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MENT SHUTDOWN

GOP: 'A Day of Deep Anxiety'

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Following are excerpts from responses by Republican Reps. Susan Molinari (N.Y.), Bob Franks (N.J.), J.C. Watts (Okla.) and John A. Boehner (Ohio) to President Clinton's statement:

MOLINARI: We just want to make clear that the president got a few things wrong. Number one, this is not our government shutdown. This is his government shutdown. . . . [We] have spent over the last 10 to 11 months working on a proposal, a serious proposal to balance the nation's budget within seven years using real numbers. . . .

The president can get a substantial portion of these government workers back to work by end of business today by signing the appropriations bills that have time and time again been put on his desk, and he has chosen to veto. . . .

[President Clinton should] show his good faith and his real commitment by putting forth his own [budget], reflecting his own priorities, of a seven-year balanced budget using real numbers. . . . I think you would find the majority of members in the House and the Senate would agree to a temporary CR [continuing resolution, or short-term funding measure] to get this government back to work.

FRANKS: Today, January the 3rd, should have been a day of great joy for the American people. Instead, it's a day of deep anxiety by federal employees and tremendous frustration by the American people. Today, January 3rd, was to have been the day that the negotiations between the president and the Congress should have yielded the first balanced budget in some 27 years. . . . [President Clinton] has, in a sense, broken his word of working with the Republi-

cans in the Congress to help fashion the first balanced budget in 27 years.

WATTS: A child born today into America, into this world today, they're responsible for \$187,000 of the interest on the national debt alone. Is that fair to leave them with that kind of responsibility, that burden? . . . It is a shame that [without a balanced budget] we would burden our children and the future of this country with that type of responsibility.

BOEHNER: I know that we're inconveniencing a lot of federal workers, and we have sympathy for their problem, and those Americans who are having problems not getting the services from government they want. But there are 260 million other Americans around our great country that are facing another crisis: a crisis of paying higher costs for their mortgages, higher costs for their car loans and student loans and . . . a future for our children and grandchildren that's not anywhere near as bright as what we all grew up with. . . .

This crisis today is . . . about what the role of the federal government in Washington ought to be in our society.

It's a fight that we have to have. It's a fight that politicians in this town for 30 years have walked away from when it got to be tough. This is tough. This is difficult on the members; it's difficult on the American people; and certainly difficult on government workers.

But the fact is that we need to have this conversation with the American people and we need to make some decisions. We're here trying to keep our commitment to them that we would balance the budget in a responsible, reasonable way.