

Means on Wheels obligations were honored, ensure that benefits were extended to those who were deserving of them, and it could be accomplished this afternoon.

But you know what the compelling truth here is today? That a radical element in this House that is out of touch with realities across this Nation, they have decided that they are going to hold Federal employees and our senior citizens hostage to their point of view, and that is precisely what they are doing today.

If Senator DOLE can bring the U.S. Senate Democrats and Republicans along, surely we ought to have an opportunity in this institution to simply vote on a measure to reopen this Government. That should be done today, and I guarantee if that simple measure was brought to the floor, it would pass easily.

#### THE UTAH CENTENNIAL—100 YEARS OF STATEHOOD

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

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, on January 4, 1896 President Grover Cleveland stated:

Now, therefore, I, Grover Cleveland, President of the United States of America, in accordance with the act of Congress aforesaid, and by authority thereof, announce the result of said election to be as so certified, and do hereby declare and proclaim that the terms and conditions prescribed by the Congress of the United States to entitle the State of Utah to admission into the Union, have been duly complied with, and that the creation of said State and its admission into the Union on an equal footing with the original States is now accomplished.

The centennial is a time to remember our roots which allows us to pass our heritage on to others. For nearly 50 years, Utah teetered on the brink of statehood. Our predecessors understood the value of industry and hard work. Early settlers planted crops, built roads, schools, mercantiles, and by 1869, hailed the linkup of the transcontinental railroad. Utahns have always recognized the need to be prudent with their resources, cherished education, and esteemed family and the community.

It is a celebration not just for Utah but one for the world. Invited leaders from 59 nations will attend the celebration to honor the immigrants from their countries who helped make Utah what it is today.

This is a moment we've all been waiting for. It is a time for pondering and expressing our gratitude for the wonders of the State and a time to ponder the past and plan for the future.

Gov. Mike Leavitt stated, and I agree, that "with the caliber of citizens in this State today, the legacy of quality that our predecessors worked so hard to establish will undoubtedly be carried on for future generations."

I, as well as many others, reflect upon our Utah history, and recognize that the struggles

and sacrifices of our early settlers to achieve statehood have made Utah one of the most prosperous States in the country. I am proud to represent the great State of Utah.

Mr. Speaker, I hope Members join with me in celebrating Utah's 100-year birthday.

#### HOUSE OF LUNATICS

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

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, back last month I made a speech on this floor about this being the biggest show on Earth, that Ringling Brothers-Barnum & Bailey did not hold a candle to this place.

Well, it is not even a good show any more. It is a house of lunatics right now. You can look around. Mr. Speaker, there is not hardly anybody here. Yet we have got Federal employees not working, we have got agencies shut down, and this House is doing absolutely nothing. There is not anybody here.

You talk about a place that no one should actually want to be connected to. And every day that I serve here under this new leadership, under these radical Republicans, I just think, you know, this is not a House of Representatives; this is a place like a zoo, and they do not even know how to run it. They do not know how to run a House.

I would say lunacy has really taken over. And then they blame the President for what we are not doing here.

#### REPUBLICANS CONCERNED WITH BALANCING BUDGET

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I did not intend to give a 1-minute speech, but I thought I would reply to the gentleman before me, because I think he knows and I know that his party shut down the House of Representatives, shut down Congress, shut down the Government nine times. You were involved in the last 10 or 12 years in almost every kind of parliamentary move, chicanery, in dealing with the White House at that time, owned and operated or run by Republicans, the Republican Presidents there. And your party was involved in doing much more than we have even started to do, which is to try to balance the budget.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to say to the folks on that side of the aisle that I hear time and time again that the Republicans are doing all this for tax cuts for the rich. Let me give them a quick review of the Los Angeles Times story from yesterday, where it says "Clinton set to accept capital gains tax."

If you are going to run around here saying we have tax cuts for the rich, you better talk to your own President.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The Chair will now recognize Members for the special order speeches without prejudice to the possible resumption of legislative business.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. DIAZ-BALART] is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

#### SHUTDOWN HURTING AMERICAN PRIDE

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

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, I wake up in the mornings and sometimes wonder what world I am in, because I realize I am going to go to work, and actually I have the privilege of still going to work, many Federal employees do not, that I am going to work, but I am going to go to work under these conditions: That I am working in a country that has been shut down partially for 20 days; where the Centers for Disease Control is not able to respond effectively; where the Environmental Protection Agency is not able to respond to safe drinking water complaints; where children are soon going to be ushered out of Head Start programs.

That is bad enough. I then realize there are thousands of workers capable of fulfilling those functions who are not going to fulfill those functions, but apparently are going to be paid for doing it. The issue is not whether or not they are going to be paid; the issue, of course, is why are they not working? They should be working.

So, Mr. Speaker, is this some Third World country we are talking about? No, this is the United States of America. You remember the America of "Send in the Marines," "Wherever you go, you shall be safe"? Remember the America, where you hold up the silver dollar and the eagle is always strong, and the flag flies free and proud? That is our America.

Why is this America being treated now to this kind of situation? All of us ought to be gravely concerned about this. I hear a lot about how it is necessary to shut this Government down partially to get a balanced budget. While this Government is being shut down in that perhaps laudatory goal, at the same time a lot of other budgets are being significantly unbalanced.