

We have been debating that contract for the last 11 months, and very frankly it has not gone very far. One of the reasons it has not gone very far is because the Republicans in the Senate could not agree with the Republicans in the House. Frankly, the Democrats have not been able to defeat or pass much on their own. We understand that, we are in the minority.

Now we come to funding Government. Personal responsibility would say that each and every one of us ought to share the most efficient and effective operations of the people's Government; reduce it, change it, eliminate some activities, do all of that, but ensure that those activities that we support operate in an efficient and effective manner. The Republican leadership has failed miserably in that effort. Because of Democrats? No. In the first instance, when this fiscal year ended September 30, the Republican leadership had failed to pass any appropriations bills to fund Government. Not 1 of the 13.

My colleague points out that perhaps we passed the legislative bill prior to the first of October, and that was, of course, vetoed because the President thought it unseemly that we take care of ourselves first before we took care of other people's business, and he made a good point.

The Republicans passed a short-term CR that expired, and they had yet to pass the appropriation bills that the President would sign and, indeed, as of today have seven bills that have yet to be passed into law.

Now, ladies and gentleman, we have come to a point where the President, President Clinton, the majority leader BOB DOLE, and the Speaker, NEWT GINGRICH, sat down together at the White House last night and said, "As reasonable people, let us work this out," and the reports I received this morning were that the Speaker thought that was a positive meeting. Senator DOLE, the majority leader, thought that was a reasonable meeting. The President of the United States thought that that was a positive, productive meeting, and the three leaders came out and said, "We think we have a construct to move forward."

And then what happened? The Republican freshmen apparently thought that was not enough. The Republican freshmen want a guarantee that the President would agree to certain things that he believes are not in the best interests of this country, cutting Medicare deeply, cutting Medicaid deeply, cutting education for young people, which he believes, and I share his views is an investment in the future of America, undermining programs that protect our environment.

In point of fact, in the last legislation we passed to keep Government working, both parties agreed that that would be part of it. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, the freshmen Republicans have demanded that Government shut down until the President gives up.

That is not right.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. VOLKER. Mr. Speaker, is it out of order that anyone in this 5-minute time be given additional time under unanimous consent?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under special order speeches extensions of time are not allowed.

Mr. VOLKMER. I thank the Chair.

THE EFFECTS OF THE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN ON FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

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

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, there is no good reason why 260,000 Federal employees should be shut out of their jobs, particularly at Christmastime. This is unprecedented to punish Federal employees because they chose to be civil servants. But that is what this body is doing. And to do it at Christmastime, when virtually all of these Federal employees have children, have been looking forward to Christmas, would like to be out shopping after they finish work each day, but they cannot. They do not know whether they will be paid.

They are aware of the press conference that the Speaker had where he alluded to the fact that a great many Republican Members of this body, particularly freshman, are opposed to reimbursing Federal employees for this period of time when they have been locked out of their jobs. Imagine the strain, imagine the anxiety, imagine the sadness on the part of their children when they see the toll this is taking on their parents.

I have been told by teachers, by one of the principals, in fact, of an elementary school in my district where a lot of Federal employees send their children, that their children are not acting like this is Christmas. Normally, you have pageants and children jumping up and down and squealing with laughter and looking forward in anticipation of Santa Claus. But we have stolen their Christmas from them this year, because their parents cannot afford to go out and buy presents. Their parents have no reason to be happy. Their parents do not know what is going to happen to them, because it is in our hands.

We control what this Christmas will be like for these thousands of Federal employees. And it is wrong. It does not have any reason to be tied to a 7-year balanced budget.

You know, you look back at history, when we have had conflicts between the majority in the Congress and the executive branch, when President Reagan had a conflict with the Democratic Congress in 1987, we went the whole year on a continuing resolution.

President Reagan never thought of sending Federal employees home and punishing them and locking them out of their job just because he could not agree with the Congress. Certainly, the Democratic Congress never for a moment thought that they would punish Federal employees like that.

In 1988 we had the same situation, a continuing resolution all year. And now we cannot even get a continuing resolution for the 3 days of Christmas, for this Christmas weekend. We cannot even get this continuing resolution to let Federal employees function and to open up the Government.

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Why? Because certain Members on the Republican side of the aisle are saying "It is our way or no way." They just passed a resolution, I am told it was unanimous, I cannot believe it was unanimous because there are good people on the Republican side of the aisle, to say that there will not be a continuing resolution unless the President agrees to the entire 7-year balanced budget. It is wrong, it has got to stop, and the American people have to get to say no, this is not what we want from our Government.

AMERICANS SUPPORT PRESIDENT ON BUDGET IMPASSE

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

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I do not rise as normally when Members ask for an opportunity to revise their remarks and extend them. I would like my remarks to be recorded as I speak them. In this case, because I think that what we need to focus on is the simplest assertion of the truth.

We have a Republican majority that is trying to sell something that no one is buying. The American public has rejected, almost 2 to 1, their budget proposal for this Nation. They offer us on one hand a budget that would cut education, Head Start, Pell Grant opportunities for youngsters to go to college, increase the cost of student loans, and cut teacher training programs.

In every poll that has been done, the American public indicates that they do not agree with this budget. They are trying to sell a budget to the President of the United States, and he has vetoed it. He has said that he will not add his signature, he will not join in a conspiracy to rob this great country of ours from developing its fullest potential. He will not join in attempts to cut millions of young people in terms of their needs, in terms of health care and Medicaid, to further burden senior citizens and their families when they are in need of nursing home care. So, because the Nation and the President have rejected their budget product, they have