

for the crumbling schools. That is reason enough for the Republican leadership to have denied tens of millions of Americans patients rights when they need a referral to a specialist, when they need a test, when they need treatment. They are denied, with no appeal, and the Republicans have denied them legislation to fix that. It was within the power of this Congress, but the big money spoke louder than the millions of Americans who needed help.

Then the teenagers getting hooked on tobacco, well, too bad for them too, according to the Republican leadership. There was not time to take care of that problem.

A SOLUTION TO THE BUDGET GRIDLOCK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. LINDA SMITH) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mrs. LINDA SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer a solution to the gridlock between this body and the President, one that our President says he is willing to shut down the government over. I ask the President to stay in town at least one day, to cancel his trip to New York to the fund-raiser for an important friend of his, and consider this: There is a simple solution available that will satisfy both the President and Congress and avert the potential crisis that this Nation faces if he does not start paying attention. In fact, the problem could be resolved today.

First of all, both the President and Congress have promised to save Social Security. Now, in order to really put action behind that promise, neither side can spend the phantom surplus Social Security dollars, not through new spending, not through tax cuts.

Second, our focus is on education, a value that we all wholeheartedly say must be a priority. Now, let us keep these two goals in mind and consider the President's words.

One week ago, two weeks ago, about once a week for some time, the President has proclaimed that his top goal is to save Social Security. Now his goal has changed this week, but that is what he has been saying.

This week he says he is going to shut down the government, not for the goal of saving Social Security, but he is going to shut down the government if we do not agree to dig deeply into the Social Security trust fund and spend billions of dollars, new dollars, on education programs.

Now what we have is the President pitting the needs of elderly Americans against the needs of children and asking us, the American people, to choose. He says we have to choose between protecting Social Security for our elderly or shoring up education for the future of our children.

I stand here today to say this is a false choice that Congress and Ameri-

cans do not have to make. There is another way.

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The solution is simple. Common sense, something that came directly from the people, not this body, and it is to return money directly to local school districts and bypass the bureaucratic cost and the red tape of Washington, D.C., the most asked-for educational change from all the teachers throughout America.

The House of Representatives has passed a model piece of legislation, the Dollars to the Classroom Act, that provides enough money for schools and school districts to hire 110,000 teachers. It just simply does this by taking a portion of the education bureaucracy and block-granting 95 percent of these 31 Federal education programs directly to our local classrooms.

The beauty of this bill is that it allows local people the flexibility to hire more teachers and reduce class sizes; or, if their district needs it more and their class sizes are already low, buy new computers, books or supplies. Basically, they can use the money to buy whatever the children need most, not what is directed by bureaucrats 2,500 miles away.

The President threatens that if we were to do this, he would veto it, because he still believes, as many on the Hill here in Washington D.C. believe, that bureaucrats know better than parents. I think they are wrong.

This budget battle should remind Americans of how difficult it will be for politicians to leave Social Security trust funds alone, so that it is to protect our elderly neighbors that we should be standing here. It is what we should be about. But here we are, just a week away from a promise to save Social Security. Last week, the week after, the week before, and the President came back to town to posture long enough after he read the polls. He knows we care about children. He knows I think daily about my six grandchildren, but he has decided that for the sake of campaigns, that this is the right thing to do.

We need to bypass the bureaucracy. We need to get out of the political rhetoric, and we need to get into the hearts and the neighborhoods and the school districts. We need not to separate generations.

I stand here today to plead with America to call the President back to town to negotiate a fair budget.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Pursuant to clause 12 of rule 1, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 47 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Reverend James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer: You have promised, O gracious God, to be with us wherever we are, in the towering heavens to the deepest oceans, from the moments of high exultation and in tragedy and great despair. We know that we cannot flee from Your presence and Your spirit will never leave us.

This day we pray that Your spirit would encourage us when we need encouragement, that Your spirit would reconcile when we need reconciliation, and when we face anxiety, we pray that peace and hope will be Your gift to all Your people. This is our earnest prayer. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PITTS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ATTENDING FUND-RAISERS

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

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I came to the well of this House, and I asked the President of the United States, Mr. Speaker, to refrain from attending two major fund-raising events, to stay here in Washington and work with the Congress to make the decisions necessary to reach accord on our budget situation. The President, indeed, decided not to go to Palm Beach, Florida, but sadly, Mr. Speaker, the President plans to go on to New York City for not one, but three fund-raising events tonight.

Those three fund-raising events will give him a total of 100 fund-raising events, Mr. Speaker, and yet the President all year long has only held two Cabinet meetings, on both occasions to discuss his personal situation.

Mr. Speaker, I would call on the President again not to attend the fund-raising meetings in New York, especially, as I pointed out yesterday, because they are to benefit a sitting

member of the House Committee on the Judiciary, a person with aspirations toward moving to the other side of Capitol Hill and the other body. Even though Washington is hard-bitten and cynical, Mr. Speaker, even our opposition can see the conflict of interest.

