

They talk in these books about the history of the Nation and how the Spanish declined in the 16th century and how the Dutch went to great heights and declined in the 17th century and how the British went to great heights and declined in the 19th century. And they really sort of asked the question: Do we feel as though we in this country are immune to the laws of nature and the laws of gravity? They were unable to roll back the strong trends that were in their countries, pushing them to greater deficits, greater debts, higher taxes, slowing economy, a declining manufacturing industry, all the things that we are beginning to see in this country. So the battle is not an easy one.

You know, as we talk among ourselves, and we hear it regardless of what the people want, people talk about majority rule and all. Look at any poll, answer your phone calls, read your mail. I do not think there is any question but the American people have decided: Enough is enough. We have to do things differently. We voted for a change. We have been wanting change for some time. Maybe we thought we were trying to get it 2 years ago in the last Presidential election.

A fellow from Texas that hardly anybody knew went from nowhere and just within a few short months he got into a position where, some people said, under a slightly different set of circumstances, he could have gotten the nomination and been President, from nowhere, because he was talking about changing the way we do business in this country.

All that is going on out there. And yet we need a two-thirds vote in this body.

And I understand there are even some people who voted for the balanced budget amendment last time who are now saying that they may vote against it this time. Last time, they were pretty sure it would not pass and maybe this time they are afraid that it might pass. So it is going to be difficult.

I, again, commend the Senator from Utah, who is leading this fight and articulates this case so well. I think it is the most important vote we will have in a long, long time as far as this U.S. Senate is concerned.

I only urge those within the sound of my voice to remain focused on what this is about. The patient—and maybe we are the patient—has been acting a little crazy over the last several years, and we have not been doing the right thing, and the thing we know that we are going to have to do to get better. It sure would be good to cure the patient. But we have been taking treatment and medicine for a long time, and it is not doing us any good.

Maybe the time has come that we are going to have to impose a straitjacket on ourselves. It is not perfect. But until we show some inclination, absent getting hit over the head with a 2 by 4, to do the obvious and right thing that we ultimately have to do to protect

this next generation, this is the way to go. We will worry about the details in terms of the implementing legislation, and we can have the debates that we have already started here today.

But I think it is vitally important that we get about the business of passing this amendment and make a statement that we are not so selfish that we are going to sit idly by and debate these issues forever, using the moneys and the assets and the resources in the very country that is the birthright of the next generation; but we are going to take a step forward, say no to the vested interests, say no to those who want to continue to consume not just what they are consuming now but more and more and more, and say to everyone that we are all going to have to make some incremental change.

Is there any more basic commitment that a human being has than the one that he has to his children? If we had our child standing next to us here, there is nothing that we would not do. And yet, we are so dispersed in our attention and we are so diverted in so many different ways, we have not been able to focus on what we are doing. This debate will focus on what we are doing.

I commend the Senator from Utah and other colleagues in this great fight.

Thank you very much.

Mr. HATCH addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the distinguished Senator from New York be given the floor after I make very brief remarks about the great remarks of my colleague from Tennessee.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair wishes to make two announcements and then will recognize the Senator from New York, following the remarks of the Senator from Utah.

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, I want to compliment the distinguished Senator from Tennessee for his very, very welcome and important remarks on this issue.

I think this new group of Senators is as good a group as I have ever seen come into the U.S. Senate. We feel particularly privileged to have four of them on the Judiciary Committee, not the least of whom is the distinguished Senator from Tennessee.

In his own down-home Tennessean sort of way, he has laid out why we have to pass this balanced budget amendment. I personally just want to express my appreciation and my high regard for him. I believe that the distinguished Senator from Tennessee is going to make a whale of a difference here in the Senate, and already is making a whale of a difference on the Judiciary Committee, as I am sure he is on other committees. So I personally thank him for his kind remarks.

If people have been noticing, these new Senators have been coming here and speaking on this amendment be-

cause they got the message. They know that is one of the reasons they are here. I personally appreciate their efforts in this matter.

I yield the floor to my colleague.

APPOINTMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair announces on behalf of the chairman of the Finance Committee, pursuant to section 8002 of title 26, United States Code, a substitution in the membership of the Joint Committee on Taxation. The Senator from Kansas [Mr. DOLE] has resigned from the joint committee and will be replaced by the Senator from Utah [Mr. HATCH] for the duration of the 104th Congress only. Therefore, the membership of the Joint Committee on Taxation for the 104th Congress is as follows: the Senator from Oregon [Mr. PACKWOOD]; the Senator from Utah [Mr. HATCH]; the Senator from Delaware [Mr. ROTH]; the Senator from New York [Mr. MOYNIHAN]; and the Senator from Montana [Mr. BAUCUS].

APPOINTMENT BY THE VICE PRESIDENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to section 1024, title 15, United States Code, announces the following majority appointments to the Joint Economic Committee: the Senator from Florida [Mr. MACK], chairman; the Senator from Delaware [Mr. ROTH]; the Senator from Idaho [Mr. CRAIG]; the Senator from Utah [Mr. BENNETT]; the Senator from Pennsylvania [Mr. SANTORUM]; and the Senator from Minnesota [Mr. GRAMS].

BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the Senator from New York.

Mr. D'AMATO. Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, I wish to associate myself with the remarks of our new colleague, the distinguished Senator from Tennessee. I think he has spelled out very cogently why the American people voted for change. They are tired of Big Brother Government saying, "We know what's best for you. We're going to give it to you, whether you like it or not. We have programs that are good for you, whether you can pay for them or not."

The people want a balanced budget amendment, and they are right. This is no time to start playing politics as usual. This is an important issue.

I will tell you how important it is. If we continue to do business as we have in the past, we will become just like our neighbor to the south.