

the prescriptions that he fills. Although he is at work filling these prescriptions, he cannot send them out. Why? Because the mail room is closed.

During the last shutdown, he sent them out with his own money, but he does not know whether he can afford it this time. Can you imagine that?

I have some neighbors down the street from me in Montgomery County, MD, and I noticed their cars were parked in their driveway this morning at 7:15 in the morning. Ordinarily they are gone at about 6:45 or certainly by 7. Why were they there? Because one works for Health and Human Services and the other one works for the Department of Commerce. They have 4 children, 2 are in college, and I am sure they are looking for gifts for Hanukkah and Christmas but I am not sure that they are going to be able to feel that they can transcend that anxiety and the angst of not having work.

I just think that we must look at the human factor of this shutdown and those people who are being unfairly victimized and held hostage for it. It should let us know that we have got to lead, very soon, like within the next few moments say that we can come together as we are supposed to.

But I also want you to know that there are others who are affected adversely by this shutdown, too. The local economy, hotels and restaurants, Federal contracts, certainly I can use as an example the National Institutes of Health grants, research that has been slowed down.

There is an article in the paper today that come out, too. It said that the National Institutes of Health, this is the time of year officials normally would be deciding how to hand out more than \$2 billion in research grants. "They have gone through peer review, have been found to be excellent science and we're about ready to fund them."

This is research. This is important research. However, we cannot do it. We cannot do it because we do not know what is going to happen with the budget, and we have been told that we must shut down that facet of government.

So there are thousands of Federal workers in Maryland who are on furlough—this comes from the newspaper story—for the second time in 2 months, feeling the most immediate impact of the inability of President Clinton and Congress to agree on a budget.

But there is also a trickle-down effect, and I would like to point that out, albeit briefly, the trickle-down effect to the local economy. I have a letter from a suburban Maryland high technology council talking about those people who are on Federal contracts, who will not be reimbursed.

I say, Mr. Speaker, to this distinguished body, let our people go back to work. Let us balance this budget.

#### THE BUDGET AND CHRISTMAS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DICKEY). Under a previous order of the

House, the gentlewoman from North Carolina [Mrs. CLAYTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, today we witnessed the Republicans playing raw politics by putting up senseless resolutions that are designed to make noise and avoid making policy.

The result is that we are giving the American people a Gingrich Christmas, a Gingrich Christmas of 250,000 Federal employees or more who have a joyless gift of being furloughed and called non-essential in their effort to serve America with their vital services.

A Gingrich Christmas for children means virtually eliminating nutrition programs through block grants and creating 50 different standards, cutting current levels of SSI benefits for children with disability by 25 percent, eliminating the immunization program, eliminating the guarantee of child care and providing inadequate funding, making it difficult if not impossible for their parents to go to work.

A Gingrich Christmas for senior citizens means cutting Medicare by \$270 billion, cutting Medicaid by \$163 billion, eliminating the guaranteed coverage for health care, eliminating home heating assistance for the poor, radically restructuring nursing home care.

A Gingrich Christmas for the wealthy, however, means a tax cut of \$245 billion and welfare for corporate America.

The President would like to give the American people a fair opportunity to be productive and to contribute to this great Nation through their work. The President would like to put those furloughed Federal employees back to work who should not be held hostage just before Christmastime.

The President Clinton Christmas for children would mean maintaining nutritional programs with one Federal standard across America, making sure that there is a hearty breakfast and a healthy lunch for needy children, keeping SSI benefits for children with disabilities, making sure that every needy child gets immunized against polio, tuberculosis and every other disease, retaining the guarantee for child care and providing adequate funds so that their parents who need to go back to work can go back to work and become independent from dependency on this Government.

A President Christmas for senior citizens would mean providing Medicare coverage for American poor elderly, 90 percent of whom have such coverage now in America, protecting the guarantee of Medicaid for the poor, the disabled and children, retaining the 30-year guarantee of health care coverage, maintaining home heating assistance, and keeping nursing home care and providing the same standard of care in those homes.

The President's Christmas to the wealthy Americans would mean, however, a fair tax rather than a free tax

ride, for all Americans. A balanced budget in 7 years? Yes, making sure we have a strong, stable and working economy.

Mr. Speaker, Christmas is a time that should bring out the best in America, not the worst in America. The best in America means a real chance for children, real genuine security for our senior citizens.

Christmas is less than a week away, 6 days. The question today is, what will Congress do to ensure that America experiences a joyful Christmas? There will be no joy nor happiness nor excitement if Federal workers are out of work, if children have no reason to smile, and if seniors face undue pain in their most vulnerable years.

Christmas has become important in America today. Christmas is really a holy day, a righteous day where we should celebrate the expectation of a coming of Christ. It is a day where we care about our fellow Americans or our fellow human beings.

Congress must not transform this cheer and this religiously significant day into a day of gloom. We must get on and do the work that we should do to make Christmas a happy day for all Americans.

#### THE LACK OF POWER OF THE PRESIDENT TO COMMIT TROOPS ABROAD WITHOUT CONGRESSIONAL AUTHORIZATION

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

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, we have a President with a lack of will on the budget but an excess of will on having troops in Bosnia.

The excess of will includes the use of an excess of power that in reality does not exist. If George Washington, our greatest President, and John Marshall, our greatest Chief Justice, were here today, they would not believe what the President has done.

Why do I say that? Very simply. Washington presided over the Constitutional Convention. He knew what the Framers meant when they gave the President the power to be Commander in Chief gave the President the power to be Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy. So did Marshall and his court, a court he dominated for over three decades. They made the basic interpretations of what the Constitution was meant to be.

In "The Federalist" No. 74 Alexander Hamilton said, very simply, "The President of the United States is to be 'Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States and of the militia of the several States when called into the actual service of the United States.'

But when the first President, Washington, confronted a situation such as the current President confronted, he deferred to Congress, as did John Adams, as did Thomas Jefferson, as did most other Presidents.