

chance to offer a continuing resolution, where the Federal Government could be in operation for the next 3 days to the next 5 weeks. Let us reason together. Let us discuss these issues. Let us talk about the timeframe for balancing the budget. Let us include our national priorities—economic security for the old, opportunity for the young—and let us reach out and not be on this side of the aisle or that side of the aisle. Let us go to that sensible center and put our national interests first, put our Federal employees back to work. Let us give the taxpayers a dollar's worth of Government service for a dollar's worth of their taxes. Then we can hold our heads up high and be proud that we are U.S. Senators.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. SNOWE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

DO WHAT IS RIGHT FOR AMERICA

Mr. DOLE. Madam President, as we begin the second day of the Federal Government shutdown, I do want to note that like all Senators, I have read the polls that say more Americans are blaming the Republican Congress for the shutdown than are blaming President Clinton.

If you think leadership is all about taking polls—as the White House does—then I suppose you can take heart in these results.

But I happen to believe that leadership is more than just trying to make everybody happy. It is about doing what is right for America and what is right for our children and grandchildren.

From the moment the votes giving Republicans their first congressional majority were tallied last November, we knew we had a choice.

We could either look to the next election, basically leave the status quo intact, and avoid taking any action that might be controversial or unpopular.

Or we could roll up our sleeves and do the hard work of giving the American people the fundamental changes we have needed for so long.

That is the road on which we embarked. We knew the road would be bumpy. We knew there would be those who would urge us to detour to the path of least resistance.

But we also know that if we stay the course, then America will be a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

America will be better because our children and grandchildren will be freed from the crushing burden of our national debt.

America will be better because the lower interest rates that will result

from a balanced budget will allow more of us to own a home, buy a car, and take out a college loan.

America will be better because we will have saved Medicare from bankruptcy.

America will be better because we will have returned power to where it belongs—to our States, our cities, our neighborhoods, and our people.

Madam President, I cannot say it any better than did Mr. Joe Ham of Lawrenceville, GA, who sent me the following fax yesterday:

SENATOR DOLE: I know the media and the White House will be pouring on the propaganda, but for our kids' sake and the sake of America, stand your ground.

As Mark Twain said, "In the beginning of a change, the patriot is a scarce man, brave and hated and scorned. When his cause succeeds, however, the timid join him, for then it costs nothing to be a patriot."

Let me just say to Mr. Ham that when I look at House and Senate Republicans I see patriots, patriots who are willing to pay the price for leadership, and who are willing to pay the price of making the tough choices today that will ensure a better tomorrow.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. INHOFE. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REPUBLICANS SHOULD NOT CAVE IN

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, I appreciate very much the statement just made by the majority leader. What he has been hearing is the same thing that I have been hearing.

I think a lot of us, Madam President, have been distressed by reading some of the polls that might imply that there is a deadlock, and somehow the Republicans have something to do with it, when, in fact, we have come up with a solution, the solution that was a part of the mandate of the election of 1994.

They told us in loud and clear terms as Republicans took control of both the House and the Senate, that we are tired of business as usual, that we do want less Government involved in our lives. We want to change that trend that has existed since the 1960's.

I am very proud to announce here today that in our partly closed offices around the State of Oklahoma and here in Washington, that we have been watching very closely as the calls come in. The calls have come in, and the very first 6 hours after supposedly the Government shut down, 98 people called in and said that they thought the President was right; but 611 people called in—almost an 8-1 ratio—and those 611 people said "Don't give in."

We made ourselves clear in November of 1994: If the Republicans cannot do it,

you know the Democrats will not do it. Do not cave in at this time. We want a balanced budget.

The Republicans have offered a balanced budget. Every Democrat I know of has stood on this floor and said we all want balanced budgets, but when it gets right down to it, they really do not want balanced budgets. They want business as usual.

We have offered a balanced budget. We have sent all this to the President. It is in the President's court now.

It is hard for me to understand what is going to happen. I encourage all of my Republican colleagues to listen to the loud and clear message that we are getting from Oklahoma, a very wise State. That is, stay the course. The same as Mr. Ham said, who wrote to our majority leader, BOB DOLE, that he quoted a few minutes ago.

I have no intentions of caving in. This is the last opportunity we will have to actually achieve a balanced budget in America. We are going to do it.

I yield the floor.

CONGRESS DID NOT DO THEIR WORK

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I think there are people watching this debate who should put one thing in perspective: The Government is not being shut down because there is somehow an inability of the White House and the congressional leadership to agree on a 7-year budget plan. The fact of the matter is, it is being shut down because we have not passed 13 appropriations bills.

Now, it is the responsibility—when we talk about whose responsibility is involved, whether the President or the Congress—of the congressional leadership to pass 13 appropriations bills by the end of the fiscal year.

These begin in the other body. I understand the Speaker of the House of Representatives has spoken with a great deal of accuracy of his control over the House. The Speaker of the House of Representatives has spoken about his ability to move what he wants to move through the House of Representatives.

But the fact of the matter is there are only 3 of the 13 appropriations bills that have been signed into law.

We are shortly going to vote on a conference report as we already have on one of the remaining 10 appropriations bills.

If the congressional leadership had passed and sent the President the 13 appropriations bills as they are supposed to do, had they done that by the end of the fiscal year as they are supposed to do, and had the leadership done as they claimed they can with their new majority, to move their agenda through, had they just done the people's business, the business of all Americans—Republicans, Democrats, and independents—had they passed the 13 appropriations bills, we would have