

I guess you might also be surprised at how difficult it would be if you were a newcomer looking at it, and saying, "Gosh. What should be so difficult about balancing the budget?" You do it in your family, and I do it in my family. You do it in my business because you have to. Do you do it in government? Is that not financially and fiscally responsible as we move into a new century? Is it not responsible to balance the budget rather than continuing to charge it to your children and your grandchildren? Is that what it is about? If that is the issue, why are we talking about all of these other things?

A balanced budget is not extraneous. Someone rose this morning and said, "Oh, gosh. This continuing resolution has extraneous materials on it." Balancing the budget is, after all, the key issue. All we are asking is that the President certify that in 7 years he will join us in balancing the budget, and use the Congressional Budget Office numbers that the President Message said in his State of the Union Message we all needed to use so we all work in the same place. It is not a new idea.

The minority leader, who a short while ago objected to the idea of CBO, stood up not 2 weeks ago and said we all will do whatever accommodation to use CBO numbers.

So I think you would say, gosh, what is it? You would probably soon recognize that part of it is philosophical. There is a difference in view. There is a legitimate view among liberals that we ought to have more Government and more spending. That is a legitimate view. I do not share it. I do not think the majority of people here share it. Nevertheless, there is a populace view that is there.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time has expired. The question is on agreeing to the motion to table. The yeas and nays have been ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. SNOWE). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber who desire to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 53, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 578 Leg.]

YEAS—53

Abraham	Frist	McCain
Ashcroft	Gorton	McConnell
Bennett	Gramm	Murkowski
Bond	Grams	Nickles
Brown	Grassley	Pressler
Burns	Gregg	Roth
Campbell	Hatch	Santorum
Chafee	Hatfield	Shelby
Coats	Helms	Simpson
Cochran	Hutchison	Smith
Cohen	Inhofe	Snowe
Coverdell	Jeffords	Specter
Craig	Kassebaum	Stevens
D'Amato	Kempthorne	Thomas
DeWine	Kyl	Thompson
Dole	Lott	Thurmond
Domenici	Lugar	Warner
Faircloth	Mack	

NAYS—46

Akaka	Feinstein	Lieberman
Baucus	Ford	Mikulski
Biden	Glenn	Moseley-Braun
Bingaman	Graham	Moynihhan
Boxer	Harkin	Murray
Bradley	Heflin	Nunn
Breaux	Hollings	Pell
Bryan	Inouye	Pryor
Bumpers	Johnston	Reid
Byrd	Kennedy	Robb
Conrad	Kerrey	Rockefeller
Daschle	Kerry	Sarbanes
Dodd	Kohl	Simon
Dorgan	Lautenberg	Wellstone
Exon	Leahy	
Feingold	Levin	

So the motion to table the amendment (No. 3056) was agreed to.

Mr. GRAMM. Madam President, I move to reconsider the vote by which the motion was agreed to.

Mr. LOTT. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. THURMOND. Order in the Senate, Madam President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chamber will be in order. May we have order in the Chamber, please?

The Senator from South Carolina is recognized.

Mr. THURMOND. Madam President, life does not often provide second chances, but the Congress is giving President Clinton just that. With this continuing resolution, we are providing the opportunity for him to right the terrible wrong committed by vetoing the previous continuing resolution and shutting down the Government. This resolution will allow the U.S. Government to reopen and remain open while Congress and the President resolve outstanding issues on the remaining appropriations bills and the Balanced Budget Act.

As a Presidential candidate, and early in his Presidency, President Clinton told the American people that he wanted to balance the budget. Here is his chance to fulfill that pledge, since he has failed to send a balanced budget plan to Congress. President Clinton said he wanted to use Congressional Budget Office numbers. Here is his chance to commit to that. President Clinton recently stated that he raised taxes too much. The Congress will give him a chance to correct that mistake and fulfill his pledge for a middle-class tax break.

