to be done. That is my view. I cannot speak for all of my colleagues in the House and Senate. But I think there is some recognition—there are a couple of concerns that people have. First of all, as I have said before, the employees are sort of the pawns in this game. This is a struggle for whatever we hope will happen over the next 7 years. It is very important. But to somebody out there who is not working and only lives from paycheck to paycheck, it is not a very happy choice, and they should be paid, even though some are saying, ''Well, you are paying people for not working.'' My view is that if it was voluntary on their part, you should not, but it is involuntary. They cannot go to work. Some tried, in Baltimore, to show up for work and they were told to go home. That is a long answer, I guess, to saying there has to be some way around this. That is why I thought, yesterday, that maybe the appropriations bills—if the President would consent to that—then we can probably figure out a way to get Labor-HHS out of here. We have one little provision—and the Senator from Vermont knows more about it than I do—on the foreign ops bill. I will work with the Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, if the majority leader is still on the floor, I hope that he realizes—I am sure he does—that there are many of us—I would say the majority of both Democrats and Republicans—who do want to come together on this issue and get it here in the Senate and get this finished. He mentioned the foreign ops bill, which is one where the distinguished Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL] and I had the bill on the floor. We had, I believe, 193 items in disagreement with the other body. We settled 192 of the 193, and I think it is unfortunate that it is held up.

It is beginning to create a problem in the Middle East peace process with the Camp David countries. I think that is of some significance. I know all of us on the floor support the help we give those countries, especially at this critical time. I hope we might work that out. I think we can go through dozens of other issues, where it seems that the solution is so close and so within our grasp. Frankly, Mr. President, I wish the majority leader, the Speaker, and the President all the best in their negotiations, and the distinguished Democratic leaders in both the House and the Senate, who will join with them.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 12:30 p.m. with Senators permitted to speak therein for not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Senator from Oklahoma is recognized.

THE PRESIDENT'S VETO MESSAGES

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I want to make a comment to the majority leader. He mentioned during his comments that he would encourage the President to sign the three bills he has vetoed and would be willing to work with him to work out some of the problems that he had. I have a copy of the President's veto message on the Interior bill. I have reviewed all of these. In most cases, the differences are very small. I cannot help but think that the majority leader and the President could work out the differences. There are a couple items dealing with dollars, but a very insignificant amount as far as the total. This is a $12 billion bill. The differences in dollars is very small.

A few issues maybe need to be clarified as far the administration and so on. There is no reason why this bill should not be signed. I know there was a front page article in the Washington Post today. I know there is a lot of concern about visitors not being able to visit parks and museums. There is no reason whatsoever that this bill should not be signed.

So I encourage the majority leader in his meeting with the President to see if we cannot make a couple small changes in the Interior bill, as well as the Commerce, State, Justice, and the VA–HUD bill, which would relieve a lot of the problems and anxiety for a lot of people all across the country, not just the employees, but also constituents that would like to have access to the parks and to the museums.

So I compliment the majority leader for taking that effort to the President. Hopefully, he will concur, and maybe we can at least resolve the conflict on three of these major items.

Mr. LEAHY addressed the Chair.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The acting Democratic leader is recognized.

HELPING VICTIMS OF CRIME

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, there are some things, however, that are getting through. The Senate, in one of its final votes before adjourning for Christmas, passed legislation aimed at more than doubling the assistance that my State and others will have in hand to help victims of domestic crime and terrorism.

I mention this, Mr. President, because I think of the years I spent as a prosecutor and I remember so many times we spent hundreds of thousands of dollars to prosecute a perpetrator, especially of a violent crime, both in the prosecution and in the incarceration, but the victim was usually the forgotten person. The victim got no assistance, the victim got no help, the victim was left to fend for himself or herself.

What we have done now is raise to half a million dollars in a special victims fund for Vermont, under the Victims of Crime Act and under an amendment that I propose, that will help these people. I think this makes a great deal of sense because the money comes not from the taxpayers, the money comes from the criminals. The assessments and the fines to the criminal will go into this fund.

Again, as a former prosecutor, I believe we should bring strong and effective prosecution as quickly as possible in these serious crimes. We have seen what happened in places like Oklahoma City. Let us not forget the victims. When we are setting out the punishment for the perpetrator of the crime, when we add fines and assessments, the money which can go to help victims all the better. In my experience, the victim is usually the person forgotten. All attention is on the criminal. This way, we will keep the attention on those convicted of violent crimes, but we will make them pay into a fund to help the victims.

