

schools in the city of St. Louis by giving teachers expanded opportunities for training and resources in science education. The program also increases opportunities available to students using the Botanical Gardens, the St. Louis Science Center, and the St. Louis Zoo creating a partnership to improve science education in St. Louis. Desi and Mary Ann also gave the gift that allowed the Botanical Garden to purchase and renovate a building near the Garden to provide needed space and classroom facilities for the Garden's education program.

The Lee's generosity toward the education programs at the Botanical Gardens is but one of many ways that their commitment to their home of St. Louis is evident. Desmond Lee graduated from the Washington University School of Business in St. Louis in 1940 after founding the Lee/Rowan Co. while still a student. He has served on countless boards of directors in the St. Louis area, including the St. Louis Science Center, the St. Louis Symphony, and the St. Louis Zoo. An elder in his local Presbyterian Church, Desi Lee has also received many awards in the St. Louis community for his service, including an honorary doctorate of humane letters from the University of Missouri at St. Louis in 1995, and the 1995 A World of Difference Community Service Award.

I rise today to salute my good friends for not only their service to the Missouri Botanical Garden for which they received the Henry Shaw Medal this week, but for their lifelong dedication to their home of St. Louis, where they have worked and given tirelessly to improved life for all who call St. Louis home.

I yield the floor. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislation clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ASHCROFT). Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, at midnight last night, President Clinton threw in the towel, so to speak, and bailed out on his constitutional responsibility to keep the Federal Government in operation.

By vetoing legislation to extend the Federal Government's borrowing ability, and by vetoing a continuing resolution that would have kept the Federal Government funded, President Clinton set the engine on full throttle and barreled the U.S. Government into the train wreck we have been hearing so much about over the last several months.

And it is all because he is unwilling to follow through on a promise to balance the budget. Despite calls from the

American taxpayers for a little leadership from the Nation's Chief Executive.

Did you know that every day, the Washington Times prints a little chart illustrating exactly how much this Government owes its creditors?

This morning's paper, for example, shows the U.S. Government approximately \$4.984 trillion in debt.

In just one 2-day period recently, the national debt increased more than \$2.2 billion—enough, estimated the Times, to buy a Big Mac, medium french fries, and medium-sized drink for every person in the entire United States and Mexico.

Just the interest alone on a debt that massive is accumulating at the rate of \$4 million an hour.

If our national debt were shared equally among all Americans, each of us would owe more than \$19,000.

Every child born today in the United States of America—and that is going to be about 8,200 children—comes into this world already saddled with more than \$19,000 in debt.

That is immoral, Mr. President.

So the difference between Congress and the President—the difference in what we apparently see when we look at those staggering statistics—is the difference between passion and politics.

Congress is passionate about fulfilling our promise to balance the budget and end the legacy of debt we continue to build for the coming generations. We cannot imagine what it took to build up a national debt of nearly \$5 trillion—that is a 5 followed by 12 zeroes—and we cannot imagine letting it go on for another day.

That is passion.

The President's guiding force, meanwhile, is politics. For him to shut down the Government is nothing more than a political move—an attempt to derail all our hard work at balancing the Federal budget merely to satisfy the radical liberal wing of his own party.

Congress wants to move forward, while President Clinton wants to stop the people's agenda dead in its tracks.

Harry Truman used to have a sign on his desk that read: "The Buck Stops Here."

Well, President Clinton ought to have a sign on his that says "The Revolution Stops Here." For him, leadership is not about fulfilling promises or making change, or principled decision-making. It is all about politics.

Mr. President, I came to the floor last Tuesday to speak about the budget and the President's unwillingness to work with us, in good faith, toward the goals shared by a majority of all Americans.

Immediately afterward, one of my good colleagues from across the aisle responded with his own thoughts about the budget debate, and he chided me for making the Senate what he called "a political arena."

All I can say is that it is nearly impossible to talk about this President without somehow mentioning politics.

His public comments of the past week have been nothing but political rhetoric, and desperate rhetoric, at

that. In his Saturday radio address, he asked listeners to:

Imagine the Republican Congress as a banker, and the United States as family that has to go to the bank for a short-term loan, for a family emergency. The banker says to the family, "I will give you the loan, but only if you will throw the grandparents and the kids out of the house first."

Mr. President, my constituents in Minnesota and the rest of the American people asked for fundamental changes last November from their Government, not empty rhetoric. But President Clinton has made the decision not to climb aboard.

Of course, that is his choice, and none of us is apparently going to change his mind.

But hear this—Congress will not bow out of its responsibility to deliver to the people a budget that balances within 7 years, that draws the line at tax increases, and in fact cuts taxes for working-class Americans, that preserves and protects Medicare.

The question of why the President of the United States of America is so vehemently opposed to a balanced budget that does not increase taxes that he would shut down the Federal Government and default on the Nation's financial obligations, can only be answered by the President himself.

And the American people are waiting for an answer.

WELCOMING CROATIAN-SERBIAN AGREEMENT ON EASTERN SLAVONIA

Mr. PELL. Mr. President, finally, there is good news from former Yugoslavia. On Sunday in Croatia, Croatian leaders and rebel Serbs signed an agreement ending the territorial conflict over Eastern Slavonia, the last part of Croatia still occupied by Serbs. As late as last week, Croatian Government officials, including President Tudjman, were threatening to retake the territory by force. I am pleased that Croatia has recognized the folly of carrying out those threats, and has opted instead for a diplomatic solution.

There are still serious questions about this agreement that need to be answered. For example: Who will participate in the transitional administration to be established by the United Nations to govern the region? Will there be separate military and civilian administrations? How does this agreement relate to the continuing negotiations on Bosnia? What, if anything, does Serbia get in return for its agreeing to this accord?

Despite these and other questions, this much is clear: The agreement will avert a military confrontation between Croatia and Serbia over Eastern Slavonia, and together with last week's agreement on the Federation, offer needed momentum to the Dayton negotiations.

Our Ambassador to Croatia, Peter Galbraith and U.N. Envoy Thorvald