Madam President, President Clinton's veto of the previous continuing resolution brought the Federal Government to a standstill. Here is his chance to right that wrong. President Clinton must put aside his reelection concerns and focus on his responsibility to govern. By agreeing to this continuing resolution, he can do the right thing, restore full Government services and put the hundreds of thousands of Federal workers who are facing the holidays without a paycheck back to work immediately.

Congress and the President previously approved a continuing resolution which funded the Government through November 13. The Congress

sought to extend it earlier this week, for the purpose of avoiding a shutdown of the Federal Government. We are giving President Clinton another chance to keep the Government operating and to fulfill his promise to balance the budget.

I yield the floor.

Mr. DASCHLE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate minority leader.

AMENDMENT NO. 3057

Mr. DASCHLE. Madam President, subject to the majority leader's intention, as I understand it, we may set this bill aside. But given the informal agreement we had this morning, I now send the second Democratic amendment to the desk—I guess it is the third Democratic amendment to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from South Dakota [Mr. DASCHLE] proposes an amendment numbered 3057.

Mr. DASCHLE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

Strike all after the first word and insert the following:

Section 106(C) of Public Law 104-31 is amended by striking "November 13, 1995" and inserting "December 22, 1995.

SEC. 2. (a) The President and the Congress shall enact legislation in the 104th Congress to achieve a unified balanced budget not later than the fiscal year 2002.

(b) The unified balanced budget in subsection (a) must assure that:

(1) Medicare and Medicaid are not cut to pay for tax breaks; and

(2) Any possible tax cuts shall go only to American families making less than \$100,000.

Mr. DASCHLE. I yield the floor.

Mr. HATFIELD addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

APPROPRIATIONS BILLS

Mr. HATFIELD. Madam President, I would just like to give the body a brief report on the process of the Appropriations Committee of the Senate and where our bills are at the moment.

I would like to, first of all, indicate that the Senate Appropriations Committee reported all 13 bills to the floor by September 27. The Senate has acted upon 12 of those 13 bills. I, first of all, say they were reported by September 15, and we acted upon 12 of the 13 in the body by September 27. Right at the moment, four of those bills have been signed into law by the President. We have concluded the conference on three more, and we expect to conclude our conference on VA-HUD and the District of Columbia within either hours or within the next day or two.

So we can say that that is the movement.

There is one bill that has eluded us, and that is the Labor-HHS appropriations bill upon which the Senate has not acted. I want to say further that as we consider the continuing resolution, if this one is passed and vetoed or if the next one is passed and agreed to, we have to have a benchmark in relation to how we are going to fund Labor-HHS.

Up until now, the other side of the aisle has not permitted us to move to bring up the Labor-HHS to be considered here on the floor.

So I think in order that we as the members of the Appropriations Committee—I speak at least for myself—I would like to be able to conclude our job on the Senate side. It has to go to conference, of course, with the House-passed bill.

I would like to propound a unanimous-consent agreement at this time. I ask unanimous-consent that the majority leader, upon consultation with the minority leader, be authorized to call up H.R. 2127, the Labor-HHS appropriations bill for 1996.

Mrs. BOXER. Reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mrs. BOXER. Reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. There are a number of provisions that are troubling to a number of Senators who believe in a woman's right to choose, and that is one of the reasons why we have had trouble agreeing to bringing up the bill. So I would have to object, unless I knew that those provisions were being handled. So I would object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1996—  
CONFERENCE REPORT

Mr. DOLE. Madam President, I submit a report of the committee of conference on H.R. 2126 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The report will be stated.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The committee on conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2126) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes, having met, after full and free conference, have agreed to recommend and do recommend to their respective Houses this report, signed by a majority of the conferees.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of the conference report.

(The conference report is printed in the House proceedings of the RECORD of November 15, 1995.)

Mr. DOLE. Madam President, it is my understanding that this will not

take any great length of time. I am also advised that about 400,000 civilians, who might be affected by the Government shutdown, are affected by this bill. Maybe we can pass this bill and get it down to the President.

