

first attempted to shut down the Government on several occasions in the past few months in order to try to enforce their radical agenda and essentially hold the Government hostage because the Democrats would not agree to major cuts in Medicare and Medicaid, environmental protection, and education.

Now, realizing that the American people could not support the Government shutdown and that they were losing the support of the American people, they decided they would leave the Government open again, and now they are moving towards this default. They are jeopardizing the credit rating of the United States which, as of March 1, there is a real possibility that this Government would default.

What they are saying is, that is OK. We will go home for 3 weeks. We will adjourn after tomorrow. We will come back at the very end of February, just a few days before March 1. And if you do not go along with our radical agenda and cut Medicare and cut Medicaid and do the other things that we want you to do, based on our ideology, then we are going to default.

I think it is a terrible way to operate. We should put a stop to it.

A FRIGHTENING STRATEGY

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

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I read with interest of the remarks of Albert J. "Chainsaw Al" Dunlap to the Republican freshman caucus. Mr. Dunlap earned his nickname by firing thousands of employees at various companies, most recently Scott Paper Co.

American workers and voters, take note.

Mr. Dunlap's frightening strategy involves firing loyal employees, ignoring impacts on communities, and maximizing profits to stockholders and the corporate elite—like Mr. Dunlap.

Two years of firing employees made Chainsaw Dunlap a very rich man; he pocketed about \$100 million, much of it in stock gains that would be untaxed under the Republicans' flat tax scheme.

Along the way, he fired 20 percent of hourly workers and 50 percent of managers, barred community activities, and reneged on charitable commitments. But as the chairman of Wharton's management department noted, "Dunlap didn't create value. He redistributed income from the employees and the community to the shareholders."

Let us hope that the Republican revolutionaries who listened to Dunlap do not buy into his prescription that people are as disposable as Scott tissue as long as the bottom line spells money for the wealthy

FINANCIAL CREDIBILITY

(Mr. STUPAK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, the United States faces a major threat to its financial credibility from the new majority, which is playing politics with the Nation's credit and refusing to raise the Nation's debt limit. Their tactics hurt all Americans, just as Americans were hurt by the expense and inconvenience of two Government shutdowns.

But the issue involves more than finances. The credibility of this very Nation is hurt by such tactics. We approve spending measures for Social Security, for education, for the environment, for the defense of this Nation, and then we tell America that we are simply not going to pay our bills. Whatever happened to the fullfaith and credit of this country? What ever happened to one's good word.

Republicans may try to fool the public by suggesting that raising the debt ceiling will somehow cap future spending, part of their agenda to reduce spending on Medicare, or Medicaid, the environment, and education, but the new majority should be honest with the American people. The debt limit must be approved to pay for current spending, not future spending. We must be responsible and protect our Nation's finances and reject this destructive extremism by passing a clean resolution to raise the Nation's debt ceiling.

OREGON ELECTION RESULTS

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, yesterday for the first time in 34 years, voters in Oregon elected a Democrat to the U.S. Senate. Despite being outspent over 3 to 1 and largely from Washington special interest money, Democrat RON WYDEN was elected to replace Republican Bob Packwood. Why? Because Oregon voters are sick and tired of Speaker GINGRICH shutting down Government in this country, not once but twice, and voters are sick and tired of Speaker GINGRICH threatening over and over to force our Nation into bankruptcy, all because the Speaker wants his extremist agenda enacted into law in this country.

People all over the country are rejecting this kind of thinking. They are rejecting cuts in Medicare to give tax breaks to the wealthiest individuals in this country. Voters are rejecting cuts in student loans and cuts in environmental programs in order to give tax breaks to the largest companies in America. That kind of extremist thinking is not what the American people want. Let us have a balanced budget that protects Medicare, protects the environment, and does not give major tax breaks to the wealthiest people in this country that do not need it.

ARTIFICIAL DEFAULT

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, the Republicans in this Congress, in the House of Representatives, are trying to force this Government into an artificial default. This is not a new power that the Congress suddenly possesses. It is something that has been embedded in the Constitution since the founding of this Government.