THE MYTH OF THE BIPARTISAN WATERGATE ERA

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, after voting in overwhelming numbers for the release of the Starr report, many Democrats are now blaming the Republicans for being too partisan in the handling of the President's scandal. These Democrats are implicitly claiming that they had some kind of bipartisan consensus during Watergate. How short their memories are.

In fact, of the 134 staff positions authorized for the impeachment inquiry of 1974, only 12 were for Republican staff, 12 out of 134. When Speaker Carl Albert decided to refer impeachment resolutions to the Rodino committee, no Republicans were included in the meeting. When the committee met to consider subpoena authority, the Republicans proposed that the chairman and ranking member have joint authority. This idea was defeated in a party line vote.

While the Democrats work on forgetting things, Republicans will work to fairly uncover the truth.

IMF FUNDING

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, the White House said, give the International Monetary Fund \$18 billion more, or we will shut the government down. Take it and like it, Congress. Shut up and pass it, Congress.

Enough is enough. When will the Congress grow a backbone? What is going on here, Mr. Speaker? I say if that is the deal, shut the government down. You know not one American will be hurt. We can retroactively take care of them. But I am not for one more penny for the international monetary slush fund.

We give them the money. They buy Chinese products with it. Foreign leaders steal it, and then they vote against us at the United Nations 90 percent of the time.

Beam me up. If we are going to flush another \$18 billion down the toilet, then push the handle, Congress, and flush it in America.

I yield back the balance of anything worth flushing with the International Monetary Fund.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF BILLS TO BE CONSIDERED UNDER SUSPENSION OF RULES TODAY

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to H. Res. 575, I announce the following suspensions to be considered today: H.R. 2349, Gus Hawkins Post Office; H. Res. blank, concerning the steel import crisis, H.R. 4738, extending certain provisions and providing tax relief for farmers and small businesses.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, last Friday the President decided that wag the dog was not good enough. Congress passed a bipartisan agriculture appropriation bill that included billions of dollars in emergency assistance to hard-hit farmers, and the President vetoed it. He played wag the farmer, in a suspicious attempt to divert attention from the national debate over whether or not felonies by the chief magistrate of the United States would rise to the level of an impeachable offense.

Now the President is poised to go to yet another fund-raiser, this one in New York, while the important business of government is left unattended and a government shutdown is upon us.

Mr. President, we in Congress urge that you do not shut the government down. Do not wag the farmer and do not go to New York to raise money from the very people you bash whenever Republicans propose tax cuts. The President should clear his fund-raising calendar and stay in Washington and work with Congress to finish the job we were elected to do.

Mr. Speaker, I suggest the President not shut the government down.

MORE ON THE DO-NOTHING CONGRESS

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, today is day 109 of work for this do-nothing Congress. No budget, not done, we are going to do another temporary continuing resolution to fund the entire United States Government at 2:30 this afternoon.

The Republican leaders would like to blame the President for the fact that they have failed for the first time in 25 years in Congress to produce a budget resolution and a budget to send to the President. The reason they have failed is we have only worked 109 days here in Washington, D.C., and many of those days were starting at 5:00, out at 6:00. A lot of Americans would love to have that kind of a schedule.

The average American has worked 200 days this year. Day in, day out they have produced. They have worked, and they have gotten a modest salary.

The Republican Congress has worked only 109 days in Washington, D.C., and

failed miserably in its most basic task, producing a budget, let alone in producing other legislation to protect Americans against health care fraud and other issues.

ON EDUCATION

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, let us compare and contrast what the Democrats want to do with money for education and what Republicans propose to do with the money.

Republicans want the money to go to the classroom. They want their local schools and parents to have more control over those dollars that are spent. Democrats want more Federal control over the money. They want more money to go to the Department of Education, the bureaucracy. The ironic thing is that you will never find a Democrat who will admit more Federal money means more Federal control, more bureaucracy and less power in the hands of the local schools. No, you will never find a Democrat to admit that, but just ask yourself this question, when was the last time Washington intervened and did not ask for more control? When was the last time the experts in Washington, D.C., did not try to tell, have more say in how those Washington dollars were spent?

It all comes down to power and control, more in the hands of parents and local schools or in the hands of the Federal bureaucrats in Washington.

THE GRAY MULE CONGRESS

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

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, this has been called the do-nothing Congress. In the lower Mississippi River Valley, where I come from, they have got a term called gray mule. I call it the gray mule Congress.

What that term means is, in the frontier days, they had a lot of poker games. And if a fellow was not doing well in the poker game, he would jump up about the time he thought the game was going to end, knock the lantern over, turn the lights out, try to steal all the money he could, and take off and run.

That is what the Republican Congress is trying to do to the American people. We come up here at the last minute, no budget, no appropriations, let us cram all this unscrupulous stuff into one bill and try to trick the American people into thinking we are doing their job and taking care of their business when we have not saved Social Security. We have not protected them in the health care area, and the list goes on and on of things we have not done.

Let us recognize this gray mule Congress for what it is.