

we are going to pay volunteers for paid volunteer programs, and we can dig up \$50 billion here or there for Mexico. We cannot make these wrong choices again.

#### REPUBLICANS ASKED TO PASS CLEAN DEBT LIMIT

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

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, there is a lot of revisionist history going on here on the other side.

First let us understand something. The demand was that the President would submit a 7-year CBO-scored balanced budget. The Republicans came saying, "He won't do it, he won't do it." He did it. They called off the negotiations. Apparently they were not serious about that.

They spent 50 hours at the White House. The leaders of the legislative branch, Senator DOLE, Speaker GINGRICH, and the President of the United States, first time in history, high-level negotiations, at the 50-hour point after conferring on a number of topics, the President put down a budget that was CBO-scored, 7 years, balanced the budget, and the Republicans said the meetings are off. Why did they do that? Because apparently they cannot stand success.

So now they want to up the ante, and what they want to suggest is what they are now prepared to do is to jeopardize the credit rating of the United States of America, to put this Government into default, and to potentially cost American families billions of dollars because they want to play fast and loose with the debt of this country and the debt limit.

They should not be allowed to do that. They should not be allowed to cost the American people billions of dollars by leaving town tomorrow. I guess they are going to stay to hear Jacques Chirac, the Prime Minister of France, and they are going to listen to him and then they are going to leave for 3 weeks and come back, apparently on the 26th or the 27th, 2 days before the debt limit expires, and play brinkmanship with the White House or with themselves.

Or really what they are doing is, they are going to play brinkmanship with the American people and their families. Because of the speculation and going down to the wire, people in the bond market will make decisions, the price of bonds will go up or they will not go up, and all of the American families that have automobile loans, that have adjustable rate mortgages on their home, that have a credit card whose interest rate is tied to indexes, who have home loans that are tied to indexes, all of those people will immediately be disadvantaged because the Republicans decided they want to leave town for 3 weeks.

I guess they want to leave town for 3 weeks because their program is not working. Someone just said they will not put the President's budget on the floor. No, the Republicans will not put the President's budget on the floor. That was the decision today. That is why we are doing 5-minute special orders, because they do not have anything to put on the floor, except we have this huge backlog of business to do.

We have not done the 1996 budget. The 1997 budget is supposed to be getting underway. We have not dealt with the appropriations bills. We have not dealt with the farm bill. We have not dealt with the Endangered Species Act, we have not dealt with the Clean Water Act, we have not dealt with regulatory reform, but yet the Republicans want to go home.

If your children did this, you would say, "Eat your vegetables first before you get dessert." If a corporation did this who was contemplating going into chapter 11 and they said, "We're going to leave town for 3 weeks, we'll get back to you on the day before the default," they would be fired. But somehow the Republican-led Congress can decide that we are just going to take 3 weeks off so Mr. DOLE can go campaign in New Hampshire and in Iowa, and the deficit be damned.

That kind of cavalier attitude is going to cost American families billions of dollars. It is going to cost this country its standing in the credit markets of the world. That should not be allowed.

It was the same cavalier attitude that led to the tragedy of shutting down the Government, to deny American taxpayers the benefits of the Government for which they were paying and to jeopardize the financial stability of Governmental workers and their families. It was unfair, it was rude, it was reckless, and it turned out it was repudiated by the American public; repudiated again as late as yesterday in the Oregon election where the citizens of Oregon chose not to go with an extremist attitude, chose not to go with an extremist agenda but rather to try to go with a constructive individual who is interested in working for change, to bring about real change as opposed to extreme rhetorical charges and rhetorical comments about change.

Mr. Speaker, this Congress should stay here, it should do its work and get its job done. If Mr. DOLE wants to run for President, let him resign as the leader of the Senate and get on with his campaign, and let the American public get the benefit of us meeting the debt limit on a timely basis, on a clean basis, without threats of blackmail, without threats of taking hostages, without threats of shutting down the Government. That is the way we ought to do business.

This obstructionism, this extremism ought to be brought to an end. Maybe the Oregon election will help bring that to an end. Maybe the Oregon elec-

tion will get these people to understand that their agenda is being repudiated as being anti-American and American family.

#### BOEHNER SEES NO PROSPECT OF DEFAULT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, there has been an awful lot of talk about the credit of the United States of America. Over the last 15 years, the Congress of the United States has consistently used the statute to increase the debt limit to move their agenda, the congressional agenda, through the White House and into law. We have seen this over these past 15 years by Democrat Congresses.

Over the last year, Republicans in Congress have felt pretty strongly about the need to bring fiscal responsibility to Washington, DC. We have accumulated some \$5 trillion worth of debt that none of us in this room are ever really going to pay off. Our children and our grandchildren are going to pay that off. We are imprisoning our children and our grandchildren by our irresponsibility over the last 25 to 30 years.

So now is the time to do something about it. The President of the United States wants us to give him a clean increase in the debt limit. He wants to put more debt on the backs of our children. What we are going to insist is that we make a down payment, a down payment on saving the future for our children and theirs, a down payment on moving us toward a plan to bring fiscal responsibility to Washington.

Our friends on the other side and the White House are making this big issue about whether we are going to default. Well, there is going to be no default, not now, nor is there going to be any default in the future. We believe that the debt limit is being handled by the Treasury, probably not in a way that I would do it, but it is being handled.

But I have to tell Members the frustration amongst Members on both sides of this Capitol about the refusal of the President of the United States to deal honestly with trying to bring fiscal responsibility to Washington is excessive. We sat through 6 weeks of meetings at the White House over trying to find some agreement on balancing the budget.

I have got to tell Members, looking back over those last 6 weeks, nothing really happened other than we were diddled with. We were props for the cameras at the White House, because the President of the United States in fact made hardly no movement toward any honest effort to balance the budget. Oh, yes, the President wants to agree on some numbers but never agree on the policies that would actually get us there. He wanted to do the same thing the politicians from both sides of