The power to force a default has always been there, but in all of the 200-plus years of the history of this country, it has never been used by either political party, except the Republicans are now attempting to use it to force a default.

The consequences of a default are unthinkable. It is so drastic that no one has really ever actively played a scenario as to what would happen.

I hope our Republican colleagues will relent and give the American people an opportunity to pay their debts when they come due and to allow the Government to function in a normal manner.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RADANOVICH). 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 Pennsylvania [Mr. GOODLING] is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida [Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

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

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

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.]

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California [Mrs. SEASTRAND] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mrs. SEASTRAND addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from District of Columbia [Ms. NORTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

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

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

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

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

REMEMBERING CHRISTA MCCAULIFFE AND THE CREW OF THE "CHALLENGER"

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Maryland [Mrs. MORELLA] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, a decade after the *Challenger* exploded, Christa McAuliffe is still fulfilling her mission, inspiring young people to look skyward with curiosity about science and outer space.

On January 26, 1996, the Christa McAuliffe Elementary School in Germantown, MD, honored their namesake by devoting a day of activities to her memory. In keeping with the wishes of Christa McAuliffe's mother, the students and teachers worked with a shared sense of purpose to remember the teacher-astronaut in a dignified manner. "Christa, This One's For You and the Challenger Crew," was the theme for the day.

Under the expert guidance of teacher Bettie Shortt, the children in the Head Start Program made a mural of the *Challenger*. The kindergartners listed Christa McAuliffe's character traits and elaborated on each one.

Team leader Lynne Barrett asked the first graders to read an important book about the *Challenger* flight. Students then discussed why Christa McAuliffe was important. Each second grade teacher selected a subject and prepared a 45-minute lesson. The subjects included: Astronauts, the Space Shuttle, the Moon, Planets, and Christa McAuliffe. Teacher and team leader for the second-graders, Susan Gougeon made sure that the classes were rotated so that each class was afforded the opportunity to participate in all of the relevant lessons.

Peggy Duffy asked each third-grader to make a symbol to put into a goal quilt, keeping in mind that "Christa McAuliffe set a goal and went for it." The finished quilt was hung in the school hall and was "quite a display," according to Dr. Edith Rohrbacher, the assistant principal.

The fourth graders viewed the film, "The Dream is Alive," and then discussed the concept of being part of a team. The fifth graders wrote essays. One of the fifth grade classes will correspond with Christa McAuliffe's mother, Jean Withee and Kristin Dillman deserve credit and praise for their outstanding efforts as team leaders for the fourth and fifth grades.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of the winning combination of students and faculty at the Christa McAuliffe Elementary School in Germantown, MD, for it is my understanding that the day set aside to remember the *Challenger*, was a huge success. I congratulate Principal Eugene Haines and the entire McAuliffe Elementary School on their ambitious program, and I wish them continued success in all of their future educational challenges and endeavors.

As Keith Geiger, President of the NEA, stated: "Christa taught us about living life to the fullest. Because she reached for the stars, she made the world a brighter place for all of us."

As a member of the Committee on Science that has under its jurisdiction our space program and as somebody who is a former educator myself, I

commend the school. I hope that the *Challenger* tragedy becomes a symbol for future generations to adopt the kind of theme that the Christa McAuliffe School has, and that is, reach out and touch the future.

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

[Mr. FIELDS of Louisiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Michigan [Miss COLLINS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Miss COLLINS of Michigan addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

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

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

THREATS OF DEFAULT

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, a lot of us in this institution are troubled by the threats to force the Nation into default, the comments made throughout the year by Speaker GINGRICH and the gentleman from Texas, Mr. ARMEY, majority leader, that if they do not get their way on the balanced budget or if they do not get their way on a host of things that are they are going to shut the Government down.

We heard those threats throughout 1995. Unfortunately, come November once and then in December a second time, they made good on their threats because they did not get the kind of, exactly the kind of balanced budget that they wanted. And they went ahead and shut the Government down. What that meant to lots of American families that depended on services from the Government, what it meant to people that work in Government, what it meant across the board to this country.

Now the threats, in a lot of ways, Mr. Speaker, are even more serious, because those threats are to force the Nation into default, again, if Speaker