

before that, but since I have been here, the Government of the United States has shut down eight separate times and the budget of the United States has not been completed on 53 occasions.

□ 1100

This alarmed me when I first came to the Congress, so I began to introduce legislation some 8 years ago that would prevent a Government shutdown; that would say that if we have not, as a Congress, completed the business of the day and formulated a budget by September 30, the end of the fiscal year, if we have failed to do that, then the next day there should be an automatic replay, an instant replay, of last year's budget just to keep the Government going that would prevent a shutdown while allowing the Congress to proceed to negotiate to complete the budget that it has deemed necessary to accomplish.

I have never been able to get it passed by the Congress because the President of the United States, whether it is Republican or Democrat, and the Congress, Republican- or Democrat-controlled, have failed to see the efficacy of the bill that I have introduced.

It seemed to me a simple proposition. We have a budget. If we come to the end of the budget process and no new budget has arrived, there are only three alternatives.

One is that the Government must shut down because of the lack of a budget. That is the constitutional result of having no budget.

No. 2 is to pass temporary funding measures, called continuing resolutions, for a specified time, a month, 6 months, 8 months, whatever we want, until the Congress and the President can agree on a budget.

Or third, we can adopt my proposition, which would simply say that if we do not have a budget, then the law should require an instant replay of last year's budget, thus ensuring that the Government of the United States would never shut down.

After 8 long years I finally was able to muster enough support from well-wishing Members, colleagues on both sides of the aisle, to bring it to a vote as part of the supplemental appropriations legislation just last week. I was really shocked, then, with the result. We won, and I felt elated about that. But the rhetoric that accompanied the opposition to my bill was astounding. All but a handful of enlightened Democrats voted against the bill and spoke against it.

What the Democrat rank and file, through their leadership, were saying is, you Republicans caused the shutdown last time. Therefore, we are not supporting your proposition to prevent shutdowns. Does that make sense? They say, you shut down the Government. Now the Gekas bill, which would prevent Government shutdowns, is unacceptable.

Figure out the logic to that, because I cannot. All that would do would be to

continue Government, prevent Government shutdown, and the budget process could take on its own evolution in its own good time between the President and the Congress of the United States.

Many of them said that the reason they are voting no on this proposition to shut down the Government was because President Clinton, as he has, has promised to veto it. If the President of the United States does not want to see the Government shut down, why would he veto a proposition that would prevent Government shutdowns? Explain the logic of that to me, I ask the Speaker and the Members.

What in the world does that mean? We want to prevent a Government shutdown. Well, let us prepare legislation that would prevent Government shutdowns. Well, then let us veto the legislation that would prevent Government shutdowns.

The point is that it logically can be assumed that the people who vote against prevention of a shutdown favor the risk of a shutdown.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. PRYCE of Ohio). Pursuant to clause 12 of rule 1, the House stands in recess until 12 noon.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 3 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until 12 noon.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SUNUNU) at 12 noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

We offer these words of prayer, gracious God, and we do so with humility and with grateful hearts. We place before You our own special petitions, asking that You would bless us when we need encouraging and give us vision for a new day. It is right to place these supplications before You, knowing that You have created each person in Your image and have given the gift of life and the opportunity for service to all. So we pray that You would breathe into our very souls the breath of forgiveness and the faith and hope and love with which to meet the responsibilities of the day. In Your name we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule 1, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule 1, I demand a vote

on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Chair's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 311, nays 44, not voting 78, as follows:

[Roll No. 139]

YEAS—311

Aderholt	DeGette	Johnson (CT)
Allen	DeLahunt	Johnson (WI)
Andrews	DeLauro	Johnson, Sam
Archer	Dellums	Kanjorski
Armey	Deutsch	Kaptur
Bachus	Diaz-Balart	Kasich
Baesler	Dickey	Kelly
Baker	Dicks	Kildee
Baldacci	Dingell	Kilpatrick
Ballenger	Dixon	Kim
Barcia	Doggett	Kind (WI)
Barr	Doolley	King (NY)
Barrett (NE)	Doolittle	Kingston
Barrett (WI)	Dreier	Kleccka
Bartlett	Duncan	Klink
Barton	Dunn	Klug
Bass	Edwards	Knollenberg
Bateman	Ehlers	Kolbe
Becerra	Emerson	LaHood
Bentsen	Engel	Latham
Bereuter	Eshoo	LaTourette
Berman	Etheridge	Leach
Bishop	Evans	Levin
Blagojevich	Everett	Lewis (CA)
Bliley	Ewing	Lewis (KY)
Blumenauer	Farr	Linder
Boehlert	Fawell	Lofgren
Boehner	Flake	Lowey
Bonilla	Foley	Lucas
Boswell	Ford	Luther
Boucher	Fox	Maloney (CT)
Boyd	Frank (MA)	Manzullo
Brady	Franks (NJ)	Mascara
Brown (OH)	Frelinghuysen	Matsui
Bryant	Furse	McCarthy (MO)
Bunning	Gallegly	McCarthy (NY)
Burton	Ganske	McCollum
Buyer	Gejdenson	McCrary
Callahan	Gekas	McDade
Camp	Gibbons	McGovern
Campbell	Gilchrest	McHale
Canady	Gillmor	McHugh
Cannon	Gilman	McIntosh
Capps	Gonzalez	McIntyre
Cardin	Goode	McKeon
Castle	Goodlatte	McKinney
Chabot	Gordon	Meehan
Chenoweth	Goss	Meek
Christensen	Granger	Metcalfe
Clayton	Hall (OH)	Mica
Clement	Hall (TX)	Millender-
Coble	Hamilton	McDonald
Coburn	Hansen	Miller (FL)
Collins	Harman	Minge
Combest	Hastings (WA)	Mink
Condit	Hayworth	Moakley
Cook	Herger	Molinari
Cooksey	Hinojosa	Mollohan
Costello	Hobson	Moran (KS)
Cox	Hoekstra	Moran (VA)
Cramer	Hoolley	Morella
Crane	Horn	Murtha
Crapo	Houghton	Myrick
Cubin	Hoyer	Nadler
Cummings	Hutchinson	Neal
Cunningham	Hyde	Ney
Danner	Inglis	Northup
Davis (FL)	Jackson (IL)	Norwood
Davis (VA)	Jenkins	Nussle
Deal	John	Obey