

other House. But the House Republicans here will not allow it to come to the floor.

That would open the Government immediately. This is what has always been done in the past when there has been a dispute between the President and the Congress. Both Houses pass a continuing resolution to keep the Government open while negotiations are going on. It has always been done.

We have had a series of Republican Presidents and Democratic Congresses. This has never been done for so long a period of time, because a continuing resolution was passed. This is part of a calculated strategy to try to bring the President to his knees and to bring the country to its knees so that they can push through their radical, extreme agenda.

What is this radical, extreme agenda? It is slashing Medicaid, slashing Medicare, harming the environment, slashing education, all to give a tax break for the rich. That to me is a disgrace. A tax break for the rich, but let us hurt the senior citizens of this country. Let us hurt the children of this country. Let us hurt our environment, and let us add taxes on working families to give a tax break to the rich.

That is the extreme Republican agenda. A colleague before said there is a saying, "You can fool some of the people some of the time, but you cannot fool all the people all the time." Well, in the last election, some of the people were fooled some of the time, but when they voted for Republicans they did not know they were voting for this extreme agenda.

The Contract for America did not say hurt senior citizens by cutting their Medicare and cutting their Medicaid and hurting our kids by cutting education and killing the environment. It did not say that. But the hand has been played, and the extreme agenda is here.

Make no mistake about it, we could reopen the Government tomorrow and the American people would not suffer, if the Republicans in this House who are in the majority would vote to reopen the Government, would vote for a continuing resolution.

Now, the reason we need this continuing resolution is because they did not do their job to begin with. They did not pass the budget bills and send them to the President on time. That is why the Government has been shut down. They say well, you know, the President vetoed some of these bills. It is his prerogative as the Chief Executive to veto the bills. This is the way the Constitution says things are supposed to happen. This has always happened in this country. The President vetoes, we come back and try to override the veto or we pass another bill.

But this is part of a calculated plan to push forward an extreme agenda, and it will not work. One has nothing to do with the other. The balanced budget has nothing to do with this Government shutdown. It is two separate issues which the Republicans are linking.

So make no mistake about it, this is not about a balanced budget. This is about shutting the Government down.

I say to my Republican colleagues, please join us in voting for a clean continuing resolution to open the Government once again while negotiations are going on. The only people who are suffering are the American people, and they ought not to suffer anymore.

#### PRESIDENT RESPONSIBLE FOR GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to address my colleagues tonight on some important issues. First, I would want to take a moment if I could in looking at the perspective of where we are today.

Mr. Speaker, we have to remember on November 20 the President of the United States signed into law legislation which said that he, along with Congress, would in fact balance the budget. Unfortunately, as part of that law, he said that he would in fact do this by the end of the year. Of course, now we are into the new year; the budget has not been balanced.

The President of the United States said during his campaign three major things: I want to change welfare as we know it; I want to balance the budget; and I want tax reform for the middle class.

This House, in a bipartisan fashion, has passed such legislation. It is the President, not the Congress, that has forced the furlough of workers. In fact, the President has in fact not signed into law appropriation bills, 13 of which he received from the House; and when the balanced budget came up, it passed by 351 to 40. The President's budget, which did not balance and in fact was \$265 billion out of budget, in fact that was defeated by a bipartisan 425 to 0.

So I say to the President, we certainly want to have a balanced budget and also to have the workers go back, and we will work with you to make that accomplished in a bipartisan fashion, as this Congress has worked all year.

#### TRIBUTE TO CLARE LINDGREN WOFFORD, A GREAT AMERICAN

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I want to take a moment for a special person in my district, Clare Lindgren Wofford, who was the wife of our former U.S. Senator, Harris Wofford, from Pennsylvania. Her untimely death occurred today.

She was a great American, a loving wife to former Senator Harris Wofford, dedicated to her husband and family. She was a leader in college education, not only in Pennsylvania but across the country; an outstanding intellect, a noted author. Clare Lindgren Wofford was assistant to the president for de-

velopment at the American College in Bryn Mawr, PA; Director for the Centennial Campaign at Bryn Mawr College. She worked with her husband in partnership for education, to make sure our country was stronger and higher education was supported.

She was also Director of the Katherine Gibbs School in Philadelphia, and Director of International Seminars at the University of Pennsylvania, working in seminars for business executives, where programs involved the Japanese economy, the Chinese economy, and American business. Moreover, she was reaching out to students in internship programs and business.

Clare Lindgren Wofford was as well a former director of the Washington Council of the African-American Institute and previously a political analyst with the U.S. Department of State, and a national champion in original oratory and debate.

She is someone who has also been vice president of the Philadelphia Area Committee for UNICEF, on the board of directors on the World Affairs Council in Philadelphia, and a member of the board of trustees of Temple University in Philadelphia.

Today, we in Pennsylvania and in my district mourn Clare Lindgren Wofford as someone who is a leader in higher education and, along with the American College, the Bryn Mawr College and the residents of our district and in Pennsylvania generally, we mourn the loss of a great friend.

The most fitting tribute, Mr. Speaker, I think to the life of Clare Lindgren Wofford would be to continue to support higher education and the programs she supported, and that would be a fitting living memorial for what contributions she has made to the country.

#### DEDICATED FEDERAL WORKERS BEING TREATED UNFAIRLY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. BARCIA] is recognized for 3 minutes.

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, the people who are being treated most unfairly in this ridiculous shutdown of Federal agencies are the dedicated workers who are showing up for work day after day without any idea of when they are getting paid.

And to make matters even worse, some of these workers stand to lose well-earned benefits because of the shutdown.

I know that people who work for the Justice Department, including members of the U.S. Marshall's office and the FBI, are at risk of losing earned vacation time. Like other Federal employees, they face a use-it-or-lose-it situation when their accumulated leave exceeds 240 hours per year.

Under current procedures, these employees will lose their excess hours if they are not used by the end of the current pay period. But these people have