

Mr. President, if the Federal Reserve reacts as anticipated and pushes interest rates up again, the economy could very well go through the windshield, and right now the President's proposed tax credit for families with incomes up to \$75,000 will cost \$90 billion over 10 years, and if you throw in the tax cuts he has proposed, the bill reaches \$174 billion. The Republican proposal to give tax credits for families earning up to \$200,000 will cost, Mr. President, \$244 billion over 10 years, and altogether the Republican contract, I am told, would cost a whopping \$712 billion over the next 10 years.

So, Mr. President, I think the conventional wisdom about tax cuts is something that has to be challenged. I realize not many people are doing it at this time. What I am noticing is that my constituents can smell a rat when someone suggests that a tax cut is just what the Nation needs right now.

It was not that long ago that I had a chance, as a candidate for U.S. Senate, to oppose a middle-class tax cut in a campaign. My opponents in the general election spent a lot of time and money making sure everybody in the State knew I was against the middle-class tax cut. But the voters realized that what they would get back in lower taxes, a meaningful amount to many people, was simply not worth it because of the devastation it would cause to our Federal budget.

Let me bring it right up to today. In my office, since the President made his speech, phone calls and letters have been running about 10 to 1 in favor of reducing the deficit rather than using spending cuts to cut taxes.

For example, a gentleman from Birnamwood, WI, wrote to me and said:

By all means, cut Government spending but use that savings to eliminate the deficit and pay down the debt that threatens to overwhelm us.

He said that is the only responsible thing to do.

A woman from Cornucopia, WI, the most northern point in Wisconsin, wrote:

I can't figure out why this is happening, this race to cut taxes, when the majority of people, according to all I have seen, heard, and read, don't care.

She says:

We wanted the deficit cut and we wanted our money spent more wisely.

A gentleman from Waupaca, a very Republican town in Wisconsin, wrote this to me. He said recently:

I want you to know that I strongly support your position against the proposed tax cuts. With an income of \$50,000, I guess I would benefit from most of the tax cut plans, but I feel the benefit would be short lived and would be clearly detrimental to the country. I hope that you will continue to oppose these tax-cut plans that are clearly nothing more than attempts to buy votes.

My office, Mr. President, has received hundreds of calls and letters that are similar to these. And I think that view is shared not just in Wisconsin. A USA Today-CNN poll published on December 20, 1994, found that 70 per-

cent of those polled said if Congress is able to cut spending, then reducing the deficit—reducing the deficit—is a higher priority than just giving out tax cuts.

So, Mr. President, to conclude, it is a little frustrating to hear constituents who could certainly use the money urge Congress to make deficit reduction a higher priority than tax cuts and then see this institution rush to see who can give the bigger tax cut. I hope the media and the political commentators will look closely at the campaign rhetoric of those who just recently pledged to fight to reduce the Federal deficit and compare that rhetoric to today's eagerness to join the bandwagon on tax cuts.

I thank the Chair, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. PRESSLER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PASSAGE OF A PROCOMPETITIVE, DEREGULATORY TELECOMMUNICATIONS BILL, THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPETITION AND DEREGULATION ACT OF 1995

Mr. PRESSLER. Mr. President, I think one of the major duties of the new Congress will be to pass a major telecommunications reform bill—a new procompetitive, deregulatory bill. I know there are many views in this body on national telecommunications policy. The Republican controlled 104th Congress has a truly historic opportunity to pass comprehensive telecommunications reform legislation.

Last year, the Congress almost passed a bill. The House of Representatives passed a bill by an overwhelming vote. The Senate Commerce Committee passed out a bill 18 to 2 that became entangled here on the Senate floor.

Why should we pass a telecommunications bill in 1995? The reason is that the country needs a roadmap for the next century in telecommunications as we continue to move forward in the Information Age. We need to have more competition and more deregulation. Past efforts to craft telecommunications legislation have been bogged down by overly regulatory approaches. A fresh look at the issues, grounded in procompetitive, deregulatory principles, is the best way to meet our common policy objectives.