Unless I misunderstand it, it would be about half the total. It seems to me that it is something we should do as quickly as we can. I do not know the President's intentions with reference to this bill. At least it will be another major appropriations bill that we can send to the President.

I also understand that we have the legislative appropriations bill and the Treasury, Post Office bill, which have been completed, which I think would be sent to the President if there was some indication that he would sign those bills. Again, that would help in some areas, and some of the people who are not essential could come back to work.

In the meantime, I will be discussing the pending legislation with the Democratic leader.

Mr. DASCHLE. Madam President, this is acceptable to our side. I think, also, the foreign operations bill is prepared to be sent. So we are making progress on some of these bills. I think it is important that we get as many done as we can. Some of them are going to be vetoed. This may be one of them. I think it is important to keep the process moving along, and this will accommodate that need.

I yield the floor.

Mr. STEVENS. Madam President, I might state, for the Senate's knowledge, that we have 2½ hours. I do not think we will use the whole 2½ hours. I expect the vote to take place some time right after 6, depending on who else might want to speak.

Just to set the record straight, I had reminded the majority leader of the number of people in the Department of Defense that were affected by the furlough process, and it was our estimate that it was approximately 400,000 that could be affected. I am told that it is somewhere around 260,000 that actually have been furloughed so far. He was correct that approximately 400,000 would be affected by the bill in the long run.

We believe it is in the best interest of all concerned to get the bill passed. I am hopeful that we will get word from the President that he will sign it so we can expedite delivery of the bill to the President.

This is now the conference report on H.R. 2126, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act for 1996. I first want to start off by applauding the House for the expeditious move on this bill today, and I appreciate the support of both leaders for allowing us to bring the bill to the Senate now.

Senator INOUE and I have sought to move this conference report prior to the commencement of the fiscal year on October 1. The original conference report, however, was rejected by the House. That resulted in a substantial delay in bringing the bill before the

Senate, and I take part of the responsibility for that. We have been negotiating for a period of time on one particular issue.

Before proceeding further, however, I do want to express my high regard and thanks to the chairman of the House Defense Subcommittee, Congressman BILL YOUNG, for the work he has done on this bill. This has been the first year that he has been the chairman of that subcommittee, and he was the chairman of our conference, and he has shepherded this large and complex bill through the House and then the conference with great skill. His determination to meet the needs of the men and women of the Armed Forces shows throughout the legislation.

I think Members should become aware of this bill because it is a very different defense appropriations bill.

I also recognize the hard work and cooperation of the ranking member on the House side, Congressman JACK MURTHA. Senator INOUE and I have worked with Mr. YOUNG and Mr. MURTHA for many years now, and we appreciate their willingness to work with us on the tough issues in this bill this year.

Madam President, the conference report before the Senate now closely matches the bill previously filed under the report No. 104261. That report has been available to all Senators since September 25. On that basis, I do not intend to take the Senate's time to detail the contents of the report. Instead, I want to speak to the Senate today on why we need this bill now and why I feel the President should sign this bill.

This pending bill provides about \$1.7 billion more for defense than was appropriated in the fiscal year 1995. Taking inflation into account, this amount represents a decline in real spending for the Pentagon. That is the reality of this bill. It really continues, in terms of real dollars, a downward trend in real defense spending for another year.

This further decline in real defense spending comes in the face of increased commitments of the United States overseas, increased deployments overseas, and the determination by the Joint Chiefs that we need more money for modernization for the Department of Defense.

Let me speak first about those overseas deployments. Today, there are 241,000 U.S. military personnel permanently stationed overseas. That does not reflect their dependents. This is military personnel. It also does not reflect the contingency deployment to Bosnia, Iraq, or Haiti. These are the day-to-day demands on the men and women of the Armed Forces. They face these demands constantly.

Last September, we took a trip and met with some of our military people in the British Empire, in London. We found, in many instances, that our pilots, for instance, have been deployed in several different places within 1 year. We are stretching these people to the nth degree almost daily now, in