I think it is much better. I think victims must be treated with dignity and assisted and compensated for their suffering. Who better to pay for the restitution than the perpetrators of those crimes themselves? I thank the Members of the Senate who have joined with that.

THE BUDGET

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, we have talked about the budget. I have listened to the distinguished majority leader. I am absolutely convinced that if the distinguished Republican leader and the distinguished Democrat leader in this body could sit down with the President that we could reach those areas of compromise.

We have to understand that no matter what the issue is here, when there are many, many differing views, that nobody wins totally. We do not pass a Gingrich budget or a Dole budget or a Daschle budget, a Clinton budget or a Leahy budget, but we can pass a budget for this country and one that will bring us to a balanced budget but will also allow at least bipartisan cooperation on issues like education, environment, medical care for the elderly, and so forth.

I was concerned in the other body when I hear some say, ''Well, let's lock everybody in a room and throw the key away until this is settled.'' I say to those same people, why did you not stay here last weekend and do it? Why did you not stay and turn the key on your own doors and stay here?

They are claiming over there in the other body that this is for a more efficient Government. This is the least efficient way to run a government, let alone a business—send everybody home so no work is being done, but then people are being told they will be paid for their lost time. They should be paid because it was not through their fault, but the American taxpayer is not being paid for lost services.

These Federal workers want to go back to work, they want to help run

this country, they want to process the passport claims and the veterans claims and everything else. They cannot understand why we will not make it possible.

Frankly, I think some Members of Congress ought to be asked—those who feel we should lock up the leadership and the President—ought to be asked, why did you leave last weekend? Did you go home for a Christmas vacation? Did the taxpayers pay for your airplane fares home? Of course they did. Did the taxpayers pay for your salary while you were home making political speeches? Of course they did.

Then they also ought to be asked: Do you not think it would have been better to stay and get the country back to work, get the Government back to work, and stop these shenanigans?

As I said before, I have been in negotiations, some very tough negotiations, with the distinguished majority leader and the distinguished Democratic leader. I know them both to be Senators of great honor and great ability. I am willing to rely on them to negotiate with the President of the United States and get us out of this. I hope it can be done.

DR. GEORGE MCINTYRE

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I was born in Montpelier, VT. A great friend I had in Montpelier, VT was Dr. George A. McIntyre. Dr. McIntyre left this world this month at the age of 85. I can truly say Dr. McIntyre knew me all of my life because he was the man who delivered me as a child. He was a good friend, as is his wife, Theresa. He was also the model of the smalltown country doctor. He was someone who knew everybody in the town, respected by everybody in the town, loved by everybody in the town, and was there to help.

My own memories, I recall as a child of about 12, becoming very ill with pneumonia, and Dr. McIntyre coming to our house, a doctor who always made house calls, bundling me up and bringing me to the hospital. Without his care, there is no question I would not have survived that bout of pneumonia.

So I have been privileged, as have members of my family, to know him for all these years. I send my condolences to his wife, his children, and the other members of his family. He was a truly remarkable person.

I ask unanimous consent that Dr. McIntyre's obituary which appeared in the Burlington Free Press be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the Burlington Free Press, Dec. 16, 1995]

GEORGE A. MCINTYRE, M.D.

MONTPELIER.—George A. McIntyre, M.D., 85, of Loomis Street, and a longtime area practitioner, died Dec. 14, 1995, in Berlin Health and Rehabilitation Center of complications due to Parkinson's disease.

Born on May 3, 1910, in Burlington, he was the son of James C. McIntyre and Emma J. (Wakefield) McIntyre.

He received a bachelor of science degree from the University of Vermont and an M.D. from UVM in 1935. Following internship he opened a family practice in Montpelier.

On July 10, 1941, he married Theresa Wilkinson in Montpelier and to that marriage four children were born.

From Sept. 2, 1942, until Feb. 3, 1946, he actively served as a U.S. Army physician, principally in New Guinea and in the southern Philippines. His military specialty was that of chief of gastroenterology. His final rank promotion was that of major. Postgraduate education was obtained at New York Postgraduate Hospital, University of Chicago, Billings General Hospital, and St. Luke's Hospital, also in Chicago.

Dr. McIntyre was an attending physician at Heaton Hospital and its successor, Central Vermont Hospital, for a total of 46 years and a member of Washington County Medical Society, Vermont State Medical Society, and American Medical Association.

