

I think mentioned Pete Wilson out there. So if Gingrich goes for it, that would weaken Gramm and help Dole. It's a wonderful business.

Mr. RUSSERT. We have to take a quick break. We'll be back with more Bill Safire after this.

(Announcements.)

Mr. RUSSERT. Bill Safire, we've talked with you about Russia quite a bit on this program. President Clinton said at the State of the Union, "American children go to bed now and there's no nuclear missiles from Russia aimed at them." But what is this real situation in Russia?

Mr. SAFIRE. Things are in terrific turmoil at the moment because of the Chechnyan war. Boris Yeltsin's popularity has gone right into the tank. I mean, he's in single digits. He's below—you know, way below any other major leader. That's because the reformers have deserted him, or they think he's deserted them. And the Zhirinovskiy nationalists have also deserted him, because he's brought discredit on the armed forces, and he's got nobody, except he's got himself surrounded with about 70,000 or 80,000 soldiers who answer directly to him around Moscow. The big question—here we are talking about American elections and who's going to be the candidate. The question in Russia is: Will there be an election in 1996?

Mr. RUSSERT. Well—

Mr. SAFIRE. There are some good men around, Yavlinsky and—you know, it's coming along. But if the popularity of Yeltsin stays so low, he may not want to have an election.

Mr. RUSSERT. And cancel the election.

Mr. SAFIRE. And postpone it for a few years, and that will be terrible.

Mr. RUSSERT. A chilling thought to end our roundtable this morning. Bill Safire, Bob Novak, Lisa Myers, thank you very much. We'll be right back with our Meet the Press Minute.

(Announcements.)

Mr. RUSSERT. *Deja vu*: December, 1951, President Truman was in the third year of his term, there was widespread speculation about another Democrat challenging him. And the big unknown: the plans of General Dwight David Eisenhower. Let's take a look. (File footage from December 2, 1951).

Mr. ERNEST LINDLEY. Who, in your opinion, would make the strongest Democratic nominee for the presidency next year?

Representative JOHN F. KENNEDY (Democrat, Massachusetts): Well, as—I've only heard of one or two men discussed, and as it seems fairly inevitable that if President Truman is a candidate for reelection, he will receive the nomination. I would say that he would be probably the strongest. Now there's been some talk of General Eisenhower running. I don't know whether General Eisenhower's a Republican or a Democrat.

Ms. MARTHA ROUNTREE. You're not convinced that he is a Republican, though, are you?

Representative KENNEDY. I have no reason to be convinced he's a Republican or a Democrat, as he's ignored politics for a long time, quite rightly, in his military career. But there are those who say they know, and in view of that, perhaps we can accept their opinion.

Once General Eisenhower takes off his uniform, leaves a very critical situation in Western Europe and takes a position on issues like civil rights and labor legislation, etc., and becomes a candidate and runs for office, I think we'd get a better idea of whether he is going to be able to sweep the country or not.

(End of footage.)

Mr. RUSSERT. Hmm. General Colin Powell, are you listening?

That's all for today. Join Giselle Fernandez later tonight for the "NBC Nightly News." And tomorrow on "Today," continuing coverage of the O.J. Simpson trial. Tomorrow night on the "NBC Nightly News" with Tom Brokaw, remarkable advances in the treatment of strokes.

We'll be back next week when our guest will be another presidential hopeful, former Vice President Dan Quayle. If it's Sunday, it's Meet the Press.

(Announcements.)

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of House Joint Resolution 1, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (H.J. Res. 1) proposing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

The Senate resumed consideration of the joint resolution.

Pending:

Daschle motion to commit the resolution, with instructions to report back forthwith, with Daschle amendment No. 231, to require a budget plan before the amendment takes effect.

Dole amendment No. 232 (with instructions to commit), to establish that if Congress has not passed a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution by May 1, 1995, within 60 days thereafter, the President shall transmit to Congress a detailed plan to balance the budget by the year 2002.

Dole amendment No. 233 (to amendment No. 232), in the nature of a substitute.

Mr. HATCH addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I want to say a few words about the amendment filed by the distinguished minority leader Thursday or Friday of last week. Actually, he called it the right-to-know amendment. I call it the right-to-stall amendment because that is what it amounts to.

The balanced budget amendment represents the kind of change that the American people asked for last November. The American people know the Federal Government, they know the bureaucrats who run it, and they know that those bureaucrats need to be put on a fiscal diet.

In contrast, the proposal offered by the distinguished minority leader, with all due respect, is offered in defense of the status quo and business as usual. If my colleagues supporting the Daschle proposal had been in the first Congress, we never would have adopted the first amendment of the Bill of Rights. Just imagine James Madison defending the free speech clause of the first amendment to some of our colleagues today:

"Does this mean you can't yell 'fire' in a crowded theater," they would ask?

"Does it protect obscenity? If not, what is the line between obscenity and protected free speech? We cannot accept the free speech clause without these details spelled out," they would say.

"Does the free-speech clause protect the American flag from desecration? If so, we cannot accept the first amendment."

Some of my colleagues made that very clear when they turned down the flag amendment twice a few years ago.

What about the religion clause, the free-exercise clause and the establishment clause of the first amendment, would the supporters of the Daschle proposal, had they been in the first Congress, have demanded an accounting of just when and how the Government can aid religious schools?

Would they have insisted on knowing all of the circumstances under which citizens or local governments can put a menorah or a creche on public property?

Would they have turned down the first amendment because the first Congress would not fulfill the ludicrous task of answering these questions? Or would they have accepted the principles contained in the first amendment and have allowed those principles to develop as they have over the years?

Just imagine if the following clause in article I, section 9 came before the Constitutional Convention of 1787 in Philadelphia:

No money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; * * *

"Oh, no," my colleagues of today would have said had they been there, "tell us how much the appropriations will be over the next 7 years or we cannot adopt this provision in the Constitution."

What about the clause in article I, section 8 giving Congress the power to regulate foreign and interstate commerce? "Oh, no," some of our colleagues, had they been in Philadelphia in 1787, would have said, "we cannot give Congress the power to regulate commerce until we know the tariffs and the interstate regulations Congress will enact over the next 7 years."

Here and now let us adopt the principle of a balanced budget with the careful exceptions of wartime or when a supermajority consensus is reached for a pressing national purpose on a rollcall vote. Then, after we adopt the principle, we can implement it over the next 7 years, adjusting the budget to take into account changing circumstances during that time.

Yesterday, on the Frank Sesno show on CNN, I debated with Alice Rivlin. It was interesting to me that at the very time that we are making the case on the floor that the Federal Government is not serious about balancing the budget, that unless we have a balanced budget constitutional amendment, we will not get to a balanced budget by the year 2002, the President is filing his