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You want to say balanced budget plus ABC, Mr. President; take it or leave it, or we will cause disaster to the American people.

Well, gentlemen, learn your lesson. Your great theory was let the Government shut down, and that would bring the White House to its knees and you would get what you want by bullying tactics. It failed. You looked miserable. You had to retreat with your tail between your legs. And what do you do now? You come up with even a more ludicrous theory, and that is that we should let the Government default.

You know, I believe each of you does not think the Government will default, because maybe he will back off. Maybe you will back off. Well, when I was a teenager there was this game that certain people played called chicken. They each get in cars at one end of the highway, and they would rev up the engines to *x* miles per hour, and whoever swerved first was the chicken. And you know what? If no one swerved, there was a big crash. And that crash will mean nothing compared to the crash that will occur if no one swerves here.

So you are playing with fire, and you should have learned your lesson. What I would do, since my words are rather strong and maybe we can get a debate going again, I would yield to the gentleman from Arizona, but only please for 30 seconds, so I might have the chance to answer.

Mr. HAYWORTH. I am so grateful to my friend from New York for yielding. There goes the time right there, so your noble experiment has failed.

Mr. SCHUMER. Let the RECORD show I did not know my time was about to expire.

COMPROMISE ON BUDGET NEEDED NOW

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

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I think our goals are all similar, having a balanced budget. We are pleased to hear the President in his State of the Union Message adopt the call for a balanced budget and challenge the Congress to make certain we have a balanced budget.

None of us wants to put the Government in default. We want to have a good debt measure. We want to have a good balanced budget adopted before we leave the Congress for any recess period. But we do need cooperation. People are willing to negotiate across the table. Too often in the process it has been finger pointing and one party or another walking out of the negotiating area.

I think the American public wants to see us get down to work, develop a balanced budget, and develop a clean debt ceiling measure, and I think most of us in the House would like to see that

happen. But that means good intentions by all parties and the willingness to stop the finger pointing, and an intense desire to bring these problems to a halt by finding a proper solution.

I am pleased to yield to the gentleman from California [Mr. ROHRBACHER].

Mr. ROHRBACHER. I thank the gentleman very much. I think we should all really tone down our rhetoric, if we could. I have to say, I use a lot of descriptions of my friends, but let me say to my friend from New York, telling us that we are a bunch of extremists and you now are centrists, does not further the debate. You must have used the word "extremist" five or six times. We will let the American people determine who is in the extreme and who is in the center and who most closely reflects their point of view.

I do not accept the notion that we Republicans closed down the Government. I heard that this morning as well. I believe it was the President of the United States and his refusal to act that resulted in the shutdown of the Federal Government. In fact, if we indeed were putting pressure on the President to do certain things, you might say that we came to the point where we had to put him in a position of shutting down the Government himself before he would come forward with even a semblance of a balanced budget plan. If you remember, the President did not feel compelled even to put a balanced budget plan on the table.

So what we are talking about, all of these things, whether you are talking about default or closing the Federal Government, all these things, I do not believe we are doing. We are doing what is responsible and putting the President in the position of saying he will have to make the decision in terms of default or shutting down the Federal Government.

One last point. In order to achieve his objective, his objective is opposite from what he ran on. He ran on a balanced budget, he ran on changing welfare as we know it, but now he is willing to shut down the Government, he is willing to default, rather than come forward with an honest discussion and negotiation of how we get to a balanced budget.

Mr. GILMAN. I yield to the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. HAYWORTH. I thank my friend from New York, and thank him for coming to this floor and responding in measured tones to some of the shrill rhetoric we heard this morning. I have one comment in particular about blackmail. The record will show in our discussions with the White House, the new majority has moved some \$400 billion in the direction of the White House, and the White House has responded with only incremental efforts to reach some sort of consensus.

Therein lies the rub here, because, again, in the wake of the rhetoric, I would simply make this statement: The only thing extreme on this floor is

the extreme good sense the new majority is showing in trying to put our fiscal house in order. As my friend who chairs the committee so vital to international relations understands, it is fiscal responsibility, not only in our own financial markets, but internationally, that builds and expands the full faith and credit of the United States. And after almost a half century of runaway deficit spending, now trying to put our house in order should be paramount.

So let the record reflect that this new majority has moved in the direction of trying to reach some sort of consensus. But as everyone in any business knows, a bad deal is not the answer. No deal may be better than a bad deal.

Mr. GILMAN. I thank the gentleman from Arizona for reflecting on how important our economic status is, not only domestically, but internationally.

CONGRESS SHOULD BE WORKING ON SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES, NOT DISCUSSING GOVERNMENT DEFAULT

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

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I visited with some high school students in Rynek high school and we were talking about the Endangered Species Act. They wanted to know what the Congress was doing. They wanted to know how the debate was proceeding.

I also visited with students in another school to talk about education and what the Federal Government was doing or could do. It is hard for me to believe, Mr. Speaker, that it is almost 5 minutes to 1 in the afternoon. We are not working on the Clean Water Act or education, the Endangered Species Act or Head Start. We are here on the House floor because the Republican leadership cannot get their act together, and we are debating whether we should shut the Government down or not, whether we should allow a default of the Federal Government.

Mr. Speaker, a default of the Federal Government should be unheard of. It should not even be discussed, to even put in question the credit of the United States, to even think that we would talk about adjourning to just before the brink of March 1 when the Government could default.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the effort to be bipartisan, and I do so hope we could. Look, I think it is a fair debate to talk about the programs, to talk about what is efficient, what is not. That is what AL GORE's reinventing government was all about. In fact, the Government is 200,000 positions smaller because of President Clinton and AL GORE's reinventing government program. We have already reduced the deficit because of courage in 1993 by \$500 billion. We have already done that.