

should balance the budget on the backs of the elderly, the sick, the poor, and the disabled.

Claude Pepper once said, "My one great wish is to live long enough to see the day when this great and prosperous Nation can give every man, woman, and child every bit of health care he or she needs. I think this is a part of the American dream."

Mr. Speaker, I share Claude Pepper's dream. Let us protect seniors. Let us pass a responsible budget, and let us do it now.

I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PALLONE].

Would the gentleman explain for the constituents of Florida why we are into this second shutdown. And I think the first one cost over \$800 million?

Mr. PALLONE. Exactly.

I appreciate the gentlewoman from Florida bringing that to our attention. I think that much of that has been lost, unfortunately, during the debate.

The bottom line is that after the first shutdown, both the President and the Congress got together and passed what we call a continuing resolution which allowed the Government to operate for few weeks while the parties involved worked out their differences over the budget. The resolution that was passed not only called for the Government to continue to operate, it also called for a balanced budget in 7 years, and it recognized certain priorities that had to be protected as part of that budget, such as Medicare, Medicaid, education.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. School lunch.

Mr. PALLONE. Environment, nutrition programs, et cetera. The problem is that when that resolution ran out last Friday, the Republican leadership refused to bring up another continuing resolution. They have not done so Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday. Now we are into the fifth day, if you will, without a continuing resolution, which means that the Government continues to be shut down. They have refused so far to meet the agreement, if you will, of the previous continuing resolution.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Does the continuing resolution have anything to do with the budget talks that we can pick up in January and go on until the November election of 1996? Because I really believe that the American people are going to have to resolve this. They have got to decide what kind of House do they want.

Mr. PALLONE. Exactly.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. And whether or not they want this House to be run by extreme radicals.

Mr. PALLONE. Exactly. I think the point is that we had agreed, with the previous continuing resolution, that while we worked out our differences on the budget, the Government would continue to operate. And it set forth an agreement that we would have a 7-year balanced budget, assuming that certain priorities were maintained, such as Medicare and Medicaid and some of the other programs that you mentioned.

The problem now is that the Republicans let that continuing resolution

run out and have refused to bring up another one, and as a consequence, the Government shutdown is in a sense the hostage that is being held by the Republican leadership because they cannot get their way, if you will, on the budget.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. I heard some of the freshmen earlier said that they would never vote for another continuing resolution. Did we not just have one on VA?

Mr. PALLONE. We had one on VA.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Did they not vote for it?

Mr. PALLONE. They voted for one just with the VA but they refused to bring up a larger continuing resolution that would prevent the rest of the Government from being shut down. Basically, what they are doing is playing politics, because they know that veterans' benefits will not go out tomorrow. So they agreed to let that go by, but they refused to worry about the other benefits, the other programs, whether it be education or some of the other social programs or agencies, whatever is necessary for various agencies.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. I was talking about Claude Pepper earlier, and I have a picture of Claude and Lyndon Baines Johnson together.

I have heard these Republicans get up here and talk about they want to tear this Government down, brick by brick. I think the American people need to weigh in on how they want this country to look, whether or not they just want this country for the rich and famous or for all of us.

Mr. PALLONE. I think you are absolutely right. This is the first time, and I think it is outrageous, that people have articulated that they are going to close the Government down because they cannot get their way on legislation.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. In closing, you can fool some of the people some of the time but you cannot fool all of the people all of the time.

A TITANIC BUDGET BATTLE

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

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, is there anyone in America that believes that there is no waste in our budget today? That we cannot make cuts or decrease the increases which have been projected, in a \$1.6 trillion budget?

We spend over \$1.6 trillion each year. Some say there is no way we can cut it at all. Every dollar we try to cut brings a chorus of screams. Any projected increase that we try to decrease, they say will devastate Medicare and will take food out of the mouths of children, it will put the poor right out on the streets.

This is a huge system that has been built, a spending system that has been built over many years. It is producing deficits of hundreds of billions of dol-

lars. Now we have come to the time we have to make the decision.

Everyone in America knows that there is a lot that we can remove from this budget without serious harm to anything. What is going on, then? What is going on in this House? What is going on is a titanic battle that is being waged that will determine the destiny of this Nation.

The question that will be answered in the next 2 weeks, 3 weeks, month or so, will we in this time be able to balance the budget or will we continue with the deficits that are destroying this Nation? This huge \$5 trillion debt is strangling America. The interest on this debt will surpass the defense spending, the huge defense spending bill. The interest will surpass defense spending next year in the budget that we start on in the next few months.

My wife and I have realized the American dream. We own our own home, free and clear. We run a small business in our home. It is not a large business, just a small business. But that, to me, and I think to most people, is the American dream.

But let us look to the future. What chance do our children, what chance do our grandchildren have to realize the American dream? A child born in 1995 will pay \$187,000 in taxes just to pay the interest on the debt. Just to pay the interest on the debt—\$187,000 will buy a pretty good house today. The previous spending has destroyed the American dream for a lot of the children that will be born in 1995, because it is that \$187,000 house that they are not going to get, because they had to pay that \$187,000 just to pay the interest on the national debt.

Every vote for an unbalanced budget over the last 40 years was a vote to destroy the American dream for our own children.

We have got to look at this interest thing and the amount of money that we pay in interest. England is still paying interest on the money that they borrowed to fight Napoleon. They have paid that principal in interest over 15 times and they still owe that principal.

Mr. Speaker, we have to balance the budget. We have no choice. This is not really negotiable. A balanced budget with honest numbers is the only way that we will protect the American dream for our children and grandchildren, and we must succeed at that.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state it.

Mr. KINGSTON. With both the Democrat and the Republican leaders having an hour left and there being less than 1 hour remaining, we would like to split the time. That being the case, I would like to know how much time each side would have.