

Public vents spleen at U.S. Congress

When government institutions were shut down on Columbus Day weekend, after President Bush rejected on Oct. 6 a spending bill that would have kept the federal government running for a week, the general public had the chance to make their views heard in the House and Senate chambers. The veto meant that all the major museums in Washington were shut down on one of the busiest tourist weekends of the year.

Visitors went to one of the few places open, the U.S. Capitol, where the Congress was frenetically working into the wee hours on a compromise. The U.S. Capitol Guide Service estimated that 12,000 people would take their tours.

The normally quiet Gallery of the House of Representatives had the atmosphere of the Super Bowl. People erupted into supportive hoots and applause as representatives attacked the budget and the administration for allowing the museums to be closed. Emotions were so high that Capitol Police could not restore order in the galleries, and one policeman himself was heard blasting the administration in comments to one of the visitors. The House Speaker was forced at times to pound his gavel in order to bring order into the chamber. Rep. Charles Wilson (D-Tex.) commented ironically on the packed galleries, "They're all here because the other zoo is closed."

On Sunday, the House convened five times, as the day turned into night. House Minority Whip Rep. Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.), who had been the most outspoken Re-

publican opponent to the budget summit package, accused the Democrats of blocking progress. House Speaker Tom Foley (D-Wash.) snapped back: "Of all the people in this House, of all the people in this country, who have little claim to cooperation with his President, it is the gentleman from Georgia."

Rep. James Traficant (D-Ohio) was applauded when he stated from the floor, "I am not for raising taxes and I am not going to vote for a budget that raises taxes." Rep. Lawrence Smith (D-Fla.) said that President Bush was "acting like a ruler most of the immigrants fled away from."

Some of the Democratic congressmen were totally incensed over the administration's attempt to shift the sole blame for the budget deadlock on to the Congress. Rep. Ed Jones (D-Ga.) accused the administration of engaging "in as remarkable a piece of revisionist history as we will ever hear, blaming the Congress for the budget impasse, blaming Congress for putting thousands of Americans out of work, as if the White House could walk away from the scene of the crime, whistling in the dark. The American people want solutions," said Jones, "and they want them now."

Rep. Lawrence Smith summed up the general feeling when he commented that "Mr. and Mrs. America out there, even the Republicans in this room, finally said, 'Enough is enough. You have gone too far.'" Smith said that they would not support the President when he wants "to close the deficit on the backs of the elderly and screw the middle class once again, and give your rich friends another break," referring to President Bush's attempt to push a capital gains tax cut. Neither Smith nor any other Capitol Hill legislators have come up with any workable solutions to the economic crisis.—William Jones

one another in perfecting the sovereignty of other states, and in effecting the ability of other states to solve their internal problems through aid of scientific and technological progress? If we so agree, then we have made the right philosophical choice *in practice*. What we shall have to do immediately is to establish a relationship between a Berlin-centered agreement, on behalf of Western continental Europe as a whole, the capitals of the Eastern European states, and Moscow, to agree that we are going to order the relations among these elements of Eurasia in the form consistent with the principle I have just indicated, and that the partners to these kinds of agreements will similarly order their attitude toward, and relations with, the nations of the southern part of this planet.

If we do this, then we have done the right thing and I can forecast the following: The result would be that what some

view as the worst calamity—the collapse of the Anglo-American monetary and financial power—would turn out to be the greatest blessing which humanity has known in more than 100 years. By the thorough and utter discrediting and destruction of the policy-influencing institutions associated with an evil form of monetary and financial power—that is, the Adam Smith variety—we would have cleared the decks for the United States and other nations to reject the evil pagan ideas of Adam Smith and Marx, which have done so much damage to humanity as a whole, and rebuild themselves on the basis of Christian principles.

If that occurs, if that is the result of the great financial crash which is now overdue for the United States and London, then we must welcome those financial catastrophes as a great blessing. Sometimes it is necessary to clear away the rubbish in order to begin building a garden.