

responsible Republicans, just 21 Republicans who have the common sense and courage to put country above party conference, just 21 Republicans who have the heart to help moms and dads and families in distress, just 21 Republicans who will have the honesty to recognize the destructiveness of the course set by the Republican leadership driven by its most extreme faction, just 21 Republicans who can publicly agree with the convictions they have privately acknowledged.

Are there not just 21 Republicans in the House of Representatives who will follow the leadership of Senator DOLE, who aspires to lead the country? What mob psychology prevails to prevent just 21 Republicans from doing what is right, just 21 Republicans to say, with BOB DOLE, enough is enough?

WE DO NOT NEED 21 REPUBLICANS, WE NEED 1 PRESIDENT TO OFFER A BALANCED BUDGET

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

Mr. GUNDERSON. Mr. Speaker, we do not need 21 Republicans. We need one President, just one President that will offer this country a balanced budget. That is all it takes, just one President to keep his word to offer a balanced budget, and we will get on with the process, the Government will run, and we will get this thing solved.

As my colleagues know, the fact is the President signed into law a continuing resolution. That continuing resolution committed that we would have by January 3 of this year a bipartisan balanced budget agreement. The President has not even submitted a balanced budget proposal.

People wonder why negotiations are not going anywhere. How can they go anywhere? We do not have anything to negotiate. We have no idea where the President stands on taxes. We have no idea where the President stands on domestic spending. We have no idea how the President suggests we ought to achieve a balanced budget. He says he is for one, and that is good, so let us see it.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues do not need 21 Republicans. They need one President to offer a balanced budget.

SUPPORT THE CLEAN CR

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

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, enough is enough. The extremists among the House Republicans are finally realizing the public's opposition to their hostage-taking tactics. So why are they still playing games?

Mr. Speaker, the other body, the Senate, has already passed a clean continuing resolution, and there are moderate Republican House Members who

agree with letting the entire Government operate this month while negotiations continue. The House Republican leaders should get the message and stop wasting taxpayer dollars.

I am adding my name to the clean CR introduced by the gentlewoman from Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE] which allows all Federal employees to do their jobs while they get paid. Every Member of this House should support a full restoration of Government services and end this pointless gridlock.

CRISIS CREATES SOME OPPORTUNITIES

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, what an incredible irony, this budget crisis that we are facing and have been going through for the past several weeks. The irony is that we have found that devolution is working because this crisis has created an opportunity for it. We saw the President in his news conference the other night talk about the pain that will be created, has been created, with this Government shutdown, the Meals on Wheels Program in jeopardy, unemployment benefits not being paid, Medicare recipients not being reimbursed, Medicare providers not being reimbursed.

Mr. Speaker, the fact of the matter is that was nothing more than a sky-is-falling speech that the President gave.

This morning on National Public Radio a very interesting piece was provided in which they went around the country and talked in a number of States with those involved with the Meals on Wheels Program, Medicare providers, those who were dealing with the unemployment benefits issue, and State and local governments are in many instances, not all, but in many instances, picking up the responsibility there. So we have, in fact, got a tremendous opportunity to deal responsibly with this issue, and devolution is going to work.

LISTEN TO WHAT YOUR LEADERS ARE SAYING

(Mr. DEUTSCH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I come over to the Republican side of the aisle today to speak and to quote Republican leaders.

From BOB DOLE:

Enough is enough. I do not see any sense in what we are doing. I would hope that we would have a quick action in the House. People have been gone from their jobs long enough. Enough is enough.

In addition, I quote another great Republican leader, NEWT GINGRICH:

As a former Army brat I believe it is morally wrong and indefensible that Federal workers are in the cross-fire.

The reckless Republican right have left their leaders. I say to my col-

leagues on the Republican side, "Please, come to your senses. Act like adults. It is indefensible what is going on, and it cannot be defended."

For those who saw "Nightline" last night, shame, shame, shame for those who were trying to defend this position. It is impossible. My colleagues should look at what their leaders are saying.

I say to the reckless right, "Please, for the good of the country, listen to your leaders. End this shutdown today, this afternoon, now."

A CONTINUING RESOLUTION IS NOT THE ANSWER

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

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. HOYER] has asked for 21 responsible Members of the Republican Party in the House of Representatives to come forward. There will be 236 responsible Members of the Republican Party coming forward today, and we will indeed provide the quick action and the morally responsible position that has been referred to by previous speakers.

It is the lost liberal left and the President in the White House who is listening to them that has caused this problem.

Mr. Speaker, we have had 40 years of business as usual, our social contracts are in disarray, our quality of life is down in this country, we are \$5 trillion poorer because these social programs do not work, and the best that the other side can come up with is more business as usual, a continuing resolution is the answer. It is not the answer.

The answer is to do what we are trying to do; that is, a balanced budget in 7 years with real numbers, and to get the President of the United States to live up to his pledge to do it.

A VERY EXPENSIVE THEATER TICKET FOR THE TAXPAYERS

(Mrs. SCHROEDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, as one who is prepared to leave this body, with my quasi-emeritus status let me say I think this institution is in one "mell of a hess" today. It is in terrible shape. We have Democrats coming down and citing their agreement with the Republican leaders, and we see the reckless right on their side having abandoned their leaders. We are having to cite their leaders, and they are running from their leaders.

