

compromise if we are ever going to make Government work.

Unfortunately, there are some who do not want to make Government work who have been elected to the Congress who are more concerned with shutting it down in order to make a point than in being willing to negotiate and talk with the other side and compromise with the other side in an effort to reach a legitimate compromise.

I think there is enough blame to go around. This is not a partisan statement at all. In fact, it is the opposite. I think both sides have had various Members at various times stake out lines in the sand and say we will not go any further than this, but there is a consequence to those type of speeches. The consequence is that the American people are shouting. They are not whispering any longer. They are shouting, "Enough is enough. We have sent all of you here, Democrats and Republicans, to make Government work, not to shut it down, not to close the doors on the services that people need, not to make political points."

That is what elections are about. After you are here, it is about service, and after you are here it is about making Government work for the people that elected us. We are at a point now where we are, both sides, losing the faith of the American people to do exactly what we are supposed to be doing.

That is why the press conference that we had this morning, Senator CHAFEE and myself, accompanied by about 19 Members, 18, 19, 20—half and half; half Democrats and half Republicans—who stood up and said, we have heard the pleas of the American people to get the job done. We have heard the pleas of our constituents who have said "Stop the madness. Make Government work again. Trust us to accept your judgment when you reach a compromise," and we presented that plan. It is a blueprint. It is an outline. It has specific numbers on how to reach a balanced budget in 7 years, scored by the CBO in a way that is not everything that both sides would want, but I think reflects a fair middle ground.

We have called for a continuing resolution. This is a bipartisan group that says we should continue the Government so we can have the negotiators work without the pressure of having the Government shut down. This is Republicans and Democrats saying, at the same time, and in the same forum, we need a simple continuing resolution, uncluttered, give us until January 15th so the negotiators can work in peace and do the job that they are supposed to do. A very important point, the first time that a bipartisan group has said that.

Second, this group has called for tax cuts. These tax cuts are smaller than many Republicans would like but at the same time these tax cuts are larger than many Democrats would like. But it is a tax cut, a significant tax cut, which is designed to increase growth and productivity and savings in this country.

The second thing we do is we say there will have to be more cuts in entitlement programs—propose less cuts than Republicans would like and certainly more cuts than Democrats would like. But we are recommending that there be entitlement cuts to these programs to restore their solvency, to assure they will be around for the next generation, recognizing that to do that we have to have some significant reforms.

Mr. President, what we have offered is a blueprint. Part of that blueprint is something that some people think is so horribly controversial that we cannot even utter the word except in closeted surroundings, and that is an adjustment in the Consumer Price Index. Every economic expert, the people that read numbers every day and wear the green eyeshades and look at how much it costs to buy a typical basket of groceries, have told the Congress that we overestimate the Consumer Price Index, and taxes are indexed to that. Entitlement increases are indexed to that. But the index needs to be adjusted.

You would think that that is not too difficult a thing to do. But our side does not want to go first because people will say it is a tax increase or a cut in entitlement programs. Republicans do not want to go first because of the same reason. So as a result, nothing gets done. Our side stood up today in a public forum and said yes, we think it ought to be fixed. It is broken. The suggestion is that there be a .5 percent adjustment in the Consumer Price Index, which will generate about \$110 billion over the next 7 years that we can use for programs that need greater funding, that will meet the needs of the people of this country.

I will conclude by saying this: Mr. CHAFEE has offered some real leadership here, and the other Republicans who have joined him have said, yes, it is time to recognize that compromise is all the way out. So we call for a truce today. We called for a "stop the shouting and stop the blame game" today. It was a significant statement. The product that we have put on the table, I think, is one that makes sense. It may not be the final answer, but it certainly offers a blueprint for us to get out of the mess that we are in.

We would hope that our colleagues will take a look at the product. I hope the negotiators will consider it as we present it to them this afternoon. I think the negotiations are going well. And hopefully, with a continuing resolution, they will have adequate time to get the job done. I yield the floor.

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I want to thank the distinguished Senator from Louisiana for the kind comments. It was a joint leadership. He was kind enough to say it was my leadership. No, no, it was the joint leadership in which we shared the responsibilities and the effort together, Senator BREAU and I, and we certainly had wonderful support from everybody involved.

Mr. President, the agreement that we submitted today in the press conference and have outlined here on the floor was remarkable for this fact: Everybody agreed on every point. Now, that does not mean we started that way, but when we finished people did not say, "Well, I am for points 1 through 4 but include me out on points 5, 6 and 7. But I am there for points 8, 9, and 10." Everybody signed on for all of the points. That was tough. It was tough for the Democrats to go to the \$140,000 tax cut; it was tough for the Republicans to agree on the Medicare cut. We think we could have done better on the Medicare cut. We do not use the word "cut"; "reduction in the rate of increase."