We need to have all telecommunications markets open to competition. We need to have the cable companies competing in the telephone business and telephone companies providing cable television service. We need to have the long-distance companies competing in local telephone markets, and vice versa. We no longer should have

this regulatory apartheid scheme of having little patches or enclaves of competition for only one group of people or companies.

Telecommunications policy in America, under the 1934 Communications Act, has long been based on the now faulty premise that information transmitted over wires could easily be distinguished from information transmitted over the air. Different regulatory regimes were erected around different information media. That is what I refer to as the regulatory apartheid scheme.

This is an extremely complex and difficult area. It is easier said than done. The telecommunications field is a unique area of regulation in that one frequently has to use someone else's coaxial cable to get to a home or someone else's fiber optic cable or someone else's copper cable or copper wire to get one's product delivered. Nonetheless, I am quite confident we can work out many of those problems through the development of opening requirements in terms of unbundling, in terms of interconnection, in terms of number portability, in terms of resale and so forth.

It is my strongest personal conviction that one of the great accomplishments, on a bipartisan basis, of this 104th Congress will be the passage of a new major telecommunications reform bill.

I have been meeting and speaking with numerous CEO's from around the country in the telecommunications and information technology industries. I am meeting with consumers. I am talking with my fellow Republican and Democratic colleagues, both in the House and the Senate. I have spoken on a number of occasions with Vice President GORE about this most important topic. We must work together on a bipartisan basis to achieve this laudable goal.

Much of the recent discussion around the country has been about the Contract With America and some of the partisanship that might surround that debate. I think the contract is a very healthy thing and I will vote for it. But we will also have a substantial piece of substantive legislation in the Commerce Committee this year—a new procompetitive, deregulatory telecommunications bill—the Telecommunications Competition and Deregulation Act of 1995. As the incoming chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee this year I have announced that this will be the Commerce Committee's top priority. I ask my colleagues to look at some of the materials we will send to your offices on this bill. It is very important that we reach consensus on this critically important issue and pass a new telecommunications bill.

My new telecommunications bill will rapidly accelerate private sector deployment of advanced telecommunications and information technologies and services to all Americans by open-

ing all telecommunications markets to competition. It will markedly improve international competitiveness, spur economic growth, job creation and productivity gains, delivery better quality of life through more efficient delivery of educational, health care and other social services, and enhance individual empowerment. All without spending taxpayer money.

Mr. President, I thank the Chair and I yield the floor. I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE CIVIL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I intend to introduce legislation very early in this Congress that will address some of the most serious deficiencies in our civil justice system. Litigation today is an extraordinarily expensive mechanism for compensating an injured party. The seriously injured victim in Utah and in all of our States is often not compensated fairly, and frequently there is an unconscionable delay in one's recovery.

In other instances, trial lawyers sue too easily, and often with no consequence for their unmeritorious position, knowing that the high cost of defending against even an unworthy claim will often induce at least a nuisance settlement.

The uncertainty of an excessive punitive damage award by a runaway jury cripples our business community and diverts resources that could be better used for research and employment. Moreover, the current joint liability laws make each defendant with any culpability liable for the entire amount of damages regardless of the degree of their culpability. Thus, for example, a defendant who is only 10 percent responsible for a wrong can wind up paying 100 percent of the damages.

Many defendants are unfairly held responsible for damages because those primarily responsible are uninsured or outside of the jurisdiction of the courts. Junk science has made a mockery out of our system of justice, leading juries to make unfair decisions in some cases.

In sum, we now have a civil justice system wherein true victims face unreasonable delay in receiving compensation for wrongs done to them, compensation which is often less than full, in any event. At the same time, the civil justice system imposes an enormous cost on society as a whole. The great expense of litigating against meritless claims, the unfair allocation of liability, the threat of unfair, excessive damage awards, collectively drive up the cost of doing business. This cost

is ultimately passed on to the consumer, and deters the development of new and worthwhile products and services.

I support a number of legal reforms that will improve our civil justice system, make the system fairer to all parties, allow for a quicker recovery for those injured, and make those most responsible for an injury liable for their fair share. I welcome the input of those concerned about these issues.

