

a 5-year balanced budget plan. He never followed through. Later he said we could balance the budget in 10 years, and then 9 years and then 7 years. Of the two budgets he did introduce to Congress this year, neither of them brings the deficit down at all. In fact in 2005 under President Clinton's budget, the deficit will be over \$200 billion.

Mr. Speaker, this whole budget show-down really goes to the issue of credibility. Does anybody really doubt what would happen if the other side were still in charge? Is there any doubt they would raise our taxes, make government bigger, deficits worse and that they will do it all in the name of compassion? I do not think so.

Mr. Speaker, I challenge the President to break with the past and keep at least one of the promises he made as a candidate. Come to the table, Mr. President. Help us balance this budget.

NOT THIS TURKEY ON THANKSGIVING

(Mrs. SCHROEDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, Speaker GINGRICH is bringing his budget to serve to America's families at their Thanksgiving table. The Gingrich budget stands family values as we know them on their head. It means if this passes that the wealthiest families at your Thanksgiving table will get more, the working families at your Thanksgiving table will pay more. The poor will have great trouble. They will never get to the table. The elderly will have great trouble with health care. The young will not be able to get their lunches as easily and the students will not be able to get their loans as easily.

This is not about how long it takes to balance the budget. This is who you stick your fork in as you balance the budget. The only thing standing between Speaker GINGRICH's values and America's values is the President. The President must stand firm and say these are not America's traditional values and spare the American family being served this turkey on Thanksgiving.

THE PRESIDENT SHOULD SIGN THIS BILL

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

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, here is candidate Bill Clinton live on the "Larry King Show" in 1992 and I quote: "I would present a 5-year plan to balance the budget."

Here is what the President said on August 1 of this year and I quote: "I mean, I think that it's wrong to say you're going to do something and not do it."

Mr. Speaker, this week we passed with bipartisan support a plan that

would reopen Government. We had only one stipulation: He had to agree to balance the budget using legitimate numbers in less than 7 years. No specifics, a simple question. Mr. President, do you want to balance the budget?

We want to work with him on this plan to achieve that goal. Unfortunately, the President has said, "No, I don't want to balance the budget."

Mr. President, if you meant what you said, then sign this bill. And, Mr. Morris, if you are really running the country, get the President to sign this bill.

DAY LATE AND A DOLLAR SHORT

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, a day late and a dollar short. I wish it were only that big a problem. In fact, our Republican colleagues are about 6 weeks late in getting a budget to President Clinton. We will finally take it up for consideration to go to the President today. They are more than a dollar short. In fact, this week NEWT GINGRICH will be paying out millions of dollars eventually, millions of dollars to Federal workers who have now been off work for 4 days and NEWT GINGRICH will pay them for not working. That is the policy of fiscal responsibility that our Republican colleagues are imposing on America. They say they will have a balanced budget today but for seniors who will pay more and get less for Medicare, there is not much balance in it. For working families who will pay more taxes under this budget and get less, there is not much in it. For students who will pay more and get less education, there is not much in it. And for those who care about the environment and who will just get less in this budget, there is not much in it.

CALL FOR BIPARTISANSHIP IN BUDGET BATTLE

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

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, the national debt is over \$4.9 trillion. Yesterday Bill Clinton distanced himself from balancing the budget. Is that not sad? We have an almost \$5 trillion debt and the President of the United States does not want to address the problem.

Last night Congress acted in good faith to reopen the parts of Government that are shut down. Many Democrats joined with Republicans to say that we want to end the budget crisis and balance the budget. The President says he will veto our efforts.

Bill Clinton would rather make excuses and play word games with the American people. All the while our national debt piles up and our families suffer the burden of our debt.

Mr. Speaker, the President should end the games and help us balance the budget.

A TWO-HEADED TURKEY

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Mr. Speaker, the Republican Party are handing the American people a two-headed turkey for Thanksgiving. On the eve of this Thanksgiving, 3,484,947 people are being hurt by this Government shutdown.

I have in my hand a letter to Speaker NEWT GINGRICH which says I join in with my colleagues to keep this Congress working all through the weekend. I am sorry I have not heard from him and he has not heard us. I am here to work.

It seems that intuition is the only basis upon which we have a budget that will hurt Texans all over the map. Forty-one schools in Texas will be closed out of the direct loan program, approximately 57,000 students will lose access to direct loans in Texas. Thirty-three percent of our children under 18 will get absolutely nothing out of the \$245 billion tax cut for the wealthy across this Nation, and \$32 billion will be cut out of the earned income tax for 13 million families earning under \$30,000. They will get absolutely nothing.

I want a real commonsense budget. I voted for a balanced budget, but this Republican budget as presently proposed is nothing but a two-headed turkey for Americans. Who do you think deserves the honor? Who is a turkey here?

COMMITTING OUR TROOPS IN BOSNIA

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

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, we all want peace in Bosnia, but there is rumor that there is an agreement based on United States troops in Bosnia that has been arrived at. It is beyond belief that the President would agree to an agreement in defiance of a vote of almost three-quarters of the House specifically saying do not base any agreement on United States troops in Bosnia.

We have all learned through sad experience that it is easy to rush in troops, it is extremely difficult to solve the problems when they are there, and it is even more difficult to get out in a timely and an honorable way.

