of my county, the Honorable Billy Howell, a two-term Democratic incumbent, switched to the Republican Party.

I commend Sheriff Howell on what I think is a very wise decision for him. I welcome him to the party. He is a good friend, and I know will continue to serve the people of my county in a Republican manner the same as he did in a Democratic manner.

I cannot help but make one quick comment about my good friend, and he is truly my good friend, who serves on the Committee on Agriculture with me, the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. VOLKMER], who was critical of the Republican budget, saying that our budget is not a balanced budget because it does not balance the budget now. Well, by golly, we could balance the budget now but the best way to do that is to