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January 3, 1996

PRESS RELEASE PRESS RELEASE PRESS RELEASE

CAPPS CALLS ON SEASTRAND TO END SHUTDOWN

Walter Capps, Democratic candidate for U.S. Congress, 22nd District of California, issued the following statement today in response to the continuing shutdown of the federal government:

"I share the frustration of citizens in our district that significant portions of the federal government have been shut down due to an impasse in discussions between the President and Congressional leaders. While the talks go on, and the delays are compounded, various segments of our society are truly placed at severe risk. Federal prison workers in Lompoc are not being paid. Medicaid payments are not being made for nursing home care, pregnant women, poor children, and citizens with disabilities. The Meals on Wheels program for senior citizens will soon run out of money, as will Head Start programs. The Center for Disease Control is not able to track the current flu outbreak. Loans for small businesses are not being processed. Passports are not being issued. And these are just a few of the examples of the devastation being caused by a purely cynical political strategy.

"I call upon Representative Seastrand, who continues to vote to keep the government shut down, to place loyalty to the common good above her blind and near-absolute dedication to the obstructionist politics of Newt Gingrich. I implore her to emulate the good sense of the Republican members of the Senate, following Majority Leader Dole, and put intramural politics aside for the sake of our citizens who do not deserve to be punished. Certainly we cannot be proud of elected officials who make citizens pawns in a political chess game. As Senator Dole admitted, "I don't see any sense in what we've been doing. Enough is enough." I call upon our Representative to help end this embarrassment, and reopen the government."

Walter H. Capps