It is the Presidential constitutional responsibility to deploy troops. It is the duty of Congress to either approve or deny funding the troops once they are there. Congress must not fund United States troops in Bosnia until we know exactly what United States interests are threatened and how the troops will protect those interest.

READ YOUR LIPS

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address

the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Members of Congress, I ask my Republican colleagues to read your lips. Balance the budget before you cut \$245 billion in taxes, before you cut \$270 billion in Medicare, before you cut educational funding.

Let us work bipartisanly on a balanced budget, but not by cutting Medicare and Medicaid, not by cutting and raising premium costs for seniors and limiting seniors' ability to choose their own physician. We can work bipartisanly on a balanced budget but not by cutting Medicare and education.

Read your own lips. Balance the budget without cutting \$245 billion in taxes.

WHAT A BALANCED BUDGET WILL MEAN

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

Mr. BAKER of California. Mr. Speaker, Republicans are moving forward with the first balanced budget in a generation. Our Balanced Budget Act will provide the American family with budget bonuses for their own check-book.

A balanced budget means that interest rates will drop, allowing families to save thousands on home mortgages, car loans, and student loans. A balanced budget means an additional \$32.1 billion in real disposable income over the next 7 years. A balanced budget means an additional \$88.2 billion in capital investment over the next 7 years. And a balanced budget means a stronger economy and more job opportunities for all.

With all the benefits a balanced budget will bring to the American people, I do not understand why the Clinton Democrats support maintaining the status quo. Balance the budget now. Our children's generation depends on it.

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ARE REPUBLICANS SERIOUS ABOUT BALANCING THE BUDGET?

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

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the Republicans are serious when they talk about balancing a budget. What we are really talking about today and will be talking about later today, rather, is that \$32 billion for low-income working families will be wiped completely out on their taxes, and also student loans will be just cut drastically because of what the Republicans will bring to this House floor today.

The \$270 billion out of the Medicare Program, these are drastic cuts that are going to be made today by the Re-

publicans just to give the wealthy and the rich of this country a \$245 billion tax cut.

We think that is wrong. We ought to seriously be about the business of the American people today and not try to fool the American people with this balanced budget talk.

THOSE STUBBORN FACTS

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

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, facts are stubborn things.

Bill Clinton was elected with a minority of voters, 43 percent, fewer votes than Michael Dukakis got when he lost to George Bush in a rout.

Bill Clinton had his policies overwhelmingly rejected nationwide 2 years later when both the House and Senate went Republican for the first time in 40 years.

Bill Clinton has been rejected by over 150 elected officials, elected with a minority of 150 of voters, officials, including six Members of Congress who have left his own party since he has taken office.

Bill Clinton has said publicly in a variety of occasions that he would balance the Federal budget in 5, 7, 8, 9, and 10 years.

Bill Clinton, in his first State of the Union Address, pointedly chided House Republicans by saying he would force truth in budgeting by using CBO scoring numbers.

Now he would have us and the people of this country believe and trust him and believe that he represents what the people of America want.

Absolutely amazing.

A SORRY SPECTACLE

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

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, my constituents who are Federal employees are watching more C-SPAN now than ever, and they are being treated to a sorry spectacle, a bunch of opinionated stuffed shirts sitting around bickering while they are getting paid, while peoples' lives are being disrupted, and while Federal employees are losing their paychecks. Yes, I am in that group.

But it is a sorry spectacle. My colleagues on the right like to say we ought to run this place like a business. Let me tell you, Mr. Speaker, no globally competitively business treats its employees this way. We have broken faith with Federal employees. We have jeopardized their families and undermined their confidence in their employer. That is us.

We have also lost a lot. We have lost their loyalty and willingness to go the extra yard.

We ought to put Federal workers back to work. We ought to pay essen-

tial employees on time. We ought to pay all employees retroactively.

On this budget, I will make a deal with my Republican colleagues. I signed on the other night to a 7-year balanced budget. You get rid of the tax break for the rich, and we can work this thing out. But as long as Republicans want to pay off their rich friends, we cannot have a balanced budget.

ALL WE ASK

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, 1,262 days ago, President Bill Clinton promised a 5-year plan to balance the budget. Two unbalanced budgets later, the President still has presented no balanced budget plan.

Today, much of the Federal Government is shut down because the President will not keep his promise. He has closed the Government because he opposes any plan to balance the budget over 7 years.

We do not ask the President to adopt our Balanced Budget Act of 1995. We do not ask the President to accept our proposal to save Medicare from bankruptcy. We do not ask the President to support our plan to make regulations more cost-effective.

We do not ask the President to approve our plan to return some of his huge tax increase to the American families who earned the money in the first place. We do not ask the President to adopt a single provision of our balanced budget plan.

All we ask is that the President kept his word. We ask the President to commit to balance the budget in 7 years using honest numbers. That is all. And that is not too much to ask for the American people.

REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE REPORT ON THE RECONCILIATION BILL

(Mrs. CLAYTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, today we will consider the Republican conference report of the reconciliation bill, not the conference report but the Republican conference report. I say that purposely to say that the Democratic conferees have had very little input in what now will be presented to the House.

Yes, this is a time we should discuss our values and our priorities. I say the Republicans should understand we will reject this.

Why? Not because we are fiscally irresponsible, but because we are compassionate, because we are responsible to all America, not just a few in America. We understand what it means to have senior citizens not to have health care.