What is going on? Mr. Speaker, we have now spent over \$1.5 billion on this shutdown, this little political theater. That is a very expensive theater ticket. Taxpayers ought to be very angry about that.

But this is not enough for the reckless right. Now they want to impeach

Secretary Rubin. They want to impeach Secretary Rubin because he has been trying to pay the bills and not totally default.

It is not like this Government does not look foolish enough. They want it to look even more foolish.

I encourage them to listen to their own leadership and stop this political theater now.

LAYING ON THE TABLE HOUSE RESOLUTION 310, EXPEDITING COMMITTEE HEARINGS DURING REMAINDER OF FIRST SESSION OF THE 104TH CONGRESS

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that House Resolution 310, a resolution expediting the commencement of committee hearings during the remainder of the first session of the 104th Congress, be laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BUNNING). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Reserving the right to object, Mr. Speaker, could the gentleman from California explain what this is?

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, the Chair has already ruled.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Yes, the Chair has already stated "without objection" on this request. The gentleman from Colorado [Mrs. SCHROEDER] was not on her feet.

DISPOSING OF SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 1643, EXTENSION OF MOST-FAVORED-NATION TREATMENT FOR BULGARIA

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 334 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 334

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 1643) to authorize the extension of nondiscriminatory treatment (most-favored-nation treatment) to the products of Bulgaria, with the Senate amendment thereto, and to consider in the House the motion printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. The Senate amendment and the motion shall be considered as read. All points of order against the motion are waived. The motion shall be debatable for one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to final adoption without intervening motion or demand for division of the question.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California [Mr. DREIER] is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman

from South Boston, MA [Mr. MOAKLEY], pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purposes of debate only.

(Mr. DREIER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks and to include extraneous material.)

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, this rule provides for taking from the Speaker's table H.R. 1643, with the Senate amendment, and consideration in the House of the motion printed in the Committee on Rules report accompanying this resolution. The Senate amendment and the motion in the committee report shall be considered as read, and all points of order against the motion are waived.

The rule provides for 1 hour of general debate on the motion, equally divided by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. The rule further provides that the previous question is considered as ordered on the motion to final adoption without intervening motion or demand for division of the question.

□ 1130

Mr. Speaker, from the 1st day of the 104th Congress a year ago yesterday, the new majority in the House has maintained that balancing the Federal budget in 7 years is our top priority. To fail in this effort is to let down America's families, especially our Nation's children. They are the ones that will pay the bill for continuing the tax, spend, and deficit policies that Washington insiders have maintained for decades. The bill just for interest payments on our debt is approaching \$187,000 in lifetime tax payments per American child. That is why we must change the direction of this Government.

Mr. Speaker, the President and Congress made a commitment on November 20 of last year to enact a 7-year balanced budget using honest economic assumptions. The balanced budget was to reform welfare and provide a tax cut that lets families keep more of the money they earn. The balanced budget was to provide an economic stimulus to finally get family incomes moving upward, something that the Clinton administration unfortunately has failed to do.

Finally, the balanced budget was to increase spending on health care, education, and veterans, while maintaining a vibrant national defense.

Mr. Speaker, the majority in this House made one major mistake in our efforts to reach a balanced budget agreement to save the future for our children. That mistake, Mr. Speaker, was believing the President of the United States. We believed the President when he said he would balance the budget in 5 years. We believed him when he said he would support a 7-year balanced budget. We even believed the

President meant it when he signed the last continuing resolution saying that a 7-year balanced budget would be enacted by the 1st session of the 104th Congress.

At this point, Mr. Speaker, it is clear that the President is very committed. He is committed to saving Washington, not to saving Medicare. He is committed to balancing his poll numbers, not to balancing the budget. He is so committed to business as usual that he was willing to see Federal workers thrown out on the street, rather than putting a balanced budget on the negotiating table.

Mr. Speaker, one thing should be very clear at this point: Those of us committed to balancing the budget will not go along with business as usual. This Congress and this country are well into uncharted territory in this budget showdown because there is finally a majority in Congress that will say "no" to Washington's deficits and Washington's spending. We are not willing to just declare victory and draw up a phony budget that will result in the same type of debt and waste in 2002 that we have today. The President has refused to lead, choosing cheap political rhetoric over a balanced budget. Therefore, Congress has taken the lead. The President has refused to lead to find common ground on appropriations bills so that Federal workers can be paid. Therefore, we are leading with a bill to put Federal workers back on the job with pay through January 26.

Mr. Speaker, we must be clear. This is not a business-as-usual continuing resolution. This bill will only fund targeted Federal programs which enjoy a bipartisan consensus of support. The bill funds some of those programs through March 15; others, through the end of the fiscal year.

If the President would really like to satisfactorily see all Federal programs funded, he should offer his version of a 7-year balanced budget using honest numbers.

Mr. Speaker, over the past several days, while negotiations have been going on, I have had a little time, because I have not been in the midst of those negotiations. I have been spending some of that time rereading the Federalist Papers. I am more committed than ever to the belief that the Congress does not work for the Government. The Congress is here to serve the American people.

How would James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, and John Jay react to a Congress so beholden to Government programs that its primary duty was to ensure that Government is free to spend taxpayer money? Madison believed that the primary role of Congress was to serve the people by ensuring a just society that protects individual liberty. Our debt-ridden status quo Government is not living up to that mission.

Mr. Speaker, our first duty is to deliver a balanced budget to America's children. The President was prepared