I am also committed to joining Senators GORTON and ROCKEFELLER in passing product liability reform legislation in the 104th Congress. I look forward to their continued leadership in the Commerce Committee in that important effort. I hope that my efforts to enact civil justice reform legislation will complement the products liability legislation.

TRIBUTE TO C.G. NUCKOLS

Mr. HATFIELD. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to one of the original staff members of the Congressional Budget Office, C.G. Nuckols. Mr. Nuckols has served the Congress at CBO for almost 20 years, most recently as Assistant Director for Budget Analysis. He is retiring today to begin a new career in the private sector.

C.G. Nuckols began his Federal service in 1963 as an operations research analyst for the Department of the Navy. From there he moved to the Office of the Secretary of Defense, where he became Director of the Program Cost Analysis Division. In recognition of his efforts, he was awarded the Defense Meritorious Civilian Service Medal. Soon after CBO started operations in 1975, Alice Rivlin and James Blum persuaded Mr. Nuckols to leave the Defense Department to help establish CBO's Budget Analysis Division.

Every Member and every committee of the Congress relies on the work of the Budget Analysis Division. We on the Appropriations Committee expect our appropriation bills to be scored overnight—or sooner. The Budget Committee depends on the division for help in preparing the functional totals and committee spending allocations for the budget resolution. And the authorizing committees routinely receive timely CBO cost estimates for virtually all reported bills.

Although the Congress now takes all of these things for granted, it was not always so. In 1975, CBO was a blank slate. Together with James Blum, C.G. Nuckols established the rules, formats, and procedures for preparing budget projections and bill cost estimates. He made sure that work was completed on time, that analyses were carefully justified, and that precedents were scrupulously followed—whether the estimate was for a freshman or a powerful chairman.

Yet if there is one item above all for which we have C.G. Nuckols to thank, it is for the quality of the budget analysis staff at CBO. From 1975 to today,

Mr. Nuckols has personally interviewed almost everyone hired by the Budget Analysis Division. Only those who meet his high standards of integrity, intellect, and training pass muster. Then, having hired the best, he has worked to ensure that they had the resources and support necessary to perform at their best.

Mr. President, the appreciation we feel for the work of the Congressional Budget Office is due in no small part to the efforts of C.G. Nuckols. During his 20 years at CBO, Mr. Nuckols has served the Congress with quiet, tireless, nonpartisan professionalism. I wish him well in his new venture, knowing that he leaves behind at CBO a staff that will continue the tradition he did so much to establish.

BUDGET SCOREKEEPING REPORT

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I hereby submit to the Senate the budget scorekeeping report prepared by the Congressional Budget Office under section 308(b) and in aid of section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as amended. This report meets the requirements for Senate scorekeeping of section 5 of Senate Concurrent Resolution 32, the first concurrent resolution on the budget for 1986.

This report shows the effects of congressional action on the budget through December 1, 1994. The estimates of budget authority, outlays, and revenues, which are consistent with the technical and economic assumptions of the concurrent resolution on the budget (H. Con. Res. 218), show that current level spending is below the budget resolution by \$2.3 billion in budget authority and \$0.4 billion in outlays. Current level is \$0.8 billion over the revenue floor in 1995 and below by \$8.2 billion over the 5 years 1995-99. The current estimate of the deficit for purposes of calculating the maximum deficit amount is \$238.7 billion, \$2.3 billion below the maximum deficit amount for 1995 of \$241 billion.

This is my first report for the first session of the 104th Congress.

There being no objection, the report was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, January 4, 1995.

Hon. PETE DOMENICI,
Chairman, Committee on the Budget,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The attached report for fiscal year 1995 shows the effects of Congressional action on the 1995 budget and is current through December 1, 1994. The estimates of budget authority, outlays and revenues are consistent with the technical economic assumptions of the 1995 Concurrent Resolution on the Budget (H. Con. Res. 218). This report is submitted under Section 308(b) and in aid of Section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act, as amended, and meets the requirements of Senate scorekeeping of Section 5 of S. Con. Res. 32, the 1986 First Concurrent Resolution on the Budget.