

Emergency call goes out to stop Newt

On the heels of the Nov. 15 conference on “Why American Voters Are Rejecting Gingrich,” co-sponsored by *EIR* and the Schiller Institute, the latter has geared up a campaign to gather support for an emergency call for action against House Speaker Newt Gingrich’s anti-government terror campaign in the U.S. Congress. The Institute is soliciting endorsements, especially from current and former lawmakers and elected officials, for a statement to be published in a major U.S. daily, prior to the Dec. 15 deadline for a new agreement on continuing U.S. government operations.

The call reads:

“The shutdown of the federal government, caused by House Speaker Newt Gingrich and his allies, that began on Nov. 14, is part of an overall back-door effort by these Conservative Revolutionaries to impose their priorities on the nation.

“Last spring, Gingrich threatened that he would force President Clinton and the American people to accept their budget, and their Contract on America, by tagging items of the Republican agenda, for which he had no veto-proof majority, onto legislation needed to raise the debt ceiling. As far back as April, Gingrich boasted about bringing about a crisis in the fall, by shutting down the government, and pushing America into default, unless their extremist proposals were accepted.

“As Nov. 13, the day that funding for the continuing operations of the federal government was to run out, drew closer, the Gingrichites had made little progress in passing their draconian, Contract on America budget proposals, necessitating a ‘continuing resolution.’

“By tagging such items as an increase in the premiums paid on Medicare, as well as cuts in education, and funding for the environment, onto that continuing resolution, they thought they could blackmail the President into signing into law measures that were clearly veto-bound if passed as ordinary budget bills.

“The President refused to be blackmailed. He vetoed the resolution, defending the U.S. Constitution, which gives the President the power to veto measures not in the public interest, stating: ‘The Congress passes bills. The President signs or vetoes them. Then, the Congress can either override the veto, which requires the support of two-thirds of the Congress, or they can work with the President to find a bill that he can sign. That is the wisdom of the Founding Fathers.’

“That same Constitution, which Gingrich and all members of Congress swore to uphold, also affirms in its Preamble, a promise to ‘promote the general welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity.’

“The actions of Gingrich and his allies are blatant attempts to destroy that Constitution, first by pushing their Contract on America, which is an attack on the general welfare they promised to protect and promote, and then by trying to break the Constitutional authority of the institution of the Presidency by means of blackmail.

“We, the undersigned, welcome the action by President Clinton, to honor his oath of office. We call on our fellow citizens, and those elected officials and organizations that represent them, to join us in an effort to defeat this assault on the general welfare of our people and our nation by Gingrich and his Conservative Revolution allies. Further, we dedicate ourselves to a major voter registration drive between now and the elections, to assure that we send representatives to Washington, D.C. who will fulfill the promise of the U.S. Constitution to promote the general welfare for all the people.”

The campaign is giving a clear focus to a generalized state of disgust with the dangerous antics of Speaker Newt. As of this writing, over half the elected officials who attended the Washington conference, have signed the statement, ranging from lawmakers in the rural South to mayors in the formerly industrialized Midwest heartland.

Whined and dined

Gingrich himself is clearly feeling the heat. On Nov. 28, Newt was the featured speaker at a Washington testimonial dinner for respectable Republican moneybags Max Fisher, a onetime member of Moe Dalitz’s Detroit “Purple Gang.” Before introducing the Speaker, master of ceremonies Michael Medved tried to deflect the increasing association of Gingrich as a pampered *enfant terrible*, by complaining that Democrats and welfare recipients were turning America into a “crybaby society.” Gingrich himself then whined about the attacks on him: “I expect the labor unions and the left to run dishonest ads [about his budget-cutting mania], because they lie,” and went on to compare one newspaper, which had criticized his program to cut Medicare, to the Soviet Communist Party paper *Pravda*.

After the event, pudgy Newt Gingrich socialized in the hotel lobby with his even pudgier British manager Tony Blankley. *EIR*’s Anton Chaitkin stepped forward and requested an autograph, proffering a copy of the New York *Daily News* that had carried a front-page cartoon of “Cry Baby Newt.” A rattled Newt quickly recoiled, but then pasted a grim smile on his face, and said, “No! I won’t do it. There’s a limit to my sense of amusement.” Then he grabbed Chaitkin’s arm and said, “I’ll sign anything you want, anything at all, but not that.” With that, he walked out of the Washington hotel.