

Now we know that the deficit was cut in half this year. It is \$160 billion rather than \$300 billion when the President took office. So we have already done some things.

No one ever thought in my district when I went home it was the subject of conversation that we would ever, the Congress of the United States, led by the Republicans, would shut down the Government. Twice. In fact, if that had not happened, I am sure no one would even believe, anyone in their right mind, that we could even think about the United States Government defaulting, putting our credit at risk.

That is unheard of. I was on the phone the other day with the head of the National Cancer Institute. Because of the Government shutdown, six cancer drugs were not released. In fact, the Geological Survey could not release maps to businesses that wanted to build projects. In fact, the SBA could not make loans to small business.

We are still trying to figure out what the impact of shutting the Government down was. I know it is difficult for NEWT GINGRICH and the Republican leadership, because they are a group of freshman that feel that it is their way or no way. I have always worked in a bipartisan way. I saw my colleague the gentleman from New York, BEN GILMAN, was here before. I wish my colleague from North Carolina, WALTER JONES, Jr., was here now, because I would have liked to have applauded his father, who was the chairman of the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries on which I served.

We did all kinds of good things on that committee. We passed the Coastal Zone Management Act, we worked to preserve Long Island Sound, we passed an ocean dumping bill. There is a lot of work that has to be done in the Congress of the United States for my constituents and for the country. We should be working on these issues at 10 minutes to 1, not talking about a possible default of the Federal Government.

The President put a balanced budget on the table. Now, originally I heard day after day the Republicans saying "We need a balanced budget, we need a balanced budget. We need it scored by the Congressional Budget Office." I apologize to all our constituents. They probably may not be aware of all these details. But the President did put a balanced budget on the table, scored by the Congressional Budget Office. Now the Republicans are saying "That is not good enough."

Well, let us bring that bill to the table. Let us bring that balanced budget on the table. We can agree on \$711 billion. Let us vote on it. Let us balance the budget and move forward and get to work.

I am very worried about how we are going to educate the next generation. I visit our schools. We can do so much more. It is legitimate to talk about what is the Federal role, what kind of investments can we make. There was

an article just this week on the success of some boot camps. Can we invest in more boot camps so we can ensure our kids can get that education?

Let us not talk about default. That is an outrage. Let us get to work at 1 o'clock.

U.S. MONETARY POLICY

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

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, the House will be adjourning shortly until February 6. Mark Twain would have greeted that news with great joy and said that during that period of time the Republic was safe.

The fact of the matter is the Republic is going to be in greater danger during that period. As the first Secretary of the Treasury, Alexander Hamilton, found, the one thing that was important for him to do as the Secretary of the Treasury was to assure the credit of the United States. This was something which had not existed prior to that time. In consequence, the currency, the full faith and credit of the United States, and, indeed, the economic promises and commitments of this country, meant very little.

Alexander Hamilton set in place a tradition and a history and a culture which during those years since his tenure have been manifested by two things: First, that the United States paid its debts when due; and, second, that the United States' credit was regarded as the best in the world.

Today as we sit here, credit rating agencies are reviewing the credit of the United States to see whether in fact the credit of the United States should continue to be AAA or whether in fact it should be reduced to some lower number.

During the time that we have been discussing the budget, we have been talking to our Republican colleagues about that matter, they have been stressing that there were two purposes that they were going to carry out to assure that the President agreed to their stand with regard to a balanced budget.

The first was to bring a Government shutdown. That has happened not once, but twice. The American taxpayers, American business, American industry, American citizens, have undergone substantial hardship. Our foreign trade has been impaired. The programs upon which business, industry, ordinary citizens are dependent, have all been hurt. Checks by the Government to its contractors have been delayed and withheld. Losses of employment amongst Government contractors have occurred.

Federal employees have been laid off. Federal employees have been paid for not working.

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That need not have been done. Indeed, with wise fiscal management, no

party in control of a legislative branch of government would permit a situation of that kind to obtain.

We have seen the consequences of that: new trucking unable to be certified, businesses unable to send delegations abroad to promote sale of U.S. commodities and goods and services, Americans incapable of bringing in foreigners to see things like the automobile show; our monuments to the success of that unfortunate policy.

We are now looking at February 29. What will happen on February 29? On February 29, the United States will go into default on its obligations. At that time, the credit of the United States will be reduced in the eyes of all on that sole event. It need not happen.

Never before in my memory in this body, or indeed in the history of the United States since Alexander Hamilton was the first Secretary of Treasury, has that sort of event occurred.

We are going to adjourn here shortly then until February 29. We will probably do so without having addressed the question of the debt ceiling. Let us look a little bit at what happens to this country if a default occurs.

My Republican colleagues are feeling very, very macho about this matter, because they are now able to say they have a tool which they can use which will force the President to do their bidding. Well, the President has not been forced to do their bidding by the shutdown of the Government. Indeed, the only persons who have been hurt have been the United States and the people of the United States.

The President has done his best to see to it that the country is run during those periods of time. But we have wasted billions in paying salaries to people who did not work. We are now paying people who are not able to work effectively because their agencies are not fully funded, even though we are paying them. But let us look ahead to see what will occur.

A BALANCED BUDGET

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

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. DINGELL].

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, interest rates will rise. Prices of U.S. Government obligations will fall. Interest rates will rise on municipal bonds, State securities, and private debt, corporate and individual.

Prices of bonds will drop. The securities markets, both stocks and bonds, will fall. The credit rating of the United States will be impaired. Employment will rise. Home mortgages will be thrown into disarray. Homeowners will find the value of their real estate declining. Pension funds will be impaired by reason of the loss of the value of their equity and the loss of earnings. Perhaps high unemployment in this