

it happened again on this estate tax repeal that the Republicans support.

Time and time again, the vast majority of relief goes to the wealthiest people in America. When will this Congress and this Senate listen to the 98 percent of the families in America who are hoping that we share their concerns about their future and their kids' future? Whether it is college education expenses, prescription drugs for their parents, prescription drugs for the disabled and their families, an effort to pay for child care, an effort to make certain they have health insurance on the job, when will this Congress put that as a high priority?

The Republican leadership said: Those people can go to the back of the line. We will wait for some other day, if ever, to discuss their needs. First we have to take care of the wealthiest. First we have to make sure that those making over \$900,000 a year get about \$2,000 more a month so they can be a little more comfortable in their lifestyle.

I think that is wrong. The President's veto is right. Let us provide tax relief and target it for the people who really need it. If there is a surplus in America, let working families, 98 percent of whom were ignored by the Republican tax cut plan, be first in line.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I enjoyed the speech of my good friend from Illinois. But I also want to footnote it by saying it is pretty tough to give tax cuts to folks who don't pay taxes. So it is a little on the rough side to do that.

REMEMBERING SENATOR PAUL COVERDELL

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I rise this evening, along with my colleagues, as we talk about and remember and celebrate the life of PAUL COVERDELL. He was born in Des Moines, IA. He was a graduate of the University of Missouri. That is where I went to school. PAUL COVERDELL was a person who came to the Senate with a history of being a doer. He was a workhorse in this Senate.

Early on, he demonstrated that he could be relied upon to take on the essential but unspectacular tasks for the good of the Senate and this Nation. He was rewarded for that when he was elected by his fellow Senators to be the Secretary of the Senate Republican Conference. I know something about that because he beat me. I could not have lost to a better man.

He had his little mannerisms. He could put you in a box, put a cap on you, do a lot of things. But his quiet demeanor and lack of fuss in tackling whatever tasks were assigned to him belied his effectiveness.

He served President Bush as Director of the Peace Corps. He was a man of peace. He served as leader of the Republican Party in the Georgia Senate

for 15 years, from 1974 to 1989, skillfully guiding that body through some difficult but rewarding years.

His leadership really surfaced when he came to the Senate. We have talked about him being a stalwart on national defense and on taxes, but I think he had his best vision and his best grasp of this business in reforming public education because he always referred back to his vision for the next generation. The next generation was always on his mind. As a proponent of equal educational opportunities, he introduced sweeping education and tax reform bills. The list of his achievements in the Senate is substantial, indeed.

PAUL COVERDELL holds a special place in our hearts as we say goodbye to a brother, a Member of this body, who has shown us the way in the tradition of the Senate. We are all better just for having known him.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to a period of morning business.

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

FY 2001 DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, today I rise in strong support of the FY 2001 Defense Appropriations Act Conference Report. This bill provides the much needed funding for our deserving men and women in the military. After years of declining military budgets, this Defense Appropriations bill does the right thing by putting more of our resources toward our Armed Forces.

While I strongly support the overall bill, I would like to make note of one serious omission—the cut in funding for the Discoverer II or DII program. I know that Senator STEVENS and the Defense Appropriations staff fought hard for the DII program, but that they ran up against an entrenched opposition from the other side.

Discoverer II is a key element in assessing the utility, feasibility, and affordability of Space Based Radar (SBR). SBR will provide all weather, 24 hour, 7-day a week global surveillance coverage. The Department of Defense has stated that SBR will satisfy many unfilled requirements, such as Long Range Endurance Reconnaissance, Surveillance and Target Acquisition, Improved Ground Moving Target Indicator Tasking, Processing, Exploitation and Dissemination Interoperability, and provide simultaneous access to multiple theaters worldwide.

The program not only had the wide support of many Members of Congress, but also from the Secretary of the Air Force, the Director of the National Reconnaissance Office, the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, the CINC of US Space Command, the CINC of US

Central Command, and the Chief of Staff of the Air Force.

While I cannot understand the reasoning for such opposition, I do want to thank Senator STEVENS and his staff for fighting for this program and only hope that we can revive this important program in the future. The capabilities it will provide are too important to let it go quietly in the night. As the Chairman of the Strategic Subcommittee on the Armed Service Committee, as a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee, and as a member of the Commission on the National Reconnaissance Office, I have heard from our military and intelligence leaders that this capability is needed and that we must demonstrate the space based radar. That is why I will continue to fight for this defense capability.

Again, Mr. President, I want to thank Senator STEVENS for all his hard work and for producing such a strong bill for our military men and women.

VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, it has been more than a year since the Columbine tragedy, but still this Republican Congress refuses to act on sensible gun legislation.

Since Columbine, thousands of Americans have been killed by gunfire. Until we act, Democrats in the Senate will read some of the names of those who lost their lives to gun violence in the past year, and we will continue to do so every day that the Senate is session.

In the name of those who died, we will continue this fight. Following are the names of some of the people who were killed by gunfire one year ago today.

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Steven Anderson, 38, Tulsa, OK; Eric Cummings, 24, Minneapolis, MN; Linda Dunn, 42, Detroit, MI; Betty Dreyfuss, 79, Daly City, CA; Tomas Hernandez, 27, Houston, TX; William Minis, 28, Dallas, TX; Ivan Powell, 32, Tulsa, OK; Percy Wright, 25, Baltimore, MD.

SENATOR JOHN O. PASTORE

Mr. L. CHAFEE. Mr. President. I rise today to speak of a man who, during 42 years of public service, left an indelible mark on generations of Rhode Islanders. Like thousands across the Ocean State, I am saddened by the passing of that great American statesman, John Orlando Pastore. Senator Pastore's life and career was one of diligence, accomplishment, integrity and distinction. Senator Pastore set a high standard for all who have followed him in the United States Senate, and while he will be missed, his contributions to our state and country will not be forgotten. My heartfelt condolences are extended to his family and friends in this difficult time.

The Nation's first Italian-American governor, and then U.S. Senator, John O. Pastore was rightfully proud of his