

budget all the time. We are talking about opening up the Government.

All Presidents past, Gerald Ford, Ronald Reagan, Jimmy Carter, George Bush, when they had a disagreement, it is their perfect right to veto a bill.

Incidentally, the bills that President Clinton got were far late. They were not anywhere near the time they were supposed to be here.

The President has the right to veto a bill, and then you work out the differences.

This is totally ridiculous to say, "If you don't sign these bills like we passed them, like we want them, we are going to close the Government down and put all of these people out of work."

That is the process. The President has the right to veto a bill, and then you work with appropriations or the authorizers and then you work out the differences. You do not just get mad and throw a tantrum and close the Government down, our VA hospitals that are so vital to the people of this country.

It is just not Federal employees it is hurting. It is average working people out there that depend on the services of the workers.

This is totally ridiculous, holding them hostage because you have got a temper tantrum because you cannot have it like you want it.

WE MUST DEAL WITH THE DEBT AND THE DEFICIT NOW

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

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, if there is anybody in the Chamber who was born in 1946, they are now the quintessential baby boomer. They are 50. That means in 15 years or a little bit less or a little bit more, they are going to retire. If we do not reform what we are doing now, if we do not reform Medicare, there is going to be no health care for those retirees.

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Mr. Speaker, if we do not reform Social Security, there is going to be no Social Security for those retirees. If we do not do something about the debt, which is about \$5 trillion, there will be no economic structure for the baby boomers' children to operate under.

It is time for us to deal with this debt, with this budget. We want to put the Federal workers back to work. We want the President to sign the bills, which he can today, to put these people back to work. We need to get rid of the politics, shift the focus back to the budget and some of this Nation's problems.

HOUSE-PASSED BUDGET INCREASES ANNUAL OPERATING DEFICIT IN 1996

(Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi asked and was given permission to address

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

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I wish a couple of my colleagues would take the time to read the report from the Congressional Budget Office that says that the budget that has passed this House increases the annual operating deficit for this Nation in 1996. It does not decrease it, it increases it.

Even when they cook the numbers, it increases the annual operating deficit by \$7 billion. You do not balance the budget by taking your first step backward.

The second thing I would like to do is commend those wonderful men and women who work for our Nation's veterans hospitals, taking care of the people who came home from our wars in a situation much worse than they left, who are working for reduced pay. I want to tell them it is my deepest regret that they are not being fully compensated for what they have done. We have tried three times on the House floor on the Democratic side to bring a budget bill straight to the floor under an open rule that if people wanted to amend, they could, and three times now the Speaker of the House has ruled that would not happen. We will continue to work in your best interests.

BALANCED BUDGET IN 7 YEARS IMPORTANT FOR THE FUTURE

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

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, we are where the road forks in this country's history. We are talking about business as usual or whether we really want to bring some change to this place.

I have a lot of empathy and support, or concern, about Federal employees who may not be having an opportunity to work, and I think we need to look at our policy as a way we handle these kinds of public discussions and we ought to set a policy that allows them to go back to work if they wanted to.

But we are talking about whether we are going to balance the budget in 7 years using real figures, or whether we are going to go over here and do business as usual, as we have been doing for the last 40 years. That is where this crossroad is.

The President simply is not sitting down and looking at what we can do with real numbers in 7 years to balance the budget. We have to do that if we are going to have any kind of future for our children and grandchildren. It is imperative. It is important.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN UNFAIR

(Ms. PELOSI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, it is time for this House of Representatives to get a grip. The shutdown of the Federal

Government is unworthy of a great country. The irresponsible actions of this House have increased the economic uncertainty of our Federal workers. Whether they get paid eventually or not is unknown, but what is known is that those industries which depend on the Federal Government operating will never be made whole.

Think, in our area in California, Mariposa County has appealed to Governor Wilson to declare them a disaster area because of the loss of business due to the closing of Yosemite Park. It goes on and on, with coffee shops and stationery stores and all the rest who do business as a result of the Federal Government and Federal buildings being functioning.

Mr. Speaker, for a Nation that prides itself on the issue of fairness, this shutdown is unfair to the American taxpayer, unfair to the Federal workers, unfair to American businesses who want to engage in trade. We are not able to protect our environment, to conduct our foreign policy.

Mr. Speaker, if this is the tactic that the Republicans want to use, then in a sense of fairness we should not be accepting our own paychecks.

CONGRESS SHOULD ACT RESPONSIBLY AND BALANCE THE BUDGET

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

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I care about our civil servants, and I care about our Federal employees who are without compensation and who are not working today. But the pain now being felt by our Federal employees will be exactly the same pain felt by all Americans in the next decade if this House and this Congress fail to act.

Let me give an example. Some Federal employees recently received half of their monthly salary, and all of their benefits were taken out and their costs of benefits were taken out of their paycheck, and that is exactly the type of paycheck that Americans will receive in 10 years if we fail to act and act responsibly at this time.

So I urge my colleagues to hold tight, to balance the budget, and to act responsibly now.

HOUSE SHOULD HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO VOTE ON SAME RESOLUTION THAT SENATE PASSED

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

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, the dilemma that we face here today could be corrected in about 1 hour. All it would require would be for the Speaker of this House to bring to the floor the same resolution that Senator DOLE brought on the other side and in the other body. We could put everybody back to work, ensure that