

time for us to act like adults. Adults can disagree on issues and yet they can still have discussions.

I hope my Republican colleagues join what everyone in this country out there in America wants us to do, which is to pass a CR and get the Government moving again.

REOPENING THE GOVERNMENT

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

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I, too, want to get this Government back working. You know, we have a lot of debate and a lot of rhetoric up here about a balanced budget. Yes, that, indeed, is one of my most important goals as a Member of the 104th Congress, to get a balanced budget, but I do not take any pride in doing it when we are talking about workers who work for this Government, who come to work to serve our veterans, who come to work to serve every average American in this country, and some Members of Congress act as if their jobs do not matter, as if they should not be paid, and we will keep this thing shut down until we get the President to blink.

Ladies and gentlemen, we know the President has had a chance to produce a budget for us that shows deficits from 1996 of \$196 to \$209 billion in the year 2005. That is Congressional Budget Office numbers that suggest we will never get to under the prior 10-year budget plan for deficit reduction during the Clinton presidency or anyone who follows.

The bottom line is: Why are we holding employees hostage of Government? There are people that have mortgage payments to pay, there are people that have to feed their families. So I think it is appropriate that, as we are standing on this floor tonight, Members of the Republican Conference are coming up with a strategy hopefully to reopen and put those people back to work.

I have a veterans' hospital in my location, and that veterans' hospital has people that have served this Nation in times of peace and in times of war that are desperately needing medical attention. Those very fine people that work at that facility deserve pay.

But the overriding, most important issue that remains with this Member of Congress is that the President does genuinely come forward with a proposal to balance the budget. We can disagree on spending. I am for getting rid of the B-2 bomber. I am for doing some things differently in this Congress and not spending money on pork and waste. I will put more money to Medicare to help our senior citizens.

But we have got to develop a strategy that balances the budget, and we cannot talk in fiction and we have got to deal with reality.

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Let me just read a couple of letters I have got from people around the country.

James Lister, from Simpsonville, SC, writes:

DEAR MR. FOLEY, It is amazing what a few courageous men and women with a dedicated leader can accomplish. There are literally millions and millions of Americans who are standing with you and what you are doing to cut the size of government and bring the spending down.

The media is pouring on its worst. We know it is because you are effective.

For our sake, don't stop talking, don't cave in and don't let up the pressure on for a real balanced budget.

Our warmest wishes for you and your family for a joyous Christmas and a prosperous New Year!

Margaret Hurt, from California, writes:

The freshman class are the best thing that has come to D.C. in a long time.

With you guys and Newt and Rush Limbaugh I feel that the good old U.S.A. is getting a real break.

Hang in there. With your enthusiasm and diligence coupled with an openness to the truth, we are going to be all right!

I watched you tonight in C-SPAN, Dec. 19, and just love all of you. Keep in touch with the "people"! We love it!

Tell Newt we love him, and pass the card around, please.

Donald Boelter; from Burbank, CA, writes:

DEAR CONGRESSMAN FOLEY: It was very encouraging to watch on C-SPAN the group of Freshmen express their views on how best to bring government back to the people.

To once again give the people the right to decide how their money is spent, how their lives will be regulated and the return of responsibility into their lives.

As a young 71 year old, I saw in the gathered faces the same eagerness and resolve to face the problems that confront America today as in the resolve of American troops during the days of Bastogne.

Your's is no less a battle. Ever greater than that of 51 years ago and consequences to our beloved Nation immense.

On this Christmas eve I give thanks for all of the Freshman class and their efforts to bring back common sense to our Government.

God Bless You and Yours.

Rick Schendel, from Michigan writes:

MR. MARK FOLEY, I am a voter from Macomb county in southeast Michigan and I writing to thank you for keeping up the fight for fiscal responsibility. Unfortunately my Representative is Minority Whip and the chances of him being in favor of a balanced budget are nil. This letter might not mean much but I thought you should know that there are a lot of people out here that agree with your ideas. No one wants to hurt the elderly or throw people out on the streets, but a seven year plan to balance the budget should be relatively easy and painless to achieve. We are counting on you and your colleagues to take charge of this fight. Get us a good, fair plan with teeth in it so three or four years from now we aren't faced with another budget crisis. Again, I would like to thank you for your efforts on behalf of our generation and future generations. Keep up the good work.

Those are letters from around the country. Let me read to you one thing,

"Ten Cannots," originally attributed to Lincoln but which were done by Rev. William Boetcker, a Presbyterian minister.

You cannot bring about prosperity by discouraging thrift.

You cannot help small men by tearing down big men.

You cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong.

You cannot lift the wage earner by pulling down the wage payer.

You cannot help the poor man by destroying the rich.

You cannot keep out of trouble by spending more than your income.

You cannot further the brotherhood of man by inciting class hatred.

You cannot establish security on borrowed money.

You cannot build character and courage by taking away men's initiative and independence.

You cannot help men permanently by doing for them what they could and should do for themselves.

EXTREMISTS ARE DRIVING THE AGENDA IN THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York [Mr. ENGEL] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I have a chart over here dated December 29, 1995, "Pay to the Order of Federal Employee." A Federal employee in my district who works at the Bronx Veterans Administration Medical Center in my district received a paycheck for \$1.51 for her 40 hours of work. \$1.51. All the deductions were taken out, but her full salary was not there because of the Government shutdown.

Let me tell you what \$1.51 can buy you in New York City, in Bronx, New York, where I live. It can buy you a subway token. That costs \$1.50. That can get you to work, and then you have a whole penny left over to spend as you see fit. This is the result of the House Republican Government shutdown. It is signed "U.S. House of Representatives Extremists," because that is what is happening. Extremists are driving the agenda. And it is for "Don't spend it all in one place."

What is happening in our country today, Mr. Speaker, is a disgrace and a sham. Make no mistake about it. The Republicans have shut the Government down. The House Republicans have shut the Government down. The House Republican leadership has shut the Government down by not permitting a vote on this floor to open the Government.

We tried yesterday. We could not get it on the floor, and we were ruled out of order. So if we are so concerned about the veterans and we are so concerned about the seniors and we are so concerned about the American public that is not getting its benefits, we have the ability to open the Government by passing a clean continuing resolution. That is what are have to do. They did it in the other House. Both Republicans and Democrats did it in the