In order to reach an agreement we all compromised. I think it was a wonderful effort, and along with the Senator from Louisiana, I commend it to our colleagues and hope they take a good look at it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order the Senator from Nevada is now recognized.

Mr. CONRAD. Will the Senator from Nevada yield to me for just 2 minutes?

Mr. REID. As soon as I yield to the Senator from West Virginia for whatever time he may consume, as long as I do not lose my right to the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Senator from West Virginia.

RECOGNIZING SENATOR DOLE'S SERVICE AS REPUBLICAN FLOOR LEADER

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I thank the Senator for his characteristic courtesy. I will be brief.

Mr. President, today Senator ROBERT DOLE equals the record set by Charles McNary, of Oregon, as the longest serving Republican floor leader. Senator McNary served as floor leader for 10 years, 11 months, and 18 days, until his death on February 25, 1944.

Senator DOLE, who began his service as leader on January 3, 1985, will have served 10 years, 11 months, and 18 days, as of the close of business today. That is quite a record. Tomorrow, the Lord willing, Senator DOLE will break the all-time record for the longest serving Republican floor leader.

I have been majority leader, minority leader, and majority leader again. I know something about the burdens that a leader carries. It is a thankless task. All of his colleagues think that they can do a better job than he can do as leader, or at least I kind of had that feeling when I was leader. And it is a heavy responsibility.

Senator DOLE has served his country on the far-flung battlefields, he has sacrificed for his country on foreign battlefields, and he has served his country on the legislative battlefield. I salute him and commend him.

He broke Everett Dirksen's record as second longest serving Republican floor

leader on September 4 of this year. I served here when the late Everett Dirksen graced this Chamber, serving at that desk where Senator DOLE now serves as majority leader. And I also served with Howard Baker, who was Everett Dirksen's son-in-law. Dirksen served 10 years and 8 months, extending from January 7, 1959, to September 7, 1969.

So, I salute BOB DOLE and I wish him many, many happy returns on this day. It is not his birthday, but he equals the record of the longest serving Republican leader. I look forward to tomorrow, when he will break that record.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a list of all the Republican floor leaders with their dates and length of service be printed in the RECORD at this point.

There being no objection, the list was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

REPUBLICAN FLOOR LEADERS

Length of service	Name	Service as leader
10 years, 11 mos., 18 days	Charles L. McNary (OR)	Mar. 7, 1933–Feb. 25, 1944
10 years, 8 mos.	Everett M. Dirksen (IL)	Jan. 7, 1959–Sept. 7, 1969
10 years, 5 mos. [to June 1995]	Bob Dole (KS)	Jan. 3, 1985–present
8 years	Howard H. Baker, Jr. (TN)	Jan. 4, 1977–Jan. 3, 1985
7 years, 4 mos.	Hugh D. Scott, Jr. (PA)	Sept. 24, 1969–Jan. 3, 1977
5 years, 5 mos.	William F. Knowland (CA)	Aug. 4, 1953–Jan. 3, 1959
4 years, 4 mos.	Charles Curtis (KS)	Nov. 28, 1924–Mar. 3, 1929
4 years	James E. Watson (IN)	Mar. 5, 1929–Mar. 3, 1933
4 years	Wallace H. White, Jr. (ME)	Jan. 4, 1945–Jan. 3, 1949
2 years, 11 mos.	Kenneth S. Wherry (NE)	Jan. 3, 1947–Nov. 29, 1951
1 year	Styles Bridges (NH)	Jan. 8, 1952–Jan. 2, 1953
7 mos.	Robert A. Taft (OH)	Jan. 2, 1953–July 31, 1953

Mr. BYRD. I thank my friend from Nevada, Senator REID, for his kindness and courtesy in yielding.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, before my friend, the distinguished senior Senator from West Virginia leaves the floor, I join in commending the majority leader for his service.

But I was thinking, as the distinguished Senator was speaking, that ROBERT DOLE has been Republican floor leader longer than I have been in the Senate, a year longer than I have been in the Senate. If there were ever an illustration of why the term limit argument is so worthless, we need only look at the distinguished services rendered by Senator ROBERT DOLE.

Those people who are still beating the drums—the unconstitutional drums, I might add—of term limits are people who do not recognize that being a great leader does not come overnight. Even though I do not always agree with the majority leader I have always found him to be fair, deliberate, and really statesmanlike in the things that he does in the Senate. That did not come by accident. He, as has been outlined by the Senator from West Virginia, has served not only in the military but in this body for many years. And the only thing term limits would

do is increase the power of bureaucrats, those nameless, faceless people that do not answer phones, who we continually hear complaints about. It would also greatly increase the power of the lobbyists who fill these hallways of the U.S. Senate, and, of course, it would also increase the power of congressional staff and weaken the ability of the American public to be served well.

