

approach to our national system of oil-spill prevention and response. We enacted that bill just 17 months after the spill, really a very short time, given the scope of the legislation.

This landmark piece of legislation created a new national framework that focuses on both prevention of spills and response to spills. It was written to reduce the chances that we will ever have another spill of the magnitude of the *Valdez* anywhere under the American flag. That act, and the actions it mandates, has already vastly improved the response to lesser spills.

I want to point out some of the things it has done. We have greatly increased the response time—that is, decreased the time it takes—we have increased the ability to respond in time to spills that may take place in our waters. As a result of that act, we have spill response equipment pre-positioned in strategic locations all over the Nation. The national and area contingency plans required by OPA '90 are the primary reasons the response to oilspills has become so quick. Unlike when the *Valdez* disaster occurred, if a spill occurs today, it should literally be a matter of minutes before a plan is put into effect and executed. By requiring contingency plans in advance, OPA '90 forces planning for potential spills in a comprehensive manner.

Mr. President, the main goal of all parties involved in that act was the prevention of future disasters. That is the only true way we can ensure that we will keep the beaches in Alaska and throughout our Nation free of oil.

I have thanked many Alaskans who have served on the regional citizens advisory councils for the improvements they have helped bring into being.

Mr. President, at my request, that act was amended to assure that there would be specific Alaska provisions in it. In addition to the national measures put into place by OPA '90, it contained, at my request, a number of measures specific to Prince William Sound in Alaska. It required the installation of a marker and light on Bligh Reef. It required tankers in Prince William Sound to be escorted by at least two tugs and to have two local pilots on the bridge. It required the creation of a vessel traffic control system for Prince William Sound, including an alarm system to warn if vessels deviated from the routes they had designated at the time they left the pier.

It prevents the *Exxon Valdez* tanker from ever entering Alaskan waters again, no matter what name it sails under or how many structural improvements it undergoes. That provision is largely symbolic, but it goes to the heart of how Alaskans feel about that disaster.

The only true way to ensure that we will never have to clean Alaskan oil off Alaska beaches again is to implement the plans and maintain the systems that OPA '90 requires.

I hope that the Nation will not lose heart, that it will continue to fund the

facilities and the pre-positioned equipment that we require. For a 10-year period that began in 1996, we have created in Alaska an Oilspill Recovery Institute in Cordova. We also have an oil-spill lab with a trust fund created to assure that funds are available to respond to oilspills throughout the United States.

Let me close by saying that I want to report to the Senate that many of the species that were affected by the oil-spill are making a strong comeback. Mother Nature in the sound is responding. The environmental efforts that we have made and the progress we have made with putting into effect the new prevention measures have, in fact, deterred future spills.

It is my hope that one day one of my grandchildren will ask me, Grandpa, what is an oilspill? I believe that we have gone a long way to making oilspills of the magnitude that I saw 10 years ago today a memory. I hope it remains a memory.

Mr. President, I thank my friend for yielding.

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. AL-LARD). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

#### CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2000

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now proceed to consideration of S. Con. Res. 20, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 20) setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal years 2000 through 2009.

The Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

#### PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the staff of the Senate Budget Committee, including fellows and detailees named on the list that I send to the desk, be permitted to remain on the Senate floor during consideration of S. Con. Res. 20.

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

Mr. DOMENICI. I ask unanimous consent the list be printed in the RECORD.

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

STAFF LIST: SENATE COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

#### MAJORITY STAFF

Amy Call.  
Jim Capretta.  
Winnie Chang.  
Lisa Cieplak.  
Allen Cutler.  
Larry Dye.  
Beth Felder.

Rachel Forward.  
Alice Grant.  
Jim Hearn.  
Bill Hoagland.  
Carole McGuire.  
Mieko Nakabayashi.  
Maureen O'Neill.  
Kristin Omberg.  
Cheri Reidy.  
Brian Riley.  
Amy Smith.  
Bob Stevenson.  
Marc Sumerlin.  
Winslow Wheeler.  
Sandra Wiseman.  
Gary Ziehe.

#### MINORITY STAFF

Amy Abraham.  
Claudia Arko.  
Jim Esquea.  
Dan Katz.  
Bruce King.  
Lisa Konwinski.  
Martin Morris.  
Jon Rosenwasser.  
Paul Seltman.  
Jeff Siegel.  
Barry Strumpf.  
Mitch Warren.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Kelly Creighton.  
Alex Green.  
Sahand Sarshar.  
Lamar Staples.  
Lynne Seymour.  
George Woodall.

Mr. DOMENICI. On behalf of Senator LAUTENBERG, I ask unanimous consent that Sue Nelson and Ted Zegers be granted the privilege of the floor during consideration of the resolution.

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

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I ask consent the privilege of the floor be granted to the following members of my staff, of the Budget Committee staff on the Republican side: Austin Smythe and Anne Miller.

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

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the presence and use of small electronic calculators be permitted on the floor of the Senate during consideration of the fiscal year 2000 concurrent resolution on the budget.

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

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I assume we are now on the resolution and time is now running under the 35 hours that remain.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I am quite sure my friend Senator LAUTENBERG would concur that we all know, more or less, what the issues are. We have gone through the Budget Committee and most of the major issues have been debated there and amendments offered—some accepted, some failed. I don't think there is really any reason we cannot finish at a reasonable time and take this recess if Senators on both sides cooperate.

I urge that on my side also. There is tentatively, on my side—I know when we talk to them that it is not going to