In addition to his regular practice, Dr. McIntyre was medical consultant to Kinstead on upper Main Street in Montpelier, a state-run institution; to New England Telephone and Telegraph Co., IBM, Agway, and the Selective Service. For several years, he was health officer for the City of Montpelier and was attending physician at Vermont College for 31 years, serving under the administration of four presidents and medical director of the former Heaton House.

On May 15, 1981, Dr. McIntyre was awarded a citation from the Vermont Medical Alumni Association, ''in recognition of his many years of exemplary medical practice and outstanding community service which reflects credit upon the medical profession and epitomizes the ideal physician.'' He retired in November of that year.

Following retirement, he was director of the library at Central Vermont Hospital for almost five years, president of Washington County Cancer Society, newsletter editor of the Lake Mansfield Trout Club, and a member of the club, a Montpelier-based literary club. He also authored the history of Christ Church (Episcopal) in Montpelier.

Norwich University of Vermont conveyed recognition on Dr. McIntyre by conferring on him an honorary doctor of humanities degree during commencement exercises at Vermont College on May 22, 1988.

In a reading presented for inclusion in the Congressional Record by Sen. Patrick Leahy in March 1989, Leahy stated, ''Dr. McIntyre has been my family's doctor for as long as I can remember. All the Leahys have come to depend on him for his patience, caring, and advice. I have literally known him all my life, as he is the physician who delivered me on March 31, 1940.''

Survivors include his wife of 54 years, Theresa (Wilkinson), whom he married June 10, 1941, in Montpelier; three sons, James C. McIntyre of Montpelier, William A. McIntyre of Nashua, N.H., and John S. McIntyre of Barre; one daughter, Anne M. McIntyre of Melrose, Mass.; and two grandchildren, Matthew and Julia Anne McIntyre.

Services will be held Sunday at 2 p.m. in Christ Church (Episcopal). Spring burial service will take place in Lake View Cemetery in Burlington. Calling hours are scheduled today from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. in Guare and Sons Funeral Home, 80 School St., Montpelier. The family requests that flowers be omitted. Memorial contributions may be made to Central Vermont Hospital, P.O. Box 547, Barre, Vt. 05641.

THE BUDGET

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I listened with interest at the discussion moments ago on the floor about the issue of the shutdown and the budget negotiations. I have been involved with Senator EXON on the Democratic side in those negotiations for a number of weeks. We have regrettably not solved the problem. We have not resolved a budget that represents a compromise on both sides. It is probably safe for everyone to say that we have, at the end of this year, a real mess here in Washington, DC, and in the Congress.

It is tempting to just blame, and it seems to me there are plenty of targets, but it seems to me what is causing this deadlock and this impasse is a circumstance where a large number of Members of Congress have come to town to say, ''The way we negotiate is to say to you, 'It is our way or no way. You agree with us or we create deadlock. We won't accept compromise.' ''

The Senator from Vermont talked about the press conference yesterday by some on the other side of the Capitol who said, ''Let's lock the room. Let's have the President and the majority leader of the Senate and the Speaker of the House put in a room and lock the room and not have them come out until there is an agreement on a balanced budget.''

The Senator from Vermont appropriately asked the question: Why would they not have asked themselves to remain here last week?

I stood on the floor of this Senate late last week when we were told that the other side had decided they were leaving at 2:30 in the afternoon, and late that afternoon I asked on the floor of the Senate, what about this shutdown? What about the 270,000 people who are prevented from going to work? What about the taxpayers who are told they are going to pay people who are prevented from doing their work?

What about the other half-million people who are working and not getting paid, working a full pay period and getting half a paycheck? That has not been discussed on the floor. I ask, what leverage does it give anyone to poke the eye of the taxpayer by saying to the taxpayers of this country, ''You are going to pay 270,000 people who are prevented from coming to work and dangling Federal workers out as pawns in this budget debate''? What possible leverage could anyone receive from this chaos and this mess? This is not leverage, this is foolishness, and it ought to end.

They say this is about principle. It is about balancing the budget in principle. I ask this question: What principle is involved in a proposal to balance the budget that says, ''By the way, let us change the alternative minimum tax so that 2,000 corporations, the biggest corporations in America, each get a $7 million tax cut from this little adjustment in something called the AMT? Two thousand companies, $7 million each in a new tax break, to balance the budget?