So, I commend and applaud the Senator from West Virginia for recognizing the great services of the Senator from Kansas, service that will go down in the history books. And also my editorial comment, that term limits are a bad idea today, tomorrow, and any other time.

Mr. DORGAN. Will the Senator yield for just a moment?

Mr. REID. I am happy to yield.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, if I might just make an observation, I was struck by the comments offered by the Senator from West Virginia and by the Senator from Nevada. I have had exactly the same thoughts, especially in recent days when we have seen, sometimes, behavior that seems intemperate and behavior that does not always do this institution proud, to recall there are people who have served many, many years in this institution, whose knowledge, whose understanding, and whose wisdom serves this country well.

With respect to Senator DOLE, I have said before on the Senate floor and I will say again today, while I do not always agree with him—in fact, sometimes we have very vigorous debate about policy—I have enormous respect for his capabilities, and I have enormous respect for his service to this country as a U.S. Senator.

It seems to me that this country has been well served for many, many decades by service from people with names like Webster and Calhoun and Clay, and so many others, and in this century, Goldwater and Humphrey, and so many others, including Senator ROBERT C. BYRD. And it especially includes Senator ROBERT DOLE.

I think almost all of us in this Chamber, no matter where we come from or what our political philosophy is, respect the leadership and the service offered this country by the distinguished majority leader.

I appreciate very much hearing the comments, the generous and appropriate comments offered today about Senator DOLE, by the Senator from West Virginia. And I appreciate the Senator from Nevada yielding to me.

Mr. DASCHLE. Will the Senator from Nevada yield as well?

Mr. REID. I am happy to yield to the Democratic leader.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I appreciate, again, the Senator yielding the time. I know the Senator from Nevada did not come to the floor to talk specifically about this issue, but I want to commend the distinguished Senator from West Virginia for calling to the attention of the Senate this important

day. I think it is obvious, from many of the comments made by Members on this side of the aisle, the respect and the extraordinary degree of real friendship that we have for the majority leader. As many have also indicated, there are many, many occasions when we find ourselves in disagreement, but never, hopefully, to be disagreeable.

Our view is that we have been led well by this majority leader and, obviously, in the tradition of the majority leadership of the Senator from West Virginia, Senator DOLE has served us very ably. He is a person who wants to get things done. He is a person who recognizes the philosophical differences, the partisan differences that we hold. But he is also a person I have found to be immensely helpful and supportive in my new role as the Democratic leader.

I have had the good fortune to work with many people on both sides of the aisle since coming to the Senate, but I know of no one on the Republican side of the aisle with whom I have enjoyed working more and for whom I have greater respect. So it is important that on this special day we call attention to his service and to the great affection in which he is held by so many Members on this side of the aisle.

I share my congratulations with the Senator from West Virginia, the Senator from North Dakota, and the Senator from Nevada, in expressing our best wishes to him as we mark this special occasion.

I yield the floor, and I thank the Senator for yielding.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senator from North Dakota is recognized.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I believe that order should be that the Senator from Nevada had the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator yielded 2 minutes under a previous order.

So I recognize the Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. My understanding is that the Senator from North Dakota wished the floor. I would be happy to yield the floor for whatever time the Senator may take and I still maintain my right to the floor.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I thank my colleague from Nevada for his very generous willingness to give me some time.

First, on the matter of the majority leader, I want to join my colleagues in recognizing his service as a leader in the U.S. Senate. His period of time as leader, I understand, has extended over 10 years. That is longer than I have served in the U.S. Senate. I, too, admire the Senator from Kansas. I have found that he is somebody who commands respect. He does his homework. He leads his side of the aisle in a very vigorous and determined way. While there are many times that we disagree on a policy issue, I have never thought that he is someone who commands anything other than full respect. And I want to add my voice to the voices of others.

Frankly, I think we could use a good bit more of that around here, recognizing the worth of people on both sides, because I have found that colleagues on both sides of the aisle in this Chamber are some of the finest people I have ever known. Just because we have differences and we debate vigorously does not diminish the value nor the humanity of anyone on either side. Maybe that is a word that needs to go out from this Chamber more; that people who serve here are worthy, and they are good people.

In fact, I think my constituents sometimes are surprised when I tell them that I find, on both sides of the aisle, the people that I serve with are some of the finest people I have ever known, the people who are in the U.S. Senate.

THE LEADERSHIP OF SENATOR CHAFEE AND SENATOR BREAUX

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I would like for just a moment to single out two of my colleagues who, I think, are showing real leadership at a time of gridlock in Washington. I want to single out Senator CHAFEE, the Senator from Rhode Island, and Senator BREAUX, the Senator from Louisiana, who have led our bipartisan effort to put together a budget plan that would merge the differences, that would find common ground, that would break the gridlock, and that demonstrates that the two sides can work together here to achieve a result that is important for the country.

Mr. President, earlier today we were able to hold a news conference and indicate that last night we reached agreement between 19 Senators—10 Republicans and 9 Democrats—on the outlines of a plan to balance the budget on a unified basis over 7 years using CBO scoring, and that we were able to do it in a way that is fair and balanced.

Mr. President, I must say I have been very proud to participate in this effort because we did it without raised voices, we did it without hurling brick bats across the barricades, we did it by sitting together, by reasoning together, and by working together to achieve a result that is important to the country.

I think the leadership of Senator CHAFEE and Senator BREAUX should serve as an example to others who are negotiating on this budget matter because I think our group has blazed the trail showing others how we could achieve a result that will get the Government back to working and break the gridlock.

Mr. President, every day in this town there is a news conference that puts a spotlight on the differences between the two parties. This was the first news conference in many days in this city in which we were not talking about differences but we were talking about the ability of people of good will on both sides to get together, to reason together, and to achieve a breakthrough.

Mr. President, we just had an opportunity to make a presentation on that plan to the negotiators from both sides. I was pleased by the reaction.

I am just hopeful now that in the hours ahead cooler heads will prevail and that both sides will understand that to achieve an agreement neither side can get precisely what it wants but that we can have a principled compromise and one that advances the interests of this Nation.

Mr. President, I want to end as I began by saluting the leadership of Senator CHAFEE and Senator BREAUX. It takes courage to compromise.

Mr. President, as in the words of the "Liberty Song" by John Dickenson, "By uniting we stand, by dividing we fall."

This is an example of Senators working together to unite, of Senators reasoning together to unite, and I hope our colleagues will begin to focus on the need for uniting. That is what has made America strong—pulling together, working together, and uniting in order to achieve a result.

I thank the Chair. I yield the floor.

Several Senators addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada has the floor.

Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, will the Senator allow me 30 seconds on the subject of BOB DOLE?

Mr. REID. I am happy to yield without losing my right to the floor.

SENATOR BOB DOLE

Mr. MOYNIHAN. With great precision and with equal interest, Mr. President, it has been a quarter of a century since I first knew BOB DOLE and worked with him. He would find it interesting that we began working in an effort with a Republican President to establish a guaranteed income as a way of getting us out of our welfare problems. We are still in them. We will be in them much of the evening.

But in 25 years I have not known a man I have respected more. I have not worked with anyone with greater consequence. He is an ornament to this institution and to this Nation. We are proud of him.

I thank the Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

THE BALANCED BUDGET

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we have heard some talk on the floor today about we should have a balanced budget within 7 years. I would certainly acknowledge that. But I think the thing we should be concerned about today is getting Government back to work.

There have been statements made by the Republican leadership that those 250,000 Federal employees who are on furlough will be paid. Well, if they are going to be paid, it seems logical to me that the taxpayers would be getting a

much better deal if they were doing something for their pay, like maybe doing their job.

I would suggest that just sheer logic tells me that, if the Republican leadership said that the furloughed employees are going to be paid their wages for not working, that we should go the next step and allow them to work so that the taxpayers are getting their money's worth. This way they are getting a real bad deal. The taxpayers are told that the parks are going to be closed. There are various Federal agencies where 250,000 people work and are not going to be operable but the people are going to be paid anyway. If I were a taxpayer, I would say that does not sound like a real good deal for me.

So I say for the third time here in the last few minutes, if the Republican leadership has said they will pay the furloughed workers, it seems to me logical that we should get them all back to work.

Mr. DORGAN. Will the Senator yield on that point?

Mr. REID. I am happy to yield for a question.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I would like to ask the Senator a question about that because I feel much as he does—that somehow, sometime today, or immediately, if possible, we ought to have the Federal workers come back to work and end the shutdown and still continue to negotiate on a balanced budget agreement.

It does not make any sense to see a circumstance where Federal workers—some 300,000—will not be allowed to come to work but will still be paid for work they did not do. And the bill is going to be paid by the American taxpayer.

I ask the Senator from Nevada, is not this a period several days before Christmas where it is for most a magic time, a time of family, reflection, lights, music, worship, and now we have a circumstance where we have 1 million checks that have been written sitting in a warehouse here in Washington, DC, that are supposed to go out to the veterans and are supposed to be in their mailboxes on January 1 for veterans and survivors? Unless a continuing resolution is passed immediately, that is not going to happen. We have 4 million children whose AFDC payments for their daily needs relates to the question of whether the continuing resolution will be passed so the money and the resources will be available for them.

You can imagine what will happen if on January 2 or 3 a veteran's survivor expecting a check needing to pay the rent or to buy food or to provide for their children's needs discovers the check is not there because of this shutdown. That is why I hope somehow this evening all of this gets unlocked and we can pass a CR. Does the Senator from Nevada see any reason that it provides any leverage for anyone to continue to have a Government shutdown